

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF HELSTON TOWN COUNCIL
HELD IN THE GUILDHALL, HELSTON
ON THURSDAY 15TH JULY 2010 AT 7.15 PM

Councillors: R J L Boase (Town Mayor) in the Chair

R Williams
Mrs S M E Swift
N J C Devenish
K Reynolds

Mrs V J Matthew
D C Swift
Mrs F N E Boase
R R Pryor

M H Thomas
J P Radford-Gaby
Mrs W A Radford-Gaby

Officers: Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)
Miss P J Lavelle (Assistant to the Town Clerk)
Mr C Bowcutt (Town Warden)

The Mayor informed Members that former Mayor, Mr J H M Keay's, wife had passed away on the previous Sunday. All present stood for a moment's silence.

129. Prayers

The Meeting opened with Prayers offered by the Mayor's Chaplain, Canon David Miller.

130. Presentation on Intelligent Power Saving for the Guildhall

Mr Robert Richard gave a presentation on intelligent power saving in the Guildhall on behalf of Lightwater Environmental Ltd.

131. Police Matters

The Town Clerk advised that apologies had been received from the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary and confirmed that whilst WPC Butcher had advised she would send a report, it had not been received.

132. Public Participation

Mr Harris expressed his sympathy for Councillors Williams and Thomas who had received some criticism at the previous meeting. Mr Harris then expressed concern that the use of walk on water balls would affect the wildlife at Coronation Park. He then advised Cornwall Councillor Wallis that he believed his comments would be better received if he altered his approach.

Mr Perry asked what effect the proposed cuts would have on Helston's Police Force and requested an update regarding the closure of public toilets during public events. The Town Clerk advised that he had heard a news report regarding the proposed cuts and understood that it mainly affected civilian positions but confirmed that it was a national issue. Councillor Reynolds advised that he understood it was to remove unnecessary bureaucracy and not front line services. The Mayor further advised that, with regard to public toilets, Cornwall Council officers had said they would liaise with the Town Clerk regarding late opening of public conveniences for town events.

133. Minutes

On the proposition of Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Mrs Boase, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Town Council meeting held on 17th June 2010 and the Special Full Council meeting held on 14th June 2010 be approved and signed as a true record.

134. Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee

On the proposition of Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Harvest Fair Committee meeting held on the 9th June 2010, be received.

135. Minutes of the Planning Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on the 17th June and 1st July 2010, be received.

136. Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the Policy, Finance & Resources Committee meeting held on the 29th June 2010, be received and the recommendations accepted.

137. Reports from Local Cornwall Councillors and the Community Network Manager

a) Local Cornwall Councillors

The Town Clerk advised that an apology had been received from Councillor Robertson and confirmed that a list of the meetings he had attended had been circulated in Members' folders.

Councillor Wallis gave a detailed report during which he made particular mention to a potential pedestrian crossing on the Porthleven Road and a meeting regarding dog fouling on beaches. He further advised that he would not support the use of walk on water balls in Coronation Park as he was concerned with the effect on wildlife. Councillor Wallis confirmed that in response to a question from Councillor Mrs Swift at the previous Full Council meeting, Cornwall Councillors were not being given free recycling equipment. They were, however, being offered composting bins discounted by Central Government and were being encouraged to become recycling champions.

Councillor Mrs Haycock gave a detailed report during which she made particular mention to the repairs on the kennels being completed, liaison with the police regarding issues in Cross Street, and the public consultation relating to the ban of dogs on beaches. She also reported on the production of a leaflet regarding household waste issues for distribution around the affected. Councillor Mrs Haycock further advised that as part of her Highway's budget she was compiling a list of minor changes to the yellow lines and requested that Members forward any suggestions.

Councillor Devenish advised that an area of the kennel appeared to be blocked at the top of Godolphin Road and queried how often the kennels were checked. The Town Warden advised that he had cleared that particular blockage immediately prior to the meeting and confirmed that it was mostly caused by leaves. Councillor Williams advised that a number of residents in the area were very proactive clearing the kennels but they quickly blocked again.

Councillor Radford-Gaby expressed concern regarding the amount of weeds in the town. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the weeds were sprayed before Flora Day and were not due to be sprayed again until September. Councillor Mrs Haycock expressed the opinion that the appropriate areas were not being sprayed and advised that she believed it would be better if Helston Town Council took ownership of weed control.

The Mayor requested that Councillor Mrs Haycock distribute the leaflet regarding rubbish to businesses as well as householders and asked if the issue of cigarette butts could be included. Councillor Mrs Haycock advised that the leaflet was aimed at residential waste.

b) Community Network Manager

Mrs C Chadwick had provided a detailed report (circulated prior to the meeting) which included the youth café project, the youth event requested by the Town Council, an information meeting on the role of a Town Centre Manager, the Helston & South Kerrier Loyalty Card and the Helston Street Festival meeting. In addition to her report, Mrs Chadwick updated Members on the Citizenship for Life programme, the Helston & South Kerrier Loyalty Card Scheme meeting and the youth event. Mrs Chadwick also confirmed that she was holding a meeting with the Managing Director of Warrens regarding the Youth Café.

Councillor Mrs Matthew advised that she had been contacted by the Museum and asked for an update following the Parks for People meeting. Mrs Chadwick advised that Cornwall Council procedures had caused a delay in submitting the Lottery bid, but it would be submitted before the August deadline and a response was expected in early March 2011.

The Mayor advised that he had been contacted by a member of the public who had called for an ambulance in the Penrose Amenity Area and the Ambulance Service had not known where the area was. The Mayor asked if the location could be added onto the database to prevent future problems. Councillor Wallis advised that the area was on the Police database and confirmed that he would ensure that it was also included on the Ambulance Service database.

138. Intelligent Power Saving for the Guildhall

The Mayor advised that he had requested the earlier presentation so Members were aware of the possibility for intelligent power saving in the Guildhall which would reduce electricity costs and benefit the environment. He further advised that there would be no cost to the Council as an interest free loan could be obtained from the Carbon Trust which would be paid back out of the savings made. The Mayor then suggested that a free-of-charge survey be carried out so Members had the full information on the potential costs and savings that could be made. A detailed debate ensued following which it was proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be suspended to allow Mr Richard to respond to Members' questions.

In response to Members' questions Mr Richard advised that an interest-free loan would be provided by Salix Finance which was part of the Carbon Trust and the cost savings for the unit would be guaranteed. Mr Richard further advised that the maintenance contract cost would be calculated into the cost of the unit initially, but the maintenance cost would be the responsibility of the Council once the loan had been paid back. The unit was expected to have a 15-year life.

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, it was

RESOLVED – that Standing Orders be resumed.

It was then proposed by Councillor Thomas, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Lightwater Environmental Ltd be requested to carry out a survey and the report be presented back to Full Council.

139. Meeting regarding Coronation Lake

Councillor Thomas thanked the Mayor for allowing an item on the agenda to discuss the meeting and advised that he had been invited by a senior Councillor to go to the meeting as a third party and confirmed that he had been present as a teacher. Councillor Thomas further advised that he went to listen to the meeting so he could discuss the issues with colleagues at Helston Community College. Councillor Thomas advised that he would not apologise for attending the meeting but confirmed in future he would ensure that it was made clearer that he was attending as a teacher.

Councillor Williams confirmed that it was made completely clear by Councillor Thomas that he was not representing the Council and he had also done the same. Councillor Williams advised that he had only attended the meeting as he was concerned about the algae in the lake and wished to help and apologised if he had done anything wrong.

A detailed debate ensued at the conclusion of which it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, and

RESOLVED – that Members move on to the next item of business.

140. Report of the Town Clerk

(1) Town Centre Manager

The Town Clerk advised that a letter had been received from a member of the public expressing concern regarding the position of Town Centre Manager. The Town Clerk added that the letter contained some misinformation. Following a detailed debate it was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by the Mayor, that Mr Guy Thomas be given an indemnity so he could give a public presentation on the role of a Town Centre Manager.

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Devenish, seconded by Councillor Pryor, that Mr Guy Thomas should not be given an indemnity and that Mrs Charlotte Chadwick be invited to give a public presentation on the role of a Town Centre Manager. The amendment was carried and became the Substantive Motion and it was

RESOLVED – that Mr Guy Thomas should not be given an indemnity and that Mrs Charlotte Chadwick be invited to give a public presentation on the role of a Town Centre Manager.

(2) Policy, Finance and Resources Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that Councillor Devenish be elected as Vice Chairman of the Policy, Finance and Resources Committee for the year 2010/11.

(3) Staff Training

On the proposition of Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that:

- a) the Town Clerk and the Assistant to the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the planning training sessions detailed in the Town Clerk’s report; and
- b) the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the SLCC Seminar on 25th October 2010.

(4) ‘Connecting Cornwall 2030’ Local Transport Plan

This item was noted.

(5) Traffic Management of Local Events

This item was noted.

(6) Walking on Water Balls

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and

RESOLVED – that Helston Town Council objected to the use of walking on water balls on Coronation Lake on the grounds of water safety, disruption to wildlife and damage to aesthetics & atmosphere.

(7) Woods on Your Doorstep – 10th Anniversary Event

This item was noted.

(8) Democracy Day Cornwall

It was proposed by Councillor J P Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Thomas, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Clerk be authorised to attend the Democracy Day Cornwall on Friday 30th July 2010.

(9) Manor Close Play Area

This item was noted.

(10) Trevenen Exhibition Bank Signatory

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swift, seconded by Councillor D.C. Swift, and unanimously

RESOLVED – that Councillor Williams be nominated as the bank signatory for the Trevenen Exhibition.

(11) Helston Business Park

Councillor Devenish informed Members that he had been contacted by a representative of the South West Regional Development Agency offering to hold a meeting regarding the Helston Business Park. He then read a letter he had received from a local business supporting the Town Council's efforts.

141. Report of the Town Warden

Councillor Mrs Matthew requested further details on the problem of broken glass and cigarette butts in the kennels which were explained by the Town Warden. The Town Warden further advised that a nearby property regularly washed its alleyway out onto the public footpath using chemicals. Councillor Reynolds asked the Town Clerk to confirm if it was legal to discharge chemicals onto the public highway.

Councillor Devenish queried the arrangements for the collection of materials gathered by the Town Warden on his litter picks. The Town Warden advised that due to the shortage of staff at Cornwall Council he had lost his contact to arrange collection. Councillor Mrs Swift suggested that a seagull-proof bag be purchased to prevent problems prior to collection. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Council already had a bag which could be used and advised that he had been informed both the Helston and Camborne One Stop Shops had not sold any of the seagull-proof bags for over twelve months and that Cornwall Council had approximately two hundred in stock. The Town Clerk further advised that he had contacted the local Ward Members to request some seagull-proof bags free-of-charge for distribution. Councillor Devenish requested that the Town Clerk contact the Local Ward Members to advise that due to movement of personnel the Town Warden had lost a direct contact to arrange collection of litter and to request confirmation of the current contact.

Members also discussed the problems with the organisation of the Freedom Parade and Councillor Devenish suggested that in future the Town Clerk contact RNAS Culdrose to input into the planning of the event.

It was then proposed by Councillor Mrs Matthew, seconded by Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, and

RESOLVED – that the Town Warden be authorised to attend the study visit and launch of the dog fouling campaign on 17th September 2010.

142. Schedule of Accounts for Payment

On the proposition of Councillor D.C. Swift, seconded by Councillor Mrs Matthew, it was

RESOLVED – that Account Nos. 107-137 inclusive as listed and set out as an Appendix to these Minutes, be certified for payment in the total sum of £16,627.65.

(Councillor Williams declared an interest in Account No. 137.)

It was agreed that the cheques would be signed by Councillor Williams and Councillor Mrs Swift.

143. Attendance at Meetings

Councillor Radford-Gaby had attended the Chairmanship training together with the Mayor, Councillor Mrs Matthew and Councillor Thomas.

Councillor Mrs Boase had attended the South Kerrier Alliance core meeting, a Bulwark Road meeting and the Street Festival meeting.

Councillor Mrs Matthew had attended the Nansloe Governors meeting.

Councillor Reynolds advised that as a representative of the Planning Committee he had attended a planning site meeting, two West Sub Area Planning Committee meetings and a pre-application discussion meeting together with the Mayor.

Councillor Devenish had attended the Community Network Panel meeting and gave a detailed report.

Councillor Mrs Swift circulated a report in Members' folders which advised she had attended two CALC Executive meetings in addition to two interview panels and a meeting to discuss tourism.

The Town Clerk had attended the NALC Conference.

144. Items for the next Agenda

The Mayor requested that Members contact the Town Clerk's office to place items on the following Full Council Agenda.

145. Council Vehicle

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Radford-Gaby, seconded by Councillor Reynolds, and

RESOLVED – that a Special Full Council meeting be held to discuss a Council Vehicle.

Meeting closed at 10.13pm

Confirmed

Town Mayor