

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 12th September 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C.A.C. White (Chairman)
Councillor J. Ruhrmund (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors D.J. Axford
C.A. Dennis
M. Freeman
F. Granger
K.L.W. Perry

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor R. Clark (left the meeting 7.40 pm)

20. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors R.M. Lawrence and T.E. Williams.

21. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27TH JUNE 2005**

Having been circulated, it was

RESOLVED: that they should be signed as a true and correct record.

22. **PROPOSAL TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

RESOLVED: to vary the order of business and to bring forward item 8(f) on the agenda.

23. **MARKET AND COASTAL TOWNS INITIATIVE AND "FOCUS FOR THE FUTURE" CONFERENCE**

The Chairman advised that Councillor Clark had requested that he attend and speak with reference to this issue.

Councillor Clark advised that he had attended the "Focus for the Future" Conference at the Tregenna Castle Hotel in July and, although it was not directly related to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, it had been interesting to see the way in which a Government initiative had been speedily actioned through the South West Regional Development Agency in conjunction with Local Authorities, and the thrust of the meeting looked at the issue of services which could be provided by Local Authorities in relation to centralised control.

With regard to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, considerable discussion took place with regard to the lack of meetings on the part of the Penzance Area Forum, ad-hoc meetings in relation to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, the relationship between the District Council as the accountable body for Market and Coastal Towns Initiative monies and the Area Forum as the applicant and recipient of such monies and, finally, the forthcoming and overdue Annual General Meeting of the Penzance Area Forum which was to be held at the Lugger Inn on Tuesday 20th September at 7.00 pm.

After considerable discussion, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Chairman of the Area Forum requesting a reversal of items 4 and 5 on the agenda in order that the election of officers would precede the report on the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative, so that the position of the Forum could be clearly set out in terms of its relationship with a distinctly independent Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Steering Group, to include the role of the District Council as the accountable body.

A number of members indicated that they would be prepared to attend the Forum AGM and, the Town Clerk would copy the invitation to them and request that the Forum have membership forms ready to be signed prior to the commencement of the meeting.

24. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **HMS Penzance - New Commanding Officer and Date of Visit 2006**

The letter from Lieutenant Commander Ben Ripley had been copied to all members for information and it was noted that HMS Penzance was programmed to visit its home port from the 7th to 11th July 2006 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) **BBC Mastermind 2006 - Search for Contestants**

The BBC had written to local organisations with a view to promoting the above contest, and to encourage applicants to come forward for the 2006 series, and it was hoped that the "Cornishman" would carry an article providing details of how to participate and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) **Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Life-Guards Season 2005**

The District Council had written to advise that the beaches would be guarded up until the 18th September 2005 with the Jubilee Pool having closed on the 11th September.

Councillor White advised that the District Council had been in consultation earlier in the season with regard to the cost of life-guarding services with a view to the possible sharing of such costs with organisations and individuals who owned the beaches.

There had been no resolution to the discussions and the matter was ongoing and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Correspondence re. Peninsula Radio Station

The Town Clerk advised of the activities of Peninsula Radio, a community group based at Pool, which was available to promote and cover local events whilst providing the opportunity for youngsters and others to participate in programme presentation.

The information would be copied to members and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Opening of Penzance Leisure Centre

For the record, it was noted that the Penzance Leisure Centre had opened on Friday 12th August for public use and the formal opening ceremony would take place in October, with a celebrity, yet to be named, cutting the ribbon and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) “Project Cycleau” - Conference at Falmouth Maritime Museum

An invitation had been received to attend this conference, the aims of which were to nurture the learning culture in relation to:-

- (i) Exploration of innovative ways of managing and improving the water environment;
- (ii) Share knowledge and expertise of water management;
- (iii) Involve local communities in the management of the local rivers.

The event would be held on the 22nd/23rd September and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would not send a delegate.

(g) “Local Works” - Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill

Members were aware of this campaign group which sought to see an end to “Ghost Town Britain” and the promotion of sustainable communities through the Sustainable Communities Bill.

The latest part of the campaign suggested the adoption of a Local Authority resolution which the Town Clerk would copy to all members for adoption or otherwise at the full Town Council Meeting and, further, that a letter of support should be sent to the Local MP encouraging him to sign Early Day Motion number 641 to assist the passage of the Bill. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Zapcat Racing Off Penzance Promenade

Information relating to the Zapcat National Championships had been circulated to members previously for information and the event had taken place on the 3rd and 4th September.

Although the event provided for some noise disturbance, it had been well organised with little on-land disruption and had been strongly supported by the Penzance and District Tourism Association.

The Town Clerk advised that a letter had been received which would be considered by the Finance Committee requesting support to make the Zapcat Championship an annual event and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Finance Committee leave this agenda item open for discussion at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

(i) Meeting called by Penzance Police to Examine Community Issues

Inspector Barry Tripp had written to invite a representative of the Town Council and the Town Clerk to a meeting of a Community Forum to examine issues of local concern.

It was proposed that the meeting should be action based for the good of the community and not a “talking shop” and, in the first instance, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Mayor should represent the Council on the Forum and

RECOMMENDED: that the issue of a permanent nomination be decided at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

(j) Contact Details for Neighbourhood Beat Teams

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had issued them with the contact numbers for Community Beat Officers but that, unfortunately, some of the numbers were incorrect and members were asked to discard the information and further details would follow in due course. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(k) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Junior Life Skills Event

The above event would take place on the 18th and 19th October and members were asked to keep the forecourt of St. John’s Hall clear on those dates.

An invitation to youngsters participating in the event would follow in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(l) UK Skateboard Event on Princess May Recreation Ground

Members had received details of the above event which had taken place on Saturday and Sunday the 27th and 28th August.

The event had attracted 60 of the best skateboarders, both national and international, and the facility had been complimented by participants and spectators.

The press had reported on one unfortunate incident which was on the fringe of the event and beyond the control of the organisers and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter remain open for any further comment at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

(m) Complaint re. Refuse Collection - Chapel Street, Penzance

A letter had been received from a local resident of Chapel Street regarding the collection of refuse which was previously carried out before 10.30 am.

Although the bins are still required to be placed out before 7.00 am, collection now takes place at 2.45 pm, leaving the street looking unsightly and causing hazards for people negotiating the pavements.

The author of the letter had not managed to secure any change in the collection times and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write on behalf of the Town Council in this respect.

(n) Promotion of Angling by Environment Agency

Although this event had now passed, the Town Clerk advised members that the Environment Agency had written to promote fresh water angling as a leisure pastime with two events at Stithians Reservoir which were family orientated, supervised by professional staff and with all equipment being provided free of charge.

The event was to be an annual promotion of angling and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the information be noted.

(o) Letter of Thanks - New Bus Shelter, Roscadghill

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Council had pressed the District Council, over time, in respect of the provision of a new bus-shelter which had now been provided and local residents had written to thank the Town Council for its support and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(p) Penwith Old People's Forum - Meeting 21st July 2005 and Forum Newsletter

Councillor Granger advised that he continued to attend these meetings and there was nothing specific to report at this time and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(q) Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association - Filets Bleu Festival

The Town Clerk advised that 18 Association members had attended the annual Filets Bleu Festival in Concarneau, with 8 of them forming the Official Delegation.

The Town Mayor advised that he had represented the town and had been extremely pleased with the reception provided by their Brittany counterparts and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(r) Circulars Received

See Appendix "A". The circulars, as listed in Appendix "A", were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

In addition to those circulars listed, the papers for the Penwith District Council Meeting on the 7th September and the papers for the Social, Economic and Environment Committee Meeting on the 16th September had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(s) Reports from Outside Bodies

See Appendix "B". The reports, as listed in Appendix "B" were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

In respect of the CCTV Meeting held that day, Councillor Dennis advised that she would provide a written report in due course and amongst some of the issues discussed were the possibility of a Section 106 Agreement in relation to larger development planning applications, to include the provision of a security camera and the possibility of including such a requirement in respect of licensing applications. It was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Dennis's written report be received in due course.

(t) Rural Net Conference

The annual Rural Net Conference would be held on the 12th and 13th October 2005 in Leeds and the Town Council had not supported participation in the past, although

Councillor Lawrence had previously attended of his own volition and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council would not support the financing of a delegate to attend the conference.

(u) Town and Parish Forum Meeting - 30th August 2005

Councillor Axford advised that he had attended this meeting on behalf of the Council and the main item to report related to consultation regarding licensing applications.

Councillor Axford gave details of the new process relating to representation by residents to ward members and the way in which ward members could, in turn, make representation to the Licensing Committee on behalf of local parishioners.

The Town Clerk advised that this detail was contained in a letter from the Licensing Department which he would photocopy to all members for their information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(v) Standards Committee Meeting - 12th September 2005

The Town Clerk reminded all members that he had written during August to ask if they would like to serve on the Standards Committee and two members had expressed an interest.

With the District Council requiring only one nomination, the Town Clerk had made clear that he would “draw a name from a hat” if there was more than one member expressing interest and, as a result of this process, Councillor Lawrence had been nominated to serve on the Standards Committee.

The District Council had indicated that if more nominations were received than required, the process of drawing names from a hat would be repeated to finally form a pool of councillors to serve on the Standards Committee and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(w) Food Promotional Television Programme

The Tourism Department had written to advise that there would be a series of articles on ITV morning television, promoting food production and eating places in the far west of Cornwall.

The item was likely to be aired several times during the course of the programmes, with an estimated viewing audience of 3 million people and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(x) Police Liaison Meeting

The next Police Liaison Meeting was to be held on Tuesday 27th September 2005 at 7.30 pm at the Passmore Edward's Institute at Hayle and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(y) Health and Safety Training Day - Thursday 22nd September 2005

This item had been identified at a recent Town and Parish Forum Meeting as being of interest to those present and the Town Clerk advised that it would be of more benefit to the rural parishes but, that in the case of the Town Council, its Health and Safety advice was provided on a professional basis and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(z) Penwith and Kerrier Mind

The above mental health charity had written with a plea for people to join the befrienders scheme and members were asked to spread the word in this respect and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(aa) Penwith District Council - Proposed New Designated Areas Order Restricting Alcohol Consumption in Public Places

As members were aware, the present byelaw would cease on the 1st September 2006 and Penwith District Council was now carrying out its final consultation ahead of making an order under clauses 13-16 of the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001 which specified designated areas.

The Town Council had been consulted previously and had asked for the addition of the top of Causewayhead and Adelaide Street within the order and the District Council had written to ask for specific evidence of the need of extending the order to these areas and with a lack of specific evidence, it was unlikely that the additions would be made and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

25. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Representation by Town and Parish Councils

This item had been covered in Councillor Axford's report of his attendance at the Town and Parish Forum Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Transfers

Councillor C.A.C. White declared a code of conduct interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

(i) The Globe and Ale House

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(ii) Dolphin Tavern

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(iii) Ganges Balti House

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

26. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor C.A.C. White declared a code of conduct interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

(a) French Market - Wharfside Car Park - 21st, 22nd and 23rd October 2005
re. Trafalgar Celebrations

For information, it was noted that, because of the timescale, this matter had been dealt with under delegated powers with no objection.

(b) Ms. L. Campbell

To trade at Market Place on Tuesdays in the sale of own brand clothes and to offer service of clothes repaired or altered.

In recognition of the fact that a number of retail outlets offered the sale of locally crafted clothes and that Simpsons provided a clothing repair and alteration service, it was

RESOLVED: to object to the application on the grounds of conflict with existing traders.

27. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Town Clerk advised that there was no change to the financial position as reported to the 31st May 2005 and the financial report to the 30th June 2005 would follow and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the financial report, when prepared, should appear as Appendix "C" to the minutes.

28. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - Meetings and Updates

This matter would be left open for Councillor Cotton to report, together with the Mayor, at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting and, in the meantime, it was noted that:-

The Joint Stakeholders Steering Group had now been disbanded but the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team Group had continued to battle on and to promote a series of silent protests at forthcoming health meetings as follows:-

- (i) Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Cornwall County Council - 20th September 2005;
- (ii) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust Board Meeting, Camborne - 27th September 2005;
- (iii) Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust Board Meeting at West Cornwall Hospital - 11th October 2005.

The Campaign Team were now seeking contributions to a Fighting Fund and the Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had previously committed to finance the cost of a coach in respect of a "silent protest" at the above meetings and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the cost of the coach to Truro be covered by the Town Council.

(b) Copies of Correspondence from Councillor Lawrence re. Future of West Cornwall Hospital

Councillor Lawrence had provided details of communications with the Strategic Health Authority reinforcing many of the points being made by the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust

Invitations to attend the meetings held on the 15th July and 26th July 2005 had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Healthy Living Initiative Newsletter No. 23

A copy of the above newsletter was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

29. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Penzance - Market Jew Street Group - Meeting 24th August 2005

The Town Clerk advised that this consultative group would now give way to be replaced by a number of groups being formed under the Townscape Heritage Initiative.

However, because it was felt that the work of this group had been useful in respect of Market Jew Street Regeneration, the Town Clerk was pursuing its continuance, but in respect of the Site Meetings Group, the County Council had committed that the walkabout meetings would continue during phase 2 of the improvement works and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Reply from Penzance Police re. Market Jew Street Enforcement of Traffic Measure

The reply from Penzance police had already been circulated to all members with the papers for the Planning Committee meeting held on the 1st September 2005 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the explanation of the police in this matter be noted.

(c) Penwith District Council - Regeneration: Tourism and Leisure Newsletter

A copy of the above newsletter had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(d) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meetings and Technical Assistance Studies

Minutes of the most recent meetings of the Newlyn Fish Industry Forum had been received and, again, were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and information had also been received with regard to the Technical Assistance programme - Newlyn Harbour Phase 2 which was examining works which could take place within Newlyn Harbour and Sandy Cove.

This process was due to be completed by the end of September and a report would be produced in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Newlyn News - Issue No. 3

The latest edition of the above newsletter had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that its receipt be noted.

30. **RESIGNATION OF COUNCILLOR AITKEN - EAST WARD**

Members noted, with regret, the resignation of Councillor Jack Aitken and the vacancy had been advertised with a closing date of the 21st September 2005 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

31. **“SAVE OUR SLEEPER” CAMPAIGN**

The Town Mayor advised that he had attended the launch of the campaign group at the Mount Prospect Hotel in July and, following representation from a resident with regard to booking this facility, Councillor Axford had endeavoured to make a booking on the sleeper facility.

He reported that he had been concerned to be advised that the sleeper facility was discontinuing and that no booking could be taken for November.

Bookings were being taken up to the end of September but only in respect of tickets for the train and there was no facility to reserve a berth.

With booking being so difficult, it appeared to members that there was little wonder that the use of the service had been called into question and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to Great Western to pose the following questions:-

- (a) How is the sleeper service marketed;
- (b) How does one book a berth on the sleeper service and how far ahead can one make such a reservation;
- (c) To provide the figures in respect of the usage of the service over the previous six months

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be discussed further at the full Town Council Meeting.

32. **UPDATE RE. WEATHER STATION**

The Town Clerk advised that there had now been difficulty in establishing a location for the positioning of the automated weather facility, with the York House location having now been turned down by the Planning Department.

The Town Clerk was urgently arranging a meeting with the officer now charged with the installation of the weather station, to clear up a number of issues relating to capital and revenue costs and its proposed location and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should proceed with all urgency in this matter.

33. **TRAFALGAR CELEBRATIONS**

The Town Clerk advised that the programme for the Trafalgar celebrations was complete with the printers and that full details would be provided for members in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

9.20 pm

Chairman
31st October 2005