

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 31st October 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors D.J. Axford
C.A. Dennis
R.M. Lawrence
K.L.W. Perry

34. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors A.R. Climo-Thompson, M. Freeman, F. Granger and T.E. Williams.

35. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 12TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

Having been circulated, it was

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

36. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **"Penzance Post" - HMS Penzance Newsletter**

The recent newsletter from HMS Penzance had been copied to all members for information and would be made available to the "Cornishman" in order that local residents could stay in touch with the ship's programme of deployment and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) **Trinity House National Lighthouse Centre and Lighthouse Enterprise Limited**

The winding-up meeting of the above organisations had been held on the 27th October 2005 and, save for a few technical issues relating to Company House and the Charity Commissioners, all matters had been finalised.

Councillor Cotton had represented the Town Council at this meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be left open for further comment at full Town Council.

(c) **Formal Opening - Penzance Leisure Centre**

A number of members had attended the formal opening of the Leisure Centre by Sharron Davies, MBE which had taken place on the 15th October 2005.

The Centre continued to be extremely well supported and used by both residents and visitors alike and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Funding Support for Cornish Language

Confirmation had been received that funding up to £80,000.00 per year, for 3 years, would be provided to support the matched-funding bid to European Union Objective 1 Funds and which would help to take forward the development proposals in respect of the language over the next 25 years, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Consumer Council for Water

A new Consumer Council for water had been created from the 1st October 2005 and had taken over from Water Voice which had represented customers from within the regulatory structure of OFWAT.

The paper had been copied to all members for information and if there was an intention to set up a local committee, subject to OFWAT approval, Councillor White would be involved in this process.

The question was raised as to whether subsidy was provided to offset coastal water clean-up charges in Scotland and Councillor White agreed to follow through on this matter and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Sustainable Tourism Training Programme

Details of training events relating to sustainable tourism had been made available to any member interested and the latest notes of the P-Tag Group held, at the District Council on the 8th September, had been sent, again for information, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(g) Penwith Housing Association Annual Report 2004/05

The above report had been sent for the information of the Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

Mention was made of an advertisement which had appeared in Housing Association literature in Manchester, which sought tenants for PHA properties, and Councillor White agreed to take this issue up with the Director of the PHA and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) The Standards Board for England - 2005 Newsletter

The above newsletter had been sent for information and, in addition, it was noted that Councillor R.M. Lawrence had been appointed as a Parish/Town representative to serve on the Local Standards Board.

The next meeting of the Board would be held on the 7th November and a copy of the papers for the meeting was available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(i) Skateboarding Byelaw

The Town Clerk had received a response to his enquiry from Penzance Police with regard to complaints received in respect of the nuisance of skateboarding on the highway and pavements.

In this respect, the Neighbourhood Sergeants had not reported general concerns in Penzance but had highlighted issues in Newlyn, where youngsters were travelling face down on their boards on the main highway and proving to be very difficult to be seen by motorists.

It was known that a skateboard facility was under consideration for the Gwavas Playing Field and, the police went on to say that it was hoped that when this facility was in place, and if the problem persisted, then consideration could be given to the introduction of a byelaw.

Members were somewhat surprised to hear that there was not considered to be a problem in Penzance itself and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write again to the police to confirm that it is considered to be a problem and, that in terms of reporting it as such, there was great difficulty in getting through to the central switch-board.

(j) 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 Resource Committee Meeting to be held on the 2nd November 2005 and Inter-action Local Government International Bureau Newsletter had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(k) Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports to consider under this heading and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(l) Penwith Community Action Panel Meeting - 18th October 2005

The Town Clerk advised that, together with the Town Mayor, he had attended a meeting of the above panel and, although the attendance had been considerably lower than at the first meeting, there had been constructive discussion from those present with a resolution to concentrate on the particular problem of graffiti.

In this respect, it was agreed that the Community Safety Officers would note instances of graffiti to provide a picture of the extent of the problem and, that in conjunction with the District Council, steps should be taken to remove such graffiti and, in particular, that which had been in situ for a considerable time.

Beyond that, it was hoped that a central reporting point could be established in relation to graffiti and, that through Community Service Orders and through the good offices of the District Council's Direct Service Organisation (graffiti removal machine purchased some time ago to be located), that the problem could be addressed on an ongoing basis.

A representative of the Community Safety Partnership advised that a number of events were held each year and one was scheduled for January, the focus of which could be the initiative relating to graffiti, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(m) Penwith Older People's Forum

The Older People's Forum had set up a sub-group and a project had been launched to tackle loneliness and isolation.

Questionnaires were available in this respect and were circulated to members present who were asked to spread the word to anyone who might benefit and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(n) HomeStart

The Annual Report of the above named charity for the year 2004/05 had been sent for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(o) Shop Mobility

The Town Clerk advised that he had been in touch with Karen Clowes of the District Council, who had confirmed that £20,000.00 was being made available from the Liveability Fund to pilot a Shop Mobility Project in Penzance.

This would be based initially at the Tourist Information Centre, with the electric wheelchair and powered scooters being located on site at the Railway Station.

It was very much hoped to launch this programme in January, and further hoped that it would become self-sustaining in the future, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(p) Cornwall Association of Local Councils - Annual Conference and AGM - 26th November 2005

Councillor Lawrence was the Town Council's representative on the above group and it was hoped that he would be able to attend the AGM and Conference.

The cost for attendance was £26.00, which would be covered by the Town Council, and the Association was also looking for nominations from its membership to serve on outside bodies and, in that respect, Councillor Lawrence would liaise with the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

37. **LICENSING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Alcohol

The Town Clerk advised that he was still receiving Notices of Transfers and this was felt to be the lack of information on the part of some solicitors in relation to the new licensing application process. In addition, the Town Clerk advised that he had received the papers for the Licensing Committee meetings which were held on the 21st, 22nd and 28th September and the 2nd and 13th October and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

38. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Mr. S. Taylor

Trading in pancakes outside Lloyds Bank on Shrove Tuesday, February 2006, between 9.00 am and 4.00 pm and it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(b) Mr. D. Weldon

Trading in Native American jewellery and crafts in Market Jew Street on Fridays for six weeks, between 10.00 am and 5.00 pm and it was

RESOLVED: to express concern at possible conflict with the existing traders, eg. Beauty and the Beast.

(c) Mrs. A. McGregor

Trading in decorative glass items on Wednesdays and Saturdays for one year, starting from 1st December 2005, between 9.30 am and 5.00 pm. It was

RESOLVED: to object on the grounds of conflict with existing traders, eg. Beauty and the Beast, Morrab Studio and Mount's Bay Trading.

39. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st August 2005 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered the payments made in July 2005 and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the payments (see Appendix "B" for both financial position and payments made).

40. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust AGM - 27th September 2005 and Board Meeting - 25th October 2005 and Annual Report Summary 2004-2005

The Town Clerk advised that he had placed this item on the agenda to allow any member, who had attended, the opportunity to report back and also to note receipt of the PCT Annual Report Summary and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health

The Town Clerk advised that this was a repeat of a letter sent earlier in the year, seeking "health volunteers" who would serve on a Forum which seeks to represent the views of every single one of Cornwall's residents in terms of health provision.

The Town Clerk would copy the letter to members and anyone interested could take the necessary action and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust - Public Speaking at Full Board Meetings

Councillor Lawrence had provided the Town Clerk with a copy of a letter he had sent to Andrew George, the Local MP, on the 15th September, asking why the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust does not comply with the Department of Health recommendations to allow members to make comment or ask questions at the full Board Meetings.

This would bring them into line with Primary Care Trusts, NHS Trusts and the Strategic Health Authority.

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had had a reply from Andrew George but the position remained unresolved, although at the recent meeting of the RCH Trust at West Cornwall Hospital, where the latest “silent protest” had been held, both Councillor Lawrence and Councillor Perry spoke at the end of the meeting to express concern which resulted in the meeting being re-convened.

The Town Clerk also advised of a meeting to be held at the Queen’s Hotel on the 8th November 2005 at 2.30 pm and then to be repeated at 7.30 pm which was being convened by West Cornwall Healthwatch to provide information on the latest position regarding hospital provision in the County and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

41. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Newlyn Harbour Proposals - Exhibition 7th and 8th October and Letters Expressing Concern re. Lack of Progress on Newlyn Harbour Proposals

The Town Clerk advised that he had placed this item on the agenda to allow South Ward members, in particular, the opportunity to report back following the exhibitions.

The Town Clerk went on to advise of three letters expressing concern regarding Newlyn Harbour Commissioners, in terms of the lack of movement on their part in relation to proposals to bring about much needed improvements to secure the future of the port.

Concern was also expressed regarding the way the Commissioners discharged their duties in relation to obligations placed upon them through the Department for Transport and, relating to the prescribed way that trust ports should carry out their business.

One letter sought a public meeting involving Penzance Town Council, Penwith District Council, Newlyn Harbour Commissioners and the Fish Industry Forum which would be open to the general public, but in advance of this, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Newlyn Fish Industry Forum and to the District Council to seek their views on the issues raised in the letter and, following liaison with the above, the Town Clerk should write to the Department for Transport to seek clarification with regard to the regulatory controls relating to the operation of trust ports.

(b) Date of Next Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting

The latest meeting of the Forum had been postponed from the 17th October to the 8th November when it was hoped that news would be available on the Seafood Park and other harbour developments and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) South West Regional Development Agency - Highlights Report 2005

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

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(d) Objective 1 Quarterly Review

The Quarterly Review documents relating to January to March and April to June were, again, available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(e) Verbal Report re. Market Jew Street Townscape Initiative and Public Artworks

Members had been invited to the preview day in respect of the launch of the Townscape Heritage Initiative, and the proposed public artworks for Market Jew Street, and it was hoped that as many members as possible would be able to attend - 9th November 2005.

The latest meeting of the Harbour and Town Centre Regeneration Steering Group had taken place on the 18th October and the Harbour Revision Order in respect of Penzance Harbour had been discussed and the detail of which was as previously supported by Penzance Town Council and because of the timescale for comment, it was

RESOLVED: to support the HRO.

A summary document relating to the Townscape Heritage Initiative had been produced at that meeting and the Town Clerk would obtain copies for members in due course.

(f) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item to be discussed, it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(g) Area Forum and Market Coastal Towns Initiative

See Confidential Appendix "C".

(h) Resolution to Re-Admit the Press and Public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public to the meeting.

(i) Inner Harbour Project at Newlyn

The Town Clerk advised that on Wednesday 2nd November, an article relating to the above project would be televised which would be in competition with a Village Hall Scheme in Devon and a phone-in vote would determine which of the two projects would receive the £50,000.00 prize.

The Town Clerk very much hoped that members present would spread the word and encourage as many people as possible to phone in with their vote to secure the prize money for what was a very worthwhile project and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

42. **PROPOSED CHANGE TO START TIME FOR SOME FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS TO ENABLE INVITED SPEAKERS TO ATTEND TO SPEAK/ANSWER QUESTIONS**

Councillor Axford advised that he had brought this item forward for discussion at full Council and, although he acknowledged that there was a 15 minute period at the start of each meeting for public speaking or presentations, this idea was somewhat different in as much as various groups would be invited to send representatives, eg. South West Water to discuss charges, RCH Trust to discuss hospital service provision, which would provide members with the opportunity to directly question the leaders of such organisations on matters of local concern. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be supported.

9.05 pm

Chairman
5th December 2005