

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 3rd November 2005 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Clark - Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors D.J. Axford
J.H. Dixon
F. Granger
R.A. Mann
A.J. Richings (joined meeting 7.12 pm)

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor P.C.H. Rendle

17. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors M.R. Cotton and S.J. Reed

18. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2005**

Having been circulated, it was

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

19. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) Zapcat National Championships

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had been instructed to write to local businesses on the Promenade in Penzance to seek their views on the Zapcat Championships which had been held in September.

To date, the Town Clerk had not received a response and he would pursue this issue and return the matter to the next meeting of the committee and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Any Member to Bring Forward Items/Projects which would Impact on the 2006/07 Budget

Councillor Dixon referred to the combined cycle path/footpath from Penzance Railway Station through to Marazion and to a conversation which he had had with Councillor Goninan, Chairman of the Older People's Forum on the District Council.

Councillor Goninan had referred to the lack of seating on this popular walk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should pursue this issue in the first instance through the Liveability Fund.

With regard to the long-term future of the Hill Fort, the Town Clerk advised that this matter would be borne in mind, but there were no firm proposals as yet with the archaeological surveys only just under way and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Revised Town Guide

The Town Clerk advised that he had spoken with Des Hannigan, who had been largely responsible for the production of the Town Guide, and his advice was that the guide was sufficiently recent that, subject to minor updating, it should proceed to reprint to cover the next two years.

Councillor Clark had carried out a number of updates in conjunction with the Town Clerk in relation to the use of the text in the guide on the new Town Council website and, in respect of the website, the issue of the soliciting and provision of details of traders was discussed and the feeling of the meeting was generally that the website should limit itself, as most other sites do, to specific information relating to the Town Council and more general information about the parish area.

However, a formal decision would be required in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that there should be a presentation of the website to members in due course when final policy decisions could be made on its content.

(d) 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.

(e) The Lodge, Penlee Park

See Confidential Appendix "A".

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

It was

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

(g) St. Piran in Penzance - Celebration 2006

Following on from the successful inaugural event in 2005, and although a formal request

for financial support had yet to be received, it was

RECOMMENDED: that a sum of £500.00 be earmarked within the current grants budget to deal with this event as further information became available.

In this respect, the Town Clerk advised that Howard Curnow had invited the Mayor and other members to attend a meeting at the Yacht Inn on Wednesday 9th November 2005 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Trafalgar Celebrations - Expenditure

The Town Clerk reminded members that the £2,500.00 unexpended from the VE Commemoration events had been linked to the £2,500.00 set aside for the Trafalgar events and, to which had been added a £1,000.00 contribution from Penwith District Council.

The Town Clerk went on to provide details of expenditure to date of just over £4,500.00 and he was confident that, what had been considered to be a very successful weekend to mark the important anniversary, would be contained within the budget available and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council re. Abatement of Pension in Payment

Cornwall County Council was required to keep a policy regarding the abatement of pension under review and, this related to instances where an employee enters a new employment with a scheme employer and on which the County Council is required to consult.

Currently, no rules are in place to stop a pension after it has come into payment and, therefore, without an abatement provision, a person awarded a pension because of redundancy or ill health could become re-employed by the same or another scheme member and could receive a pension plus pay without a ceiling on the combined income.

Abatement occurs where pay on re-employment plus pension exceeds the pay an employee would have received and is reduced on a pound for pound basis.

This only applies where the employee re-enters employment which is eligible for membership of the Local Government Pension Scheme. It was

RESOLVED: that abatement should be applied as set out on the pound for pound reduction to the original salary level as set out above.

20. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

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

RESOLVED: to note the position.

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

RESOLVED: to approve such payments (see Appendix “B” for both financial position and payments made).

21. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Penzance Old Cornwall Society - Federation of Old Cornwall Societies’ Summer Festival

Councillor Rendle had attended in respect of this item and declared a Code of Conduct Interest by way of membership, but it was

RESOLVED: that he should remain to answer any questions which may arise. It was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should seek further information with regard to the total cost of the proposed festival event, which members were minded to support, and the matter would be considered at the next meeting.

(ii) Cornwall Wide Social Project - Spirit of Christmas Pilot Project

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(iii) Vitalise Appeal

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £50.00.

(iv) Penzance Youth Wind Band - Nevada Union High School Visit - June 2006

Given that the Nevada/Bendigo Twinning grant was usually unexpended, it was

RESOLVED: that the grant for the current year and next year be linked with a contribution of £140.00 to enable support for the visit to be provided.

(b) Major Awards

(i) Gwavas Residents' Association - Skateboard Park

With £1,000.00 remaining in the major grants budget, it was

RESOLVED: to commit this amount to the skateboard project.

9.00 pm

Chairman
8th December 2005