

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor C.A.C. White (Chairman)

Councillors C.A. Dennis  
M. Freeman  
F. Granger  
R.M. Lawrence  
K.L.W. Perry

**ALSO PRESENT**

Councillor M.R. Cotton (left meeting 8.30 pm)

43. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford and J. Ruhrmund.

44. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 31<sup>ST</sup> OCTOBER 2005**

Having been circulated, it was

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

45. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **MOUNTS BAY LUGGER ASSOCIATION**

The Mounts Bay Lugger Association had provided copies of their winter newsletter which had been circulated to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

The Town Clerk placed on record his appreciation for the support of the Lugger Association and John Lambourn in particular in relation to the presence of the "Happy Return" which participated in the Trafalgar re-enactment and a number of other restored traditional craft and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Lugger Association be made aware of the appreciation of the Town Council.

(b) Leaflet from Penwith District Council re. Small Grants to Community and Voluntary Groups

The leaflet referred to £500.00 grants which could be used to assist community groups provided the project assisted the District Council in meeting its objectives for the economy, communities, homes, the environment and heritage of Penwith.

The closing date within this round of applications was the 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the Town Clerk would write to the District Council to establish whether such grants would continue in the future and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Cornwall Association of Local Councils - AGM - 26<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Councillor Lawrence had planned to represent the Town Council at the above event but it had been postponed at very short notice and would now take place on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2005.

It was also proposed that the nomination process, in respect of councillors representing the Association on other bodies, be carried out again in the light of the revised date and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(d) Guest Speakers at Full Council Meetings

The Town Clerk advised that because of the time required to prepare Council budgets, it had not been possible to bring forward any changes to standing orders in respect of this proposal and a report would therefore be produced to be presented at the January cycle of meetings.

Some concern was expressed in relation to such presentations in as much as a later start to the Town Council meeting could see important issues being discussed when the press was not in attendance and the opportunity to bring these matters to the attention of local residents would, therefore, be missed.

With particular regard to the attendance of the police at full Town Council meetings, it was felt that it may be more appropriate for the police to attend the General Purposes Committee meeting, as they had done in the past, and members could advise the Town Clerk of issues to be raised, in order that the police could attend with the necessary information, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the attendance of guest-speakers at full Town Council meetings be considered during the January cycle of meetings.

(e) Promotion of Surfing through Penwith District Council Website

The Town Clerk advised that this matter had been raised by Councillor Clark who felt that the District Council website could be better used to provide information with regard to beach and sea conditions to would-be surfers to maximise the tourism benefit provided by these natural facilities and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the matter be held open for Councillor Clark to speak at the full Town Council Meeting.

(f) 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's Social, Economic and Environment Meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> December 2005 had been received and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(g) Reports from Outside Bodies

See Appendix "B". The minutes of the Civic Society General Meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 would be received in due course and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the matter be left open to enable Councillor Ruhmund to comment at the full Town Council Meeting.

(h) Resignation of Councillors

The Town Clerk confirmed that Councillor Steve Freeman had tendered his resignation in respect of Central Ward and Councillor Jenny Beamish had also resigned from her seat in South Ward.

The Town Clerk had written to thank the Councillors for the contribution they had made during their time with the Council and he went on to advise that the vacancies had been advertised in the "Cornishman" on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005, with a closing date to the Returning Officer of the 21<sup>st</sup> December 2005, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

46. **LICENSING MATTERS**

Councillor C.A.C. White declared a code of conduct interest in this matter but remained to provide information in relation to District Council Licensing Committee meetings.

Councillor Granger assumed the chair.

The Town Clerk advised that he had received notices of the Licensing Committee meetings in respect of Rami's Kebab Takeaway in Market Jew Street which was held on the 9<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and in respect of Coco's in Chapel Street which was held on the 28<sup>th</sup> November 2005.

Councillor Dennis referred to the application in respect of Rami's and was concerned that four letters of objections, which were presented to the District Council on the closing date for representation, had not been admitted for consideration.

Further, Councillor Dennis was concerned that in refusing consent for the 4.00 am licence in respect of Rami's, the establishment has been allowed to open until 1.00 am (rather than 11.00 am) with an explanation from the District Council that the 1.00 am decision had been allowed on appeal in respect of a previous application, although members had no confirmatory information in this respect. It was, therefore,

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the District Council's Legal Department seeking an explanation with regard to the refusal of the four letters of representation and an explanation with regard to the 1.00 am licence in respect of Rami's.

Members then turned their attention to the general affects of the new Licensing Act and to the statement by Penzance police that there had been little adverse impact in respect of the new closing times of a number establishments.

However, members reported that at the western end of Penzance, there had been disturbances at 3.25 am and some residents had not managed to get to sleep until 6.00 am.

People were experiencing difficulties in reporting concerns through the 08452 number and in respect of one particular incident, there was a 10 minute delay on the 999 system. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that members keep full details of incidents of concern, details of their attempts to contact police, the response received and that such information be forwarded to the Town Clerk to be held in a central record. It was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk bring this matter to the attention of the local press, in order that the Council's concerns and the response of the police can be brought into the public domain in order that people's concerns can be properly addressed.

47. **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) Ms. C. Chambers

To trade at Market Place - Friday and/or Saturday, 9.00 am to 6.00 pm, in the sale of recycled glassware (renewal). It was

**RESOLVED:** to offer no objection.

48. **FINANCIAL POSITION INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES 2005/06 AND ESTIMATES 2006/07**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31<sup>st</sup> October 2005 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The Committee also considered the revised budget for the current year and the proposed budget for the year 2006/07.

The notes accompanying the budget referred to the under spend brought forward from 2004/05 to the current year which was being utilised to cover the cost of the weight testing on the brackets and wires throughout the town.

The Town Clerk also referred to the brackets and wires in Causewayhead which had had to be replaced and the Town Council would be covering 50 per cent of the replacement cost in recognition of the fact that Causewayhead traders generally managed to cover their own cost in terms of the rig and de-rig of the lights.

Finally, in respect of 2006/07, members noted that the budget had been increased by £500.00 and was now approaching the £10,000.00 cut-off point where, thereafter, the budget would be linked to RPI year on year. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the budget, as set out in Appendix "C", be approved.

49. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Community Meetings re. Hospitals in West Cornwall (Convened by West Cornwall Healthwatch) - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 at 2.30 pm and 7.00 pm at Queen's Hotel

For the record, members noted the attendance at the above meetings and the reason for which they were convened which is linked to item (c) below and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(b) Public Meeting - Acorn Theatre - 18<sup>th</sup> November 2005

Again, the reasons behind the convening of this meeting by the Local MP were noted and this item also relates to item (c) below and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Paper Prepared by Councillor Cotton re. Position of Penzance Town Council in Relation to Hospital Provision

Councillor Cotton had prepared a paper which was circulated to those present and which would be copied to all members to enable further discussion to take place at the full Town Council Meeting.

The copy of the press release attached to the paper was that which appeared in the previous issue of the "Cornishman" and, the latest press release would be attached to Councillor Cotton's paper to inform discussion at the full Town Council Meeting.

It was noted that the Town Council's position had remained unchanged for more than two years and is as set out below:-

- (i) The A and E service at West Cornwall Hospital should be returned to former levels, ie. 24/7 - doctor-led.
- (ii) That the High Dependency Unit should be returned to full and proper use.
- (iii) The emergency service should not be instructed to take patients directly to Truro without first being assessed at West Cornwall Hospital where appropriate.

Councillor Cotton felt it was now time to consider whether there should be any change to the above and the Town Clerk reminded members that the Council had, on the 14<sup>th</sup> November, resolved to make representation to Cornwall County Council to use its statutory powers in requesting that the Secretary of State carry out a review of acute hospital service provision in Cornwall and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the matter be considered by full Council (see paper from Councillor Cotton attached).

(d) West Cornwall Primary Care Trust - Board Meeting - 29<sup>th</sup> November 2005

A copy of the invite and agenda to the above meeting had been received for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(e) West Cornwall Healthy Living Centre Network

Kerrier and Penwith Healthy Living Centre Network had now merged with a view to providing an improved service as the Centre continued its quest to bring health and well-being to the people of West Cornwall.

One aspect of the Centre's work was the database of community/voluntary health projects to which GPs could direct patients for support where appropriate.

The Centre had sent a supply of leaflets to show the workings of the network which were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

50. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Market Jew Street:-

(i) Public Art Exhibition

(ii) Townscape Heritage Initiative

The Town Clerk referred to the exhibition relating to public art proposals for Market Jew Street and which was combined with the launch of the Townscape Heritage Initiative and indications were that over 600 people had attended the exhibition and the feedback in relation to the artworks had been very positive.

The Town Clerk would provide a summary of the Townscape Heritage Initiative from the Conservation Officer, for the information of members, in due course and it was noted that the THI scheme would operate from new offices in the old Chapel of Rest opposite the Magistrates' Court entrance in St. John's Hall.

One particular aspect of the public art works in Market Jew Street was the proposed water feature which was to be housed adjacent to the Humphry Davy monument on the site of a former toilet block.

The final design of the feature was being worked up and the proposal was being included in relation to the fact that running water was a feature of Market Jew Street some time ago.

Cornwall County Council were unable to adopt the feature in terms of its maintenance and running costs and the Town Clerk tabled a paper prepared by Rose Barnicutt of the District Council, which was requesting that there should be shared adoption on the part of the two Authorities, and this paper would be copied to all members to consider the feature and its possible adoption at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(iii) Working Group Meeting - 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2005

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report in respect of this meeting to say that the majority of the discussion had related to the water feature and the monument area, and also the area in front of the Wimpy Bar block in lower Market Jew Street for which drawings were still awaited, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(iv) Site Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005

The Town Clerk advised that this group comprised members of the Town Council who had requested monthly meetings with the County Council's Site Agent and representatives of CORMAC in order that specific issues could be addressed while works were continuing.

A number of minor issues had been raised at the meeting, which CORMAC agreed to deal with, and in respect of manhole covers which, in their current form, could catch the heel of ladies shoes, the Town Clerk would contact CORMAC to ensure that this matter was addressed and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance Town Centre and Harbour Regeneration Steering Group Meeting -15<sup>th</sup> November 2005

The Town Clerk advised that the Steering Group had met specifically on the 15<sup>th</sup> November to receive results of the Public Art Exhibition and the THI Launch and this group was also pressing for a resolution to the proposals in relation to the Humphry Davy monument area and the pavement in front of the Wimpy Bar block.

The next meeting of the group was to be held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005 when, together with a number of other invited guests, it would receive a presentation from YRM Architects from London with regard to their vision for the harbour and wharfside area.

Mr. Keith Bell, a Penzance man, was an architect with YRM and, through continuing local contact with the town, had persuaded his firm to draw up a number of proposals which had been presented informally to a number of people on the 4<sup>th</sup> November and to take the matter one stage further, it had been agreed that there would be a presentation to the Regeneration Steering Group.

If there was a general interest/support for the proposals, the Town Clerk would then seek to arrange a presentation by YRM to members of the Town Council and possibly the Civic Society and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum

The latest meeting of the Fish Industry Forum had taken place on the 8<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and, in the absence of the Town Council's representative, the minutes of the meeting would follow for information in due course.

The Town Clerk went on to advise of an invitation he had received to attend meetings of the Forum and also of the Executive Committee and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk attend such meetings.

(d) Penwith District Council - Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure Newsletter

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

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(e) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative - 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005

A number of members had attended the above meeting and they expressed some disappointment that the meeting had pre-set ideas and they were not convinced that their input had been taken on board and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

51. **SAVE OUR SLEEPER CAMPAIGN**

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Mayor had attended the original launch of this campaign at the Mount Prospect Hotel and there had now been a second and larger launch at the Eden Project and he had placed the item on the agenda in order that the Town Council could register its continuing support for the retention of the service and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

52. **TOWN COUNCIL WEBSITE**

This item would be carried through to the full Town Council Meeting to allow input from Councillor Clark and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

53. **“TSUNAMI WATCH”**

**RESOLVED:** to note receipt of this paper and in further discussion, members returned to the lack of sea defences on the Newlyn Green section of the seafront and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the local County Councillors asking them to raise this issue with Cornwall County Council.

8.55 pm

Chairman  
16<sup>th</sup> January 2006