

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> January 2006 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

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

Councillors C.A. Dennis  
M. Freeman  
F. Granger  
R.M. Lawrence  
K.L.W. Perry (joined meeting 7.05 pm)

54. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor T.E. Williams

55. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> DECEMBER 2005**

Having been circulated, it was

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

56. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Penzance Town Community Action Panel**

The Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Community Action Panel would take place on Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 2006 and the Town Clerk and Mayor would represent the Town Council and Councillor White advised that she would be present on behalf of the District Council.

The first three meetings of the Panel had had somewhat varied attendance, although the discussions which had taken place had been quite positive and it was hoped that initiatives relating to graffiti and vandalism could be taken forward at the next meeting and it was

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

(b) **Correspondence re. Refuse Collection - Chapel Street, Penzance**

The Town Council had supported Chapel Street residents in their endeavours to change the time of collection from the street which, at present, saw wheelie bins in situ for a considerable part of the day, being visually unattractive and causing some obstruction to pedestrians. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Chairman raise this matter at the next meeting of the 'rubbish group' at Penwith District Council and, by way of background information,

Councillor Ruhmund advised that a number of traders in the street did not wish to see collection prior to 9.00 am as this would require a separate journey to their premises to make refuse available for collection.

(c) Carshare Cornwall

Information provided by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils relating to the Carshare scheme had been copied to all members for information and it was noted that the scheme was now available on-line and members were asked to 'spread the word' and it was

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

(d) West Cornwall Community Network - December Newsletter - Issue No. 13

The Town Clerk advised that the above organisation, which supports and brings together the voluntary sector and community groups, had sent their Autumn newsletter, together with an invitation to attend their annual conference to be held at Land's End on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January 2006, which was open to one representative from the Town Council if any member wished to attend, and it was

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

(e) 'Penzance Post'

The December newsletter from HMS Penzance had been circulated to members prior to Christmas and the ship's Commanding Officer had written to advise that he was very much looking forward to his first visit to the town with the ship in July and it was

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

(f) FIRST - Stakeholder Bulletin

The bus company FIRST had provided information with regard to grant aid and investment in rolling-stock and this had been copied to all members for information.

The bulletin also referred to a number of service changes and, in this respect, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to FIRST to establish whether they had been in discussion with the Eden Project with regard to withdrawal of service X27 and also, that the Town Clerk should write to Madron Parish Council to establish whether they had been consulted on the withdrawal of service number 11.

(g) Informal Meeting of the Council

The Town Clerk reminded members that there had been an Informal Meeting the previous year to look at the civic role of the Council and Mayor Choosing and members were asked for their view as to whether another meeting was required this year and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that such a meeting should take place which would take the form of

informal discussions and items arising would then travel through the next cycle of meetings to be formalised.

(h) Older Peoples Forum Meeting

The next meeting of this group would take place on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> January and the Forum had sent a newsletter, which was available to any member who wished to have sight of it, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(i) Casual Vacancies - Heamoor and South Wards

The Town Clerk advised that following advertisement of the vacancies, no election had been called and a further advert had been placed in the "Cornishman" on the 12<sup>th</sup> January with a closing date of the 30<sup>th</sup> January in relation to the co-option procedure and it was

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

The Town Clerk went on to advise that a further casual vacancy had now occurred in the South Ward and this would be advertised shortly and it was, again,

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

(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 full District Council Meeting to be held on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006 had also been received and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** receipt be noted.

(k) Reports from Outside Bodies

See Appendix "B".

Councillor Ruhmund gave a resume of the meeting of the Civic Society held on the 1<sup>st</sup> December 2005 and following on from this, discussion ensued with regard to the reporting of matters requiring attention to the District Council and the County Council.

Members advised that there was often a long delay or no action at all in respect of a number of issues and the Town Clerk offered to provide a proforma on which members could record representations made to the District and County Councils or any other Authority and if an appropriate response was not forthcoming, the Town Clerk would follow the query through in the name of the Council and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that this procedure be adopted.

(l) Penwith District Council - Proposed Scale of Charges 2006-2009

The Town Clerk advised that the information relating to the proposed scale of charges for the above period was available at the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was also available on-line.

The document covered charges relating to the full range of services provided by the District Council and it was noted that, in particular, car park charges in long-stay car parks were set to rise quite substantially in the next financial year.

The charges were available for comment until the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2006 and it was

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

(m) Promotion of Surfing

The Town Clerk had written to the District Council with regard to the use of its website to provide more up to date information relating to surf conditions on local beaches, which it was hoped could be provided by lifeguards.

The reply indicated that the District Council was working on a new tourism website which was live, but some pages were still under construction.

The information on surf was linked to an external site, which receives one million hits per month, and the Tourism Office was exploring the possibility of lifeguards sending information directly to that site and it was

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

(n) Alan Harvey Citizen of the Year Award

The District Council had written to invite nominations for this annual award and the closing date was the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that any nomination should be considered at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

(o) Notice of Penwith Senior Life Skills Event

The District Council had written to advise of the above event which would take place on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2006 at St. John's Hall and this had been the proposed date for the St. Piran celebrations, which would now move to Monday 6<sup>th</sup> March, and it was

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

**57. LICENSING MATTERS**

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) Notice of Licensing Meeting

The Town Clerk advised that there would be a licensing meeting on the 18<sup>th</sup> January 2006 to consider the applications submitted by Mama Ruth's at 10 Causewayhead, Penzance and it was

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

(b) Impact of Extended Hours

Members were asked for their views on the impact of the extended hours and there was concern that there was continuing disturbance for residents in the proximity of such establishments and the Town Clerk advised that Inspector Chris Strickland would be coming to the full Town Council Meeting to introduce himself on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and the Town Clerk would ask him to be prepared to accept questions and to pass comment on this issue and it was

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

Councillor Ruhmund referred to the issue of dispersal of patrons from licensed premises in the early hours and the availability of taxis for this purpose and it was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the District Council's taxi licensing officer to establish whether this issue would be raised with local taxi operators.

By way of this minute, could I please ask any member who wishes to raise a policing matter to advise by no later than Friday 27<sup>th</sup> January in order that Inspector Strickland can come prepared to answer.

**58. 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) Mrs. S.M. Mitchell - Madron PCC

Fundraising stall, lower end of Causewayhead - sale of cakes, jams, preserves, etc. - Saturday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> August 2006, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm. It was

**RESOLVED:** to offer no objection.

(b) Avril Machray - Renewal

Monday to Saturday for 12 months, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, original artwork and sewing crafts at Market Place. It was

**RESOLVED:** to offer no objection.

(c) Mr. C. Gribble - Renewal

Monday to Saturday for 12 months, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, in the sale of caramelized nuts at Market Place. It was

**RESOLVED:** to offer no objection.

(d) Town Council View on French Markets

The Tourism Section of the District Council was currently planning activities for 2006 and sought the view of the Town Council with regard to the success, or otherwise, of French markets. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that such markets be strongly supported.

59. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 30<sup>th</sup> November 2005 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of September, October and November 2005 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to approve such payments (see Appendix "C" for both financial position and payments made).

The Town Clerk wished to place on record his appreciation for the efforts of Hazel Trembath who, on a voluntary basis, had undertaken to collect contributions from traders throughout Alverton and Market Jew Street and, in this respect, the Town Clerk would establish whether Hazel would be prepared to take on the challenge of raising £1,500.00 throughout the course of the year which, from existing funds, the Town Council would match on a 'pound for pound' basis, with the view to renewing a number of lights in Market Jew Street and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that this initiative be supported.

60. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team Meeting - 9<sup>th</sup> January 2006

This matter had been placed on the agenda to allow Councillor Cotton to report at full Council as necessary and it was

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

Councillor Lawrence referred to discussions which he had had at the Cornwall Association of Larger Local Councils meeting, where he understood that the Association would be writing to the County Council in support of the Town Council's position relating to an independent review of acute services throughout the County and, the Town Clerk would write to impress upon the CALC that support countywide for this initiative would be invaluable in persuading the County Council to take action.

(b) Healthy Living Initiative Newsletter - December 2005

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.

61. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Papers for Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had now been invited to serve on the Forum and its Executive and that he would be attending his first meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January.

The Town Clerk also reported that there was a vacancy at elected member level to serve on the Forum and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that this matter be dealt with at the full Town Council Meeting.

(b) Objective One Review: July - September 2005

The latest edition of the review document for the period shown had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(c) Market Jew Street Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that the final proposals in relation to the Wimpy area, and for the Humphry Davy Statue area, to include the water feature, would be the subject of a presentation at the full Town Council Meeting on the 30<sup>th</sup> January and it was

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

The Town Clerk went on to advise that the proposals relating to the change of priority at Alverton Road/St. John's Hall roundabout had now been agreed, as had the blocking of through access on North Parade and Buriton Row and the build-out at the bottom of Adelaide Street. The County Council also advised that agreement had now been given to allow private hire vehicles to travel down Market Jew Street and it was

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

(d) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Meeting

The next meeting of the MCTi group would take place on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2006 in the Lecture Room at St. John's Hall and the notice of meeting had been copied to all members and it was

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

62. **GUEST SPEAKERS AT FULL TOWN COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Town Clerk advised that the only standing order to be affected by this proposal would be standing order number 1, which could require modification to the length of time made available for public speaking or presentation.

The options open to members were:-

(i) to take specific presentations at full Town Council Meetings, eg. health matters, with an extended presentation/public participation time;

(ii) to take presentations at specially convened meetings of the Council to look at specific issues in depth; or

(iii) to take such presentations at committee meetings with all members being informed and invited to attend for that specific item.

It was noted that time given over to presentations at full Council often meant a late start to the meeting, with later sections of the meeting then not being subject to press coverage and, in this respect, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk should write to the proprietors of the "Cornishman" to establish the likely nature of the paper following reduction in the number of reporters and it was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the issue of guest speakers at full Town Council Meetings be decided at the next full Town Council Meeting.

63. **ATTENDANCE BY COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Granger had raised this issue and felt that the public were entitled to know details of attendance by members, either on a six monthly or annual basis.

Some members, who also served on the District Council, spoke of a clash of meetings and unavoidable absence but, notwithstanding this, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that attendance at meetings be reported through at least an annual report prepared by the Town Clerk for the Annual Town Meeting which would, in future, be posted on the Council's website and formally to the General Purposes Committee and full Council.

64. **LAUNCH OF WEBSITE**

The Town Clerk advised that the website was virtually ready to go live, save for the preparation of some introductory remarks and a news item, the first of which would relate to the proposed improvements at Penlee Park and Councillor Clark would provide a presentation at the full Town Council Meeting and it was

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

65. **STANDARDS OF CONDUCT IN ENGLISH LOCAL GOVERNMENT: THE FUTURE**

The Government had produced a discussion paper, which was available to any member who wished to have sight of it, and the Town Clerk would copy the covering letter to all members to show the main changes which related to the Standards Board taking on a more strategic role and the vast majority of complaints, except for the most serious, being dealt with at a local level.

With regard to a code of conduct for staff, it was proposed to produce a code which would be issued for consultation in due course and it was

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

8.52 pm

Chairman  
27<sup>th</sup> February 2006