

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 27th February 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
J.L. Lambourn
R.M. Lawrence
K.L.W. Perry

66. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor T.E. Williams

67. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 16TH JANUARY 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

68. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Single Issue Panel Report on Anti-Social Behaviour

Councillor Granger advised that he had attended the launch of the Panel Report on the 14th February 2006 which represented the findings from the Overview and Scrutiny Meetings of the District Council which had been held throughout the Penwith area.

Members were advised that a copy of the report was available for any councillor who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Correspondence from Penwith District Council - Big Lottery Award and Play Strategy

The District Council had held a meeting on the 24th February in relation to the development of a Play Strategy for the Penwith area.

The Play Strategy would affect the way future funding, as well as the £200,000.00 Big Lottery Award for the Penwith area, is invested in play provision and outdoor play in particular.

Although the Town Council had just refurbished the playground in Penlee Park through a Liveability grant and its own funds, the amenity area at Gulval and the play site at Heamoor could possibly benefit from the scheme and the Town Clerk would obtain further information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Correspondence from Madron Parish Council re. First Bus Services

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had written to Madron Parish Council with regard to the withdrawal of bus service number 11, Penzance to Madron, and the reply had confirmed that no consultation had taken place with the council and a number of concerns had been expressed by members of the public.

Comments and complaints with regard to recent bus service changes were being co-ordinated by the District Council and the complaints from Madron had been sent to the District Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Larger Councils Conference 2006

The Town Clerk advised the details of the Regional and National Conferences, with the National being held at Canary Wharf in London on the 27th and the 28th April, and the South West Regional being held on Thursday 11th May in Plymouth at a cost of £40.00 per delegate, and the Town Clerk advised that he hoped to be able to attend the South West Regional Conference and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Correspondence re. Refuse Collection - Chapel Street

The Chairman advised that she had followed this matter through at a meeting of the District Council's "Waste Group" and, as had been mentioned at the last meeting, the problem arose because the commercial sector of Chapel Street was happy with the present collection time, whereas a number of residents were not, and with the requirements of the contract to be the collection of waste from all the premises, Biffa had to set the collection time to take account of the commercial sector and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Standards Board for England: Bulletin 27 and Report re. Ethical Standards and the Code of Conduct

Bulletin number 27 had been copied to all members for information and the report on Ethical Standards and the Code of Conduct, highlighting cases which had been dealt with over the previous 18 months and providing a useful guide in relation to the declaration of interest, would be copied to all members with the papers of the full Town Council Meeting.

Members felt that at a future meeting, it would be useful to invite the Monitoring Officer of the District Council to provide a presentation on the Code of Conduct and to talk through issues of concern, and it was agreed that this should take the form of a Special Full Town Council Meeting, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) Penwith Senior Life Skills Exhibition

As had been reported previously, the Senior Life Skills Exhibition would take place on Friday 3rd March 2006 in St. John's Hall where there would be a number of displays on a variety of issues, to include energy, transport, crime prevention and road safety, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Calor - Best Village of the Year Competition

Through the good offices of the Cornwall Rural Community Council, Calor had sent information relating to the above competition which was available to any member, and particularly those covering the areas of Gulval, Tredavoe and Paul where the local community might be encouraged to enter, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Cornwall Library Service - New Timetable

The Cornwall Library Service had introduced a new timetable from the 27th March 2006 with a slight variation over the existing, although the stop-over times appeared to have been unaltered, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(j) Penzance Town Community Action Panel

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended the latest meeting of this group on the 25th January 2006 where the main point of focus was, again, graffiti and a scheme had now been introduced where PCSOs were identifying graffiti to be reported to the District Council, along with the instances of accumulations of litter and rubbish.

In the same way as the District Council had dealt well with the problem of abandoned vehicles, it was hoped that there could be an initiative to respond to graffiti with some form of rapid response cleaning on the part of the District Council.

Although there would be a cost implication in this matter, it was an important issue for both residents and visitors alike and worthy of discussion at the Town and Parish Forum meeting, to establish whether other local councils might be prepared to support Penwith with a financial contribution to provide a district wide solution in this matter.

The responsible officer in this matter was Mr. Mike Toms of the District Council and he

had been invited to attend the next meeting of the Community Action Panel from which it was hoped to progress the matter and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(k) Virgin Cross Country - Fact File 2006

Virgin had written to provide details of an investment programme and the services being provided as they affect the region throughout the forthcoming year and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(l) 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 received, the Town Clerk advised that the papers for the full District Council Meeting on the 1st March 2006 and the Standards Committee to be held on the 6th March 2006 were also available and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(m) Reports from Outside Bodies

See Appendix "B". Councillor Lawrence had attended the Cornwall Association of Parish and Town Councils Conference on the 4th February 2006 and had been disappointed to find that the CAPTC had not considered a proposal to nominate a representative to attend meetings of the County Council's Health, Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the CAPTC in this matter.

With regard to the Association of Larger Local Councils meeting scheduled for the 22nd February, Councillor Lawrence advised that, regretfully, this meeting was inquorate and it did not, therefore, proceed and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(n) Brian Spiegelhalter Citizen of the Year Award

The Town Clerk advised members that the annual award would be advertised in the "Cornishman" on Thursday 9th March and nomination papers were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(o) St. Piran-in-Penwith

The Town Clerk reminded members that they had been invited to attend the St. Piran-in-Penwith celebrations on Monday 6th March where there would be a morning parade involving some 600 school children and musicians and a concert in St. John's Hall that evening and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(p) Penzance Race for Life - Cancer Research UK

The above event would take place on Wednesday 24th May and the organisers were hoping to attract 2000 entrants, with a fundraising target of £130,000.00 through sponsorship and members were asked to spread the word in respect of this very worthy cause and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(q) Correspondence from West Cornwall Community Network

The West Cornwall Community Network had now devised a new management structure comprising of a 26 man board on which there would be 5 places for voluntary/community sector representatives.

A vacancy had arisen for an environment representative and deputy and nominations were required by the 1st March for any member who wished to be involved and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(r) Great Western Rail Timetable - 2006 Onwards

Following the award of the franchise, Great Western had written to advise of timetable changes and although services into Penzance were relatively unaltered and actually improved in some instances, concern was expressed with regard to the reduction in services on a number of branch lines in Cornwall and also to the fact that trains would no longer stop at a number of stations.

If the proposed changes did not form part of Great Western's submission in respect of the award of the franchise, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the company expressing deep concern with regard to the reduction in services at a time when there was so much emphasis on removing people's dependence on cars.

(s) Campaign for Sustainable Communities Bill

The campaign group had written to advise of a meeting to be held in the Kerrier Council Chamber at Camborne on Thursday 6th April 2006 from 7.30 pm to 9.30 pm which was open to all who wished to attend and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

N.B. In view of anticipated attendance, venue now changed to Centenary Chapel, Wesley Street, Camborne

(t) Concarneau - 25th Anniversary of Twinning Association 2007

The Town Clerk advised members that the 25th anniversary of the Twinning Association would take place in 2007 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a small group from the Council link with members of the Association Committee to bring forward proposals for the anniversary year.

(u) Treneere Neighbourhood Renewal Grant

Councillor White advised that a Stakeholder Board had been formed to oversee the spending of the £1.6 million grant over a 2 year period to deal with a number of issues on Treneere Estate.

The group would be working with residents who would be issued with a questionnaire via Police Community Support Officers to ascertain their views relating to the problems that exist and initiatives to address such problems.

Councillor White would keep members informed of progress on this issue and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(v) Older People's Forum

Councillor Granger advised that he had attended the last meeting of the Older People's Forum where a number of issues had been discussed, including that of loneliness where there were proposals in relation to outreach initiatives, outings and a befriending scheme.

It was also proposed that where there were new developments of older people's accommodation, a communal area should be included to address the matters mentioned above and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

69. **LICENSING MATTERS**

(a) Premises Licence Appeal - Rami's Kebab

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

The Town Clerk advised that the decision of the District Council had been upheld by the Magistrates' Court and the application for a 3.30 am food licence, with a closing time of 4.00 am had been rejected. However, it was agreed that Rami's could remain open until

1.00 am as it had done previously.

Councillor Dennis referred to the fact that the above represented a new hearing and the 4 letters submitted by local residents should have been taken into account as part of the proceedings and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the District Council accordingly.

70. **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) Mr. R.L. Lloyd

To trade at Market Place on Good Friday and Easter Sunday, 14th/16th April 2006, in the sale of his own watercolour paintings and cards. It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(b) F. Osborne

To trade at Market Place, Thursday, Friday and Saturday, in the sale of containerised plants for a 12 month period (renewal). It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

71. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st January 2006 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of December 2005 and January 2006 and it was

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

72. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Minutes of Newlyn Fish Industry Forum and Executive Board Meetings - 30th January 2006

The Town Clerk advised that this had been his first meeting of the Forum and despite the news regarding negotiations on the acquisition of land and the creation of a seafood park, the meeting had remained fairly upbeat.

The minutes of the meeting had been circulated to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

- (b) Penzance Townscape Heritage Initiative - Funding Partnership Meeting - 7th February 2006

The Town Clerk advised that he had represented the Town Council at this meeting as the initiative geared up to work with local business premises owners to bring about improvements to the frontages of a number of establishments in the town centre area.

Seventy-five properties were being targeted and several had shown interest and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

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

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

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

73. **HEALTH MATTERS**

- (a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team Meeting - 30th January and 27th February 2006 and Related Correspondence

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

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (b) Responses from Cornwall County Councillors re. Request for an Independent Review

The Town Clerk advised that the letter to all 80 plus County Councillors had resulted in 8 responses, including one from Councillor Sally Bain, Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, advising that although it did not have statutory power to force an independent review, it had just been advised that the Government has ordered an independent study into funding issues in Cornwall's health provision.

In view of this, Councillor Bain felt that it was necessary to await the outcome of this study which would help to inform debate.

In the meantime, the County Council Committee was due to commence a review of access to services in the next few weeks and the Town Council would be advised of the outcome of this review in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Support of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils

The Town Clerk advised that it had not been possible for the Association to consider the request for support for the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team and Town Council's position in respect of hospital provision at its meeting on the 4th February and this matter would now be considered at the next general meeting of the Association and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Healthy Living Initiative - Free Training Event

The above group had written to advise of an offer of free training on the 17th March 2006 in the management of community groups, including some legal aspects and the constitution of such groups and details were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust Board Meeting

The latest meeting of the Trust had taken place on the 24th January 2006 and the minutes would follow in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

74. **LESCUD,JACK HILL FORT MANAGEMENT GROUP**

The reason for placing this matter on the agenda had related to the timing of meetings in relation to the availability of the Council's representative, but the issue had since been resolved and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

75. **RESOLUTION TO EXCLUDE THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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

76. **CORRESPONDENCE FROM CORNWALL AND DEVON MEDIA RE. THE "CORNISHMAN"**

The confidential letter from Cornwall and Devon Media group now appears as Confidential Appendix "D".

Based on the content of the letter, members felt that the "Cornishman" represented the voice of the community and, as such, should not be lost to Truro and that there should be a presence in the town appropriately staffed and open to the public as it is at present and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Editor-in-Chief accordingly.

77. **RESOLUTION TO RE-ADMIT THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

78. **PROPOSALS FROM INFORMAL MEETING - 13TH FEBRUARY 2006 RE. MAYOR CHOOSING AND CEREMONIAL/CIVIC ROLE OF THE COUNCIL**

The notes of the discussions of the Informal Meeting held on the 13th February 2006 now appears as Appendix "E" and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the proposals contained therein be approved in respect of the Mayor Choosing events and the ceremonial and civic role of the council.

79. **PENWITH'S VISION: A COMMUNITY STRATEGY FOR OUR AREA**

Copies of the above document would be circulated to all members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting to allow for both individual and a corporate response and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

9.20 pm

Chairman
15th May 2006