

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 2nd March 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors D.J. Axford
S. Bennett
J.H. Dixon
F. Granger
A.J. Richings

33. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors M.R. Cotton and R.A. Mann.

34. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19TH JANUARY 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

35. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) **"Thank You" Letters**

The Town Clerk advised that "thank you" letters had been received in respect of grants made to Cruse Bereavement Care and the Bishop's Forum Youth Activity Centre.

In respect of the Bishop's Forum, although a leaflet had been sent describing the work of the Forum, the information requested in respect of the number of youngsters from the Penzance Parish involved in the Forum had not been provided and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk pursue this information.

(b) **Use of Play Site - Heamoor Old School**

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by the managers of the LEAP Project in respect of a NHS physical activity scheme aimed at young people, 13 to 16 years old, to encourage them to take part in informal team games.

The organisers wished to use the Heamoor Old School site with the project operating from 4.00 pm to 5.00 pm on Fridays, from early February through to the 28th April.

The Town Clerk went on to advise that he had sought the views of the ward councillors for Heamoor who had readily agreed to the use of the site and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Memorial - Newlyn

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had been asked to adopt the above memorial which was dedicated to Louise A.M. McGrigor to mark her dedicated service to nursing in the First World War.

The Town Clerk had requested a survey which had been considerably delayed but which had now arrived and which had revealed that only minor remedial works were required which could be carried out in-house.

The only additional cost related to insurance and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the memorial be formally adopted.

Councillor Richings referred to another memorial on Chyandour Cliff which, again, appeared not to be maintained and which required minor attention and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Civic Society in this respect.

(d) Golowan Community Arts - Festival 2006

Councillor J.H. Dixon declared a code of conduct interest in this matter and retired from the meeting.

Members noted the information provided by Golowan Community Arts, including the latest audited accounts, details of income and expenditure for the 2005 event and a projected budget in respect of the 2006 event.

Golowan were requesting an additional £1,000.00 grant and a further £2,000.00 towards development cost.

Budgetary provision had not been made for any increase and, after considerable debate, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the grant be maintained at its current level of £12,000.00 and that the Town Clerk enter into negotiation with Golowan Community Arts in respect of the organisation of Christmas lighting in Penzance. It was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED: that the Chairman, Vice-Chairman of Finance Property, together with the Town Clerk, meet with the Chairman of the Golowan trustees, and any other trustee who was available, to discuss the Development Plan and the cost attached to the Festival.

(e) South West Way - Amenity Seating

As mentioned at previous meetings, the Town Clerk advised that this project was now going ahead through Liveability funding and with contributions from Ludgvan Parish Council, Penzance Town Council and Penwith District Council.

Six seats in total would be constructed in granite with wooden slats at regular intervals from Marazion Station House back to the start of the path at Eastern Green and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Correspondence re. Meteorological Station

The Town Clerk advised of the reply from Penwith District Council relating to the provision of an automated meteorological station, which indicated that there was no money within the Capital Projects Fund and that only £300.00 had been pledged from the commercial sector to attach to the £3,211.00 being contributed by Penzance Town Council.

Given the importance attached to the station, and the provision of daily weather readings in a number of national newspapers, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Chief Executive of Penwith District Council, pointing out that the Town Council had invariably reacted positively to requests for funds to enable partnership projects to proceed and, given the good working relationship between the two Authorities, a solution to the funding of the meteorological station be found.

(g) Newlyn Fish Festival

The Newlyn Fish Festival Committee had written to seek financial support for the 2006 event and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council's budgeted contribution of £500.00 be released early in the new financial year.

(h) Gulval Safer Routes to School and Amenity Area Project

The Town Clerk advised that the land had now been acquired by the voluntary group working on this project and he was awaiting a formal request for the release of the Town Council's agreed £1,000.00 contribution and it was

RECOMMENDED: that on receipt of the request, payment be made.

36. **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 “A” for both financial position and payments made).

In respect of contributions towards the cost of CCTV, it was

RECOMMENDED: that such monies be vired in the first instance as a contingency to ensure the completion of the Penlee Park improvement works, with the residue being transferred to the general fund.

The Town Clerk advised that the final grant aid in respect of the Tennis Club project had been received and final payments to contractors and consultants had now been paid, resulting in the project being delivered within £11.00 of the original estimate, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

37. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Shallal Dance Theatre

RESOLVED: to make a grant in the sum of £285.00.

(ii) West Cornwall Industry Lugger Trust

RESOLVED: to make a start-up grant to this group in the sum of £200.00 and

FURTHER RESOLVED: to make a grant in the new financial year towards the cost of a lugger regatta in the sum of £250.00 on receipt of confirmation from the organisers that the event would definitely proceed. It was

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should clarify the status of this group for Town Council records.

(iii) St. Piran-in-Penwith

Councillor R. Clark declared a code of conduct interest in this matter and retired from the meeting.

The Town Clerk referred to the grant made by the Town Council in the sum of £500.00 to what would be the second year of the St. Piran-in-Penwith celebrations.

The organising group had worked hard to ensure the success of the event and had submitted a summary of financial cost which would see over 500 school children and a number of school bands taking part in the celebrations on Monday 6th March.

There was a little uncertainty as to whether the estimated income could be achieved from the Monday evening concert and the sale of rosettes and a request had been received to underwrite the event up to £250.00 although, in the first instance, the organising committee would make an application to the District Council for grant aid, and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the underwriting of this event as outlined above.

Given that this was set to become a popular annual celebration, it was

FURTHER RESOLVED: that budgetary provision be considered for future years.

(iv) Princess May Recreation Ground

The Town Clerk advised that the underspend in the grants budget would be sufficient to clear the outstanding contribution to phase I of the Princess May Recreation Ground Project, ie. £2,500.00 to be paid in the new financial year from Major Grants and £1,400.00 residue of current year's budget and it was

RESOLVED: to confirm such payments.

8.40 pm

Chairman
18th May 2006