

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 15<sup>th</sup> May 2006 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors S. Bennett  
R. Clark  
C.A. Dennis  
J.S. Lambourn  
R.M. Lawrence  
K.L.W. Perry  
P.C.H. Rendle

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Clark be elected to chair the meeting.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, F. Granger, J. Ruhrmund and C.A.C. White.

2. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 27<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

3. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Correspondence re. West Cornwall Car Clear Initiative**

The launch of the above initiative was being held on Wednesday 17<sup>th</sup> May between 10.00 am and 12.00 pm at Kerrier District Council Services Depot.

The partnership was between Kerrier and Penwith District Councils, the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary, Cornwall County Council, the Fire Brigade, local social housing providers and the DVLA.

The scheme had been piloted in September 2005 and was an initiative to combat the growing problem of abandoned vehicles and vehicle arson attacks throughout both districts.

Any member wishing to attend should contact the launch organiser direct and it was

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

(b) P-Tag Meeting - 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006

The Town Clerk reminded members that Councillor Williams was the Council's representative on the P-Tag group and the item had been placed on the agenda to allow the reporting back of any items of interest.

The Clerk also referred to the notification which had been sent to members regarding powerboat racing in Mount's Bay on the 29<sup>th</sup> and the 30<sup>th</sup> April and, again, feedback on this event was invited.

Members noted the event was not promoted to any great extent and numbers viewing the racing were low and there was no particular disturbance to residents or users of the Promenade area.

The Town Clerk also referred to a meeting at the Tregenna Hotel on the 6<sup>th</sup> April 2006 regarding the future of the Tourist Information Centres in the district and a report on this matter would be provided in due course and it was

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

(c) The Alan Harvey Citizen of the Year Award

Members were pleased to note that the Council's nomination of Richard and Marlene Stevens had been accepted by the District Council and the Chairman's award had been made at the April meeting and it was

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

(d) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Play Strategy

Penwith District Council had written to advise of the development of a play strategy following the announcement of the attempt to secure £200,000.00 from the Lottery Fund allocated to Penwith to improve and develop local play opportunities in accordance with the developing strategy.

At the present time, the aims and objectives were being defined and Councillor Lawrence advised that he would be prepared to attend further meetings of the group and it was

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

(e) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

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

**RESOLVED:** that the press and public be excluded from the next part of the meeting.

(f) Correspondence re. The John Daniel Centre, Penzance

See Confidential Appendix "D".

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

It was

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

(h) Annual General Meeting - Cornwall County Playing Fields Association

The invitation to attend the above AGM had been sent to members on the 20<sup>th</sup> March and with the meeting taking place on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, the item had been placed on the agenda to enable any member who had attended to report back and it was

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

(i) Formation of Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Sub-Committee - 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations in 2007

It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that this matter be referred to the full Council Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> June for the nomination of members to serve on the sub-committee.

(j) Proposed Commemoration of the Rosebud Voyage - Members Interested in Joining an Organising Committee

The 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Rosebud Voyage from Newlyn to London is to be celebrated on the 19<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and Councillor Lambourn advised that he would be interested in serving on the Organising Committee and it was, again,

**RECOMMENDED:** that this matter be referred to the full Town Council Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> June to confirm membership of the committee.

(k) Virgin Trains

Correspondence from Virgin Trains regarding additional services and extra capacity to relieve overcrowding had been copied to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(l) Corpus Christi Fair 2006

The Town Clerk advised that he had been asked for a quick response in March by the District Council with regard to the location of the Corpus Christi Fair at the Wharfside Car Park.

The Town Clerk had replied to advise that, from his own point of view, no problems had been brought to his attention in relation to the fair operating at the Wharfside as part of the 60<sup>th</sup> Commemoration of the end of World War 2 events in 2005.

It was proposed that the event should be monitored this year and the District Council be requested to carry out consultation earlier in the year if it was proposed to hold the fair at the Wharfside on an annual basis and it was

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

- (m) Correspondence from DEFRA “Getting to Grips with Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005”

The information from DEFRA had been copied to all members for information and the Act enables Parish and Town Councils to issue Fixed Penalty Notices for littering, graffiti, flyposting and also to make Dog Control Orders.

The guide in respect of the legislation was available on-line or by hard copy for any Town or Parish Council intending to use the legislation, although, before doing so, training of designated staff would be required. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the availability of the new powers be noted and that in due course the Council consider whether it would wish to avail itself of the new powers.

- (n) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Code of Conduct

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had written following the issue of information relating to case studies over the past 18 months to request that the District Council’s Monitoring Officer provide a presentation for Town Council members.

The Monitoring Officer had responded to say that a new Code of Conduct would soon be issued and training would be supplied for all Town and Parish Councillors district wide.

In the meantime, if any specific issue arose on which advice was required, the Monitoring Officer would be pleased to speak to any member and it was

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

- (o) Correspondence from Cornwall Association of Local Councils re. Unregistered Land

The Chief Executive of CALC had recently attended a Land Registry seminar session relating to unregistered land and the Land Registry Service was seeking information from Town and Parish Councils regarding any land which is unregistered and which could benefit from registration to protect it as a community asset.

Any member able to identify any land, or needing further information, could obtain details from the Town Clerk and it was

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

(p) Correspondence from Cornwall Association of Local Councils re. Local Vision Event

Having placed this item on the agenda, the Town Clerk advised that further information had been received to show that the event would take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2006 in London and that it would not, therefore, be possible for the Town Council to be represented and it was

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

(q) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Proposed Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Places Order 2006

The new order replaces the previous alcohol ban legislation through the Criminal Justice and Police Act 2001, section 13(2). The District Council had provided the full schedule of locations covered by the order throughout the district and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(r) Correspondence from “Cornishman” Newspaper

The Town Clerk referred to the second letter which had been sent to the Editor-in-Chief of the “Cornishman” expressing further concern, despite the explanation offered, concerning staffing losses and the lack of a newspaper office which was open and accessible to the public.

The Editor-in-Chief referred to his initial explanation and defended the changes made to the operation of the “Cornishman” which he felt would not lead to any loss of quality or coverage.

Members felt that they could only hold a watching brief in this matter and possibly meet with the local Sub-Editor if the need arose and members

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

(s) Local Works - Campaign for Sustainable Communities

Further information from the campaign group advised that MPs were still being pressed to adopt this Bill in the next MPs Ballot for Bills in November.

The Town Council had already written to Andrew George, MP who had agreed to commit to adopting the Bill and the Town Clerk also advised members that he had sent a copy of an invitation to all members to attend the local meeting of the group which was held at Camborne on the 6<sup>th</sup> April.

A suggested resolution of support for the aims of the Campaign Group would be forwarded to members with the minutes of the meeting, for possible adoption at the full Town Council Meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup> June and it was

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

(t) Traffic Warden Cover - Penzance Town

The Town Clerk advised that he had written to Inspector Strickland in April because the town was not being covered in Traffic Warden terms at its normal level.

The reply from Inspector Strickland referred to local staffing difficulties which were now part resolved, but he also referred to a decision soon to be made on the part of the Chief Constable which should see Police Community Support Officers being granted Traffic Warden powers to assist with the traffic management in the town. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that a letter be sent to Inspector Strickland requesting that the Chief Constable provide powers for the PCSOs as soon as possible.

(u) 'See Ability' - Fundraising Cycle Challenge

The above group had written to raise awareness of the "Hare and Tortoise Cycle Challenge" from the United Kingdom through France in September where it was hoped that the £22,000.00 raised in 2005 would be exceeded and the group were seeking cyclists to take part in this event, and asked the Town Council to promote it in any way it could, and it was

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

(v) Penwith District Council - Children and Young People Newsletter

The District Council was now producing a Young People Newsletter and a copy was available from the Town Clerk for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(w) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. South Pier  
Public Conveniences

The District Council had written to advise that the public conveniences at South Pier would be closed for essential works from the 22<sup>nd</sup> to the 26<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and it was

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

On the question of toilet provision, Councillor Lawrence advised that although the toilets at the top of Causewayhead were fitted out for disabled use, there was no ramp access and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the District Council on this matter.

(x) Visit of HMS Penzance

The ship's Liaison Officer had been in touch to advise that HMS Penzance would be visiting from the 7<sup>th</sup> to the 10<sup>th</sup> July 2006 and possibly for Trafalgar in October, arriving on the 20<sup>th</sup> and departing on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

The Town Clerk would prepare a programme of events in respect of the ship's July visit and advise members in due course and it was

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

(y) Correspondence re. Bolitho Gardens

The Town Clerk had been provided with a copy of a letter from the Open Spaces Manager of the District Council to Councillor Clark which referred to proposals in respect of the development of Bolitho Gardens, which would be subject to consultation and prioritisation ahead of the seeking of external funding, and members were pleased to hear of proposed improvements but disappointed not to have been involved at the initial stage and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the Open Spaces Manager accordingly.

(z) Correspondence and Literature from Bendigo Sister City

Peter Mundy had sent information regarding various activities taking place in Bendigo City and Mr. Mundy was also in touch directly with the "Cornishman" with regard to providing an article relating to the twinning between the two communities on the occasion of its tenth anniversary and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt of the material be noted.

(aa) Community Empowerment Survey - Local Area Agreement

The Town Clerk referred to the Local Area Agreement which was being negotiated through the Government Office South West and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Agreement covers a range of significant issues for Cornwall, with the aim of giving local people greater say in shaping delivery, and the accompanying letter asked for the prioritisation of aspects of community work and how the Town Council influenced such work.

The Town Clerk had completed the questionnaire on behalf of the Council, indicating where the Town Council was involved or could be involved in various initiatives, and it was

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

(bb) 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 he had received a copy of the 'West Cornwall Interlink Magazine' which, in turn, referred to a free event on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May at the Cornwall College campus entitled "Getting to Grips with the System" and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(cc) Reports from Outside Bodies

Councillor Clark referred to the meeting of the Civic Society held on the 11<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and advised of the move on the part of the Civic Society to work with and through the District Council to bring about necessary improvements to the town.

Specific issues raised at the meeting referred to the CCTV system proposed for Morrab Gardens and the status of the current system in the town centre in terms of compliance with data-protection measures and, in this respect, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the District Council and, at the same time, raising the issue of the future of the CCTV system and its funding.

4. **LICENSING MATTERS**

(a) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Rami's Kebab

The District Council had written in response to a letter from the Town Council requesting clarification of the way in which the above application had been determined.

The letter provided an explanation as to why 4 letters were deemed to have been received after the deadline for representation, although a number of other letters, which were tabled, were along the same lines and these served to show that the committee had access to concerns which were being raised.

The letter also referred to the display of signage on the building in respect of the consultation period and the District Council decision to revert to a 1.00 am opening, ie. the agreed time for the premises ahead of the application to extend until 3.30 am.

Members noted the explanation and highlighted the fact that it was essential that people making representation in respect of such issues should obtain a receipt from the District Council at the time of delivery of a letter and it was

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

(b) Licensing Committee Meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2006

The District Council had written to advise of a Licensing Committee meeting being held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May in respect of an application for an off-licence at the shop at 1 Penlee Street, and also in respect of a temporary licence for an event to be held on the Promenade, and it was

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

5. **STREET TRADING APPLICATION**

(a) Cornish Market

Members had been asked, informally, for their support for the recent Cornish Market held at the Wharfside Car Park and the item had appeared on the agenda to notify the position and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that support be provided for such markets in the future.

6. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its financial position to the 31st March 2006 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of February and March 2006 and it was

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

7. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Market Jew Street Working Group

The Town Clerk advised that the latest meeting of this group had taken place on the 5<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and had largely focussed on the THI Public Realm Improvements and raised the question relating to the Conservation Area Management Group and the Town Council's involvement in relation to that group.

The press release relating to the cessation of the works in Market Jew Street had been copied to all members for information, although it was noted that some minor works may now continue beyond the end of May.

Given the number of contracts awarded to Cormac in respect of such works, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to Brian Marsden, Principle Engineer, requesting information on the number of contracts which ran beyond their schedule of completion dates and whether it would be appropriate to consider the use of other

contractors for that reason.

(b) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> April 2006

The Town Clerk advised that although he was not a member of the Executive of the NFIF, he had sat in on the meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April and, again, the mood of the meeting had been fairly upbeat.

Details had been provided with regard to the appointment of architects and the proposals for the creation of a new Fish Market which would be brought forward for public consultation in June (dates to be advised).

The next meeting of the main forum group would be held on the 30<sup>th</sup> May 2006 and it was

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

(c) Townscape Heritage Initiative - Partnership Group Meeting - 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2006

This meeting had been advised that the office for the THI group (the old Fire Station/Chapel of Rest building adjacent to St. John's Hall) was virtually ready for occupation and staff had been appointed to take the initiative forward.

The original 75 property priority list had changed slightly and the year 1 priorities were based on the change of circumstances of a number of buildings, ie. perhaps now unoccupied or the willingness on the part of owners to get involved in the scheme.

A report on properties signed up for improvements would be provided in due course and it was

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

(d) MCTi Public Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and Progress Report

The Town Clerk referred to the meeting held on the 30<sup>th</sup> March 2006 which had been placed on the agenda to allow any member the opportunity to provide feedback.

The MCTi group were now operating at the Penwith Volunteer Centre at Parade Street and, at the present time, were acting without a co-ordinator.

A progress report for the months of March and April had been provided in relation to the work of the MCTi and this would be copied to all members for information and it was

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

(e) Penzance Harbour and Town Centre Regeneration Group - Proposals to Broaden Membership to become Penzance Consultation Group

The Town Clerk reminded members that as part of Penwith District Council's attempt to interlink all regeneration groups, it was proposed to replace the Harbour and Town Centre

Regeneration Group with a broader base group to be known as the Penzance Consultation Group.

The outgoing group would be called to a meeting shortly to be advised of the change and the new group would then convene shortly thereafter.

In addition to a place for the Town Mayor on the new group, there was a place for one other councillor and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Clark represent the council on this group.

(f) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group - Meetings held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2006 and 10<sup>th</sup> May 2006

This group had been formed to link the work of all other groups operating in Penzance and Newlyn and to take a strategic view of all developments and to receive reports on the specific projects from the named officers.

The meeting held on the 10<sup>th</sup> May related mainly to the proposed Newlyn Fish Market and there was considerable discussion with regard to the Promenade and, the Town Clerk advised members of the low scoring rate of the Promenade in terms of the criteria set by DEFRA for assistance (score 8½ against a minimum of 22 to trigger consideration of DEFRA support).

In the absence of support from DEFRA, the District Council would have difficulty in obtaining funds from any other source for coastal protection works and this then begged the question as to whether the Authority uses its own funds or persuades others to put funding into cosmetic works which might then fall victim to the sea.

A further report was to be made to the Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group by officers in due course and the Town Clerk would report to the council accordingly and it was

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

(g) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership

Councillor Clark had requested that this item be placed on the agenda in order that the current proposals and the funding applications being made against such proposals, in terms of Penzance Harbour and a replacement vessel for Scillonian 3, could be better understood.

Little information was available and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should seek such information from the District Council's Regeneration Officer and that in the absence of such information, a letter be sent to Tony Roche of Cornwall County Council seeking a response to specific questions under the Freedom of Information Act and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk report to the full Council Meeting.

(h) Objective One - Quarterly Review: October to December 2005

The quarterly review for the above period had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(i) Regional Spatial Strategy Update

The latest newsletter from the South West Regional Development Agency concerning the above issue had been copied to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

8. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) West Cornwall Healthwatch AGM - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had sent an invite to all members and this agenda item provided an opportunity for comment following the AGM and it was

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

(b) Meetings of Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006 and 28<sup>th</sup> April 2006

In addition to the minutes of the above meeting, the Town Clerk advised of copy correspondence which had been received from the Campaign Team and Mr. Jim McKenna, Chief Executive of the District Council, which were pressing Cornwall County Council to support the request for a full independent review of healthcare in Cornwall.

Mr. McKenna had also sent letters to the Leader of the Council and to the Local MP on the 2<sup>nd</sup> May and it was

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

In respect of the meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council, it was to debate, on Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> May 2006, whether or not it should use its powers to call upon the Secretary of State for Health to set up an independent review of hospital service in Cornwall, and the Town Clerk had copied to all members a notice of this meeting, and the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team were hoping that as many people as possible would attend Truro to lend support and it was

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

(c) Request for Support for Independent Review from CALC

The Town Clerk advised members that it had not been possible for the CALC to raise the issue referred to in the item above at their Annual Conference on the 4<sup>th</sup> February, but this

would now be taken to the next General Meeting to consider, although matters had moved on considerably since the original request to CALC had been made and it was

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

- (d) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust Board Meetings - 21<sup>st</sup> March and Notice of Meeting for 20<sup>th</sup> June 2006

The Clerk advised of agendas which had been received in respect of the above meetings which were open to the public and it was

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

- (e) Consultation re. Cornwall Partnership Trust - Change to a Foundation Trust

The Town Clerk had made members aware of the consultation document which was available on-line and because the consultation period fell between the cycle of meetings, members had been encouraged to make an individual response.

The consultation related to the governance arrangements and membership and allocated governor arrangements, and not specifically to the conversion from a partnership trust to a foundation trust, and it was

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

- (f) Correspondence re. Healthy Living Initiative

The latest newsletter from the Healthy Living Initiative had been received to advise that the Small Grants Scheme had been re-launched and further details were available to any member who required them from the Town Clerk and it was

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

**9. STRATEGY AND ACTION - THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY**

The consultation process in respect of the above had led to the Town Clerk writing to all members for comment following which a meeting had been convened to which had been invited members of the local business and education community.

From this meeting, a response had been made to the consultation paper on behalf of the council and the wider group which had been copied to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

10. **THE CORNISH GORSEDD**

The Town Clerk reminded members that the council had agreed, in principle, to host this event in 2009, but a request had now been received to bring the event forward by two years to the 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

There would be the need to appoint a representative from the council to serve on the Organising Committee and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Rendle represent the council in this matter. It was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council support the event in 2007.

11. **LOCAL AUTHORITY BYELAWS IN ENGLAND: A DISCUSSION PAPER**

A discussion paper had been received in relation to the attempts being made to remove unnecessary bureaucracy and, in particular, the need for minor byelaws to be submitted to the Secretary of State for approval.

The Town Clerk would study the document further and if he could confirm that the proposal was to simplify the making of byelaw process, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council support the aim.

12. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION - CONSULTATION  
PROGRESS AND TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS WORKING GROUP**

The Cornwall Association of Local Councils had written to suggest that the Town Council might be one of 20 councils in the County which would form a working group to discuss Local Government Reorganisation, and the proposal to move form a three-tier Unitary Authority process with possible enhancements of the roles for Town and Parish Councils, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council participate in the consultation process.

13. **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 remainder of the meeting.

14. **CO-OPTION PROCESS**

See Confidential "E".

10.00 pm

Chairman  
26<sup>th</sup> June 2006