

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in Committee Room No. 1, York House, St. Clare, Penzance on Monday 5th June 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor D.J. Axford (Town Mayor)
Councillor F. Granger (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors S. Bennett
R. Clark
M.R. Cotton
C.A. Dennis
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
F. Granger
J.S. Lambourn
R.M. Lawrence
K.L.W. Perry
P.C.H. Rendle
J. Ruhmund
C.A.C. White

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, members received a presentation from Inspector Chris Strickland of Penzance Police regarding manning levels and Traffic Warden cover in Penzance.

Inspector Strickland advised that across the Force area, 80 police officer posts were being lost to level 1 areas, ie. anti-terrorism and other serious crimes, but against this, 148 new Police Community Support Officer posts were being created and these would be coming on-stream in October 2006.

Although the loss of any police officer post was clearly regrettable, Inspector Strickland referred to the fact that PCSO posts were neighbourhood based and could not be called away to attend crime scenes in other areas.

Inspector Strickland also informed members that no applications had been received for the vacant post of Traffic Warden and he was, therefore, liasing with St. Ives Police Station with the view to sharing the services of the seasonal Traffic Warden based there.

Members referred to continuing problems with the 0845 numbers and Inspector Strickland advised that local police also shared this concern and he requested that a letter be sent to the Chief Constable and copied to Inspector Strickland.

Inspector Strickland was thanked for his attendance at the meeting.

A presentation was also made by County Councillor Nigel Walker in his capacity as Chairman of the Drug and Alcohol Reference Group and the supporting notes of his presentation now appear as Appendix "A" to the minutes.

18. **PRAYERS**

The Council's Chaplain, Reverend Julyan Drew, offered prayers.

19. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors R.A. Mann, A.J. Richings and T.E. Williams.

20. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the following meetings:-

- (a) Full Town Council - 13th March 2006;
- (b) Special Council Meeting - 3rd April 2006;
- (c) Special Council Meeting - 12th April 2006;
- (d) The Appointment Panel - 20th April 2006;
- (e) Annual Town Council Meeting - 8th May 2006

all of which had been circulated, it was

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

21. **TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

The Town Clerk advised that there were no items to report under this heading.

22. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor announced the following forthcoming events:-

(a) There would be an Open Day at Lescudjack Hill Fort on Wednesday 21st June 2006 from 11.00 am to 2.00 pm followed by a performance by pupils of Newlyn School and the details of this event had been copied to members for information;

(b) HMS Penzance will be visiting her home town port from the 6th to the 10th July 2006 and the Town Clerk's Office was in the process of organising a number of activities about which members would be advised in due course;

(c) Golowan Festival - invitations had been sent to members for the Feast of St. John Service on Sunday 18th June and also in respect of Mazey Day on Saturday 24th June 2006;

(d) The Town Mayor advised that for the second year running the Corpus Christi Fair would be held on the Wharfside Car Park and he would be pleased to perform the opening ceremony on Tuesday 6th June.

23. **QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NUMBER 24**

The Town Clerk advised that no such questions had been received.

24. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee - 15th May 2006**

(i) The Alan Harvey Citizen of the Year Award (Minute 3(c))

The District Council had written to advise that it was now proposed to make a “Young Citizen of the Year Award” and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the winner of the Brian Spiegelhalter Award be nominated for the District Council’s Young Citizen of the Year Award.

(ii) Formation of Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Sub-Committee - 25th Anniversary Celebrations in 2007 (Minute 3(i))

A number of members volunteered to serve on this committee and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillors D.J. Axford, R. Clark, K.L.W. Perry and C.A.C. White represent the Town Council on the committee which would link with 3 members of the Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association.

(iii) Proposed Commemoration of the Rosebud Voyage - 70th Anniversary in 2007 (Minute 3(j))

A number of members again expressed an interest in serving on this committee and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillors D.J. Axford, F. Granger, J. Lambourn and R.M. Lawrence link with interested members of the Newlyn community in respect of the above commemoration.

(iv) Corpus Christi Fair 2006 (Minute 3(l))

With regard to the location of the fair on the Wharfside Car Park, some concern was expressed with regard to the amount of space taken up by the fair but the Town Clerk advised that in respect of the fees paid by the fair organisers to the District Council, the loss of revenue from car parking was more than covered by the hire fee.

The police were satisfied with the location of the fair at the Wharfside and had reported that there had been less trouble than when the fair was held at the Recreation Ground as in previous years.

Only one complaint had been received about the location of the fair at the Wharfside last year and the situation would be carefully monitored this year in terms of any potential nuisance and the loss of car parking spaces to visitors to the town and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(v) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Code of Conduct
(Minute 3(n))

In noting that a revised Code of Conduct would be issued later in the year, members expressed some concern about the availability of legal advice for councillors at Town and Parish Council level.

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council's insurance policy included access to legal advice for the council as a corporate body and he would investigate this aspect of the insurance cover to establish whether it extended to individual members.

In any event, and as soon as the new code was enforced, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should approach Cornwall County Council's Legal Department for advice with regard to training for members.

(vi) Local Works - Campaign for Sustainable Communities (Minute 3(s))

Although support had been offered in the past for the aims of this group, it was

RESOLVED: that at this point, no further action be taken and that further requests for support should be judged against the broader aims of the campaign organisers.

(vii) Correspondence and Literature from Bendigo City (Minute 3(z))

Referring to information recently received from Bendigo City, the Town Clerk referred to the improved staffing situation in the Town Clerk's Office and agreed that it may now be possible to take a more pro-active role in promoting the twinning links between the two communities and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(viii) The Cornish Gorsedd (Minute 10)

In confirming support on the part of the council for the proposed Gorsedd event in September 2007, it was

RESOLVED: that efforts should be made to engage with local businesses to maximise the benefits of the event to the commercial sector and to the community at large.

The items contained in Confidential Appendices "D" and "E" of the General Purposes Committee Meeting did not require further discussion and subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(b) **Penlee House and Park Committee - 16th May 2006**

- (i) Correspondence from Penzance Tennis Club re. Floodlighting - Courts 6 and 7 (Minute 1)

A question was raised with regard to the possible affect of floodlights if they were allowed on courts 6 and 7 on the Open Air Theatre and the Town Clerk assured members that the Tennis Club is aware of restrictions in place during performances in the theatre and this would be included in consideration of the request to erect floodlighting and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (ii) Park Improvements - Playground (Minute 5(a)(i))

The Town Clerk advised that the playground has now been opened and was proving to be extremely popular.

Grass-seed had been sown in the areas surrounding the play equipment on two occasions but, unfortunately, it had not really taken. For this reason, the areas would be fenced off in due course and re-seeded.

The matters contained in Confidential Appendices "A", "B" and "C" to the Penlee House and Park Committee minutes did not require further discussion.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(c) **Planning Committee - 23rd March 2006**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

It was

(d) **Planning Committee - 27th April 2006**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Planning Committee - 17th May 2006**

- (i) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council re. Road Closures - Taroveor Road, Penzance (Minute 2(a)(ii))

Concern was expressed that the diversion sign relating to the above road-works were causing considerable confusion and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Highways Division in this matter.

- (ii) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council re. Penzance and Newlyn Residents' Parking - Second Stage Consultation (Minute 2(e))

Members expressed concern with regard to the proposed scheme and noted that the £50.00 annual fee did not guarantee a parking place and would not alleviate the situation for people arriving home before the end of the working day.

Concern was also expressed with regard to enforcement and it was, therefore,

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the County Council to express opposition to the Parking Scheme in its current form.

- (iii) Cornwall Waste Development Framework - Report on Preferred Options and Sustainability Appraisal (Minute 2(g))

As members were aware, the matter had been tabled for discussion at the full Town Council Meeting with a view to comments being formulated at the Planning Committee Meeting to be held on Thursday 8th June and members were requested to submit their comments to the Planning Committee by that date and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

- (f) **Finance/Property Committee - 18th May 2006**

- (i) Release of Contingency Fund - St. Piran-in-Penwith (Minute 3(b))

Councillor Clark was pleased to advise the Council that financial support had now been received from the District Council in the sum of £230.00 and that the additional payment from the Town Council in the sum of £250.00 was no longer required and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (ii) Visit of Nevada Union High School - 22nd to 26th June 2006 (Minute 3(k))

The Town Clerk advised members that there will be 63 people in the party from Nevada and the Union High School Band will be leading the civic parade through the town on Mazey Day.

The Town Clerk advised that sufficient funds were available within the Official Functions and Hospitality budget to cover the cost of a reception for the band which was to be held in Committee Room No. 1 at York House on Friday 23rd June and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

8.50 pm

Town Mayor
10th July 2006