

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 26th June 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

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

15. **APOLOGIES**

No apologies - all councillors present.

16. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH MAY 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

17. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Bendigo Newspaper Article and Visit of Brian Reed**

The Town Clerk advised that the "Cornishman" newspaper had printed a full page article marking the 10th Anniversary of the twinning link between Penzance and Bendigo City.

The Town Clerk also advised of a surprise visit by a former Bendigo resident, Brian Reed, who the Town Clerk had introduced to Margaret and Steve Freeman, and who had made him very welcome on his flying visit to Penzance, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) **Penwith Town and Parish Forum Meeting - 22nd June 2006**

Councillor Axford advised that he had attended the Town and Parish Forum Meeting where the District Council's recently appointed dedicated Planning Solicitor had been introduced, and information had been provided to show that the Enforcement Team at the District Council had now been increased to 5 in number, and the backlog of matters requiring enforcement action was now being addressed.

The contact details for the Planning Solicitor would be made available to the Town Clerk in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Axford's report be received.

(c) Notes of PTAG Meeting - 11th May 2006

The notes of the above meeting had been received and were available to members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter remain open for comment at full Council by Councillor Williams who was the Council's representative on this group.

(d) Community Action Panel Meeting - 25th May 2006

Councillor Axford and Councillor White had attended this meeting and reported that the main focus of action on the part of the group was to tackle graffiti within the town.

PCSOs had been requested to report incidences of graffiti to a contact point at the District Council which would then liaise with the Probation Service, with the aim of the exercise being to remove graffiti as soon as it occurs.

Property owners would be approached in the first instance with a request to deal with the graffiti themselves and, failing this, the Probation Service would carry out the work using offenders who are subject to Community Service Orders and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) World Environment Day - 5th June 2006

Correspondence had been received with regard to the World Environment Day which is said to become an annual event, with the aim of raising awareness in relation to environmental issues and global warming in particular.

Members were asked to support the event in any way that they could and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) 'Digging for Memories' - The Women's Land Army in Cornwall

The Town Clerk reminded members of the initiative through the Hypatia Trust and other volunteers to celebrate the work of the Women's Land Army in Cornwall which had formed part of the VE Commemoration events in 2005. That initiative had continued with the drawing together of memories and experiences of the Women's Land Army and a commemorative event was held recently at Flambards and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the organisers to congratulate them on the success of the project.

(g) Correspondence from Virgin Trains re. New Timetable

Details of service changes had been sent and would be circulated to members for information.

Concerns were raised with regard to changes to the service in respect of connections to the north-west of England and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk makes enquiries in this respect.

(h) Correspondence from 'Friends of Penlee House' re. Mayor Choosing Ceremony

The Town Clerk advised of a letter of thanks which had been received from the 'Friends of Penlee House' in respect of their attendance as guests of honour at the Mayor Choosing Ceremony.

The Town Clerk asked members to consider suggestions for invitations to an organisation for the 2007 ceremony and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. The Homeseekers Register

Penwith District Council, in response to a query regarding 'Affordable Housing' and the Homeseekers Register, was offering to make a presentation to the Town Council on this issue and it was

RECOMMENDED: that there should be a Special Meeting of the Council for this purpose at a date to be confirmed.

(j) Correspondence re. Remploy Factory

Correspondence had been received from the TGWU representative at Remploy concerning the review currently being carried out by Price Waterhouse Coopers which could lead to the closure of 83 Remploy factories nationwide, raising fears in respect of the factory based at Longrock.

The District Council had been advised by Dame Julie Mellor, who is heading the review by Price Waterhouse Coopers, that the review period had now been extended beyond the initial 8 week period.

The Chief Executive of the District Council had written to Andy Wilde of the Department for Work and Pensions, expressing the District Council's concerns over the impact of the closure of Remploy on the local community and the fact that the re-deployment within the Penwith area would be extremely difficult.

A petition was available at the District Council Offices in Penzance, copies of which had been sent to the Chief Executives of the other District Councils within Cornwall and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to Mr. Andy Wilde supporting the concerns of the District Council and it was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED: that the possibility of posting the petition on the website be investigated.

(k) 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 Extraordinary Meeting of the District Council to be held on the 29th June 2006 had also been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(l) Reports from Outside Bodies

The Town Clerk advised that there were no items to report under this heading and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

18. **LICENSING MATTERS**

The Town Clerk advised that because the Town Council was no longer a statutory consultee in licensing matters, this item would be deleted from future agendas and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

19. **STREET TRADING APPLICATION**

Golowan Festival

The Town Clerk advised that the annual application for street closure on the part of the Golowan Festival Committee had been received in respect of Mazey Day and that on behalf of the Council, he had written to advise that there were no objections to the application and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

Councillor Dennis referred to the most recent Market Jew Street site meeting when the issue of street closure had been mentioned and where it had been agreed that Firstbus would be requested not to use Adelaide Street as an alternative route.

Firstbus had, in fact, used Adelaide Street on Mazey Day and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk raise the matter with the co-ordinator of the Market Jew Street works and, in turn, Firstbus.

20. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its finances to the 30th April 2006 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

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

RESOLVED: to approve such payments (see Appendix ‘B’ for both financial position and payments made).

21. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Report from Meeting of Mayor’s Parlour Campaign Team - 21st June 2006

Councillor Cotton had attended this meeting and would make his report to full Council on the 10th July and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Meeting of County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 11th July 2006

The letter from Sheena Cox of the Mayor’s Parlour Campaign Team had been copied to all members and sought support for attendance to lobby County Councillors at the above meeting as they debated the proposal to request that there should be an independent review in health service provision in the county. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk make representation to County Councillor Nigel Walker, who is a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, and that he should also write to the three divisional County Councillors requesting that they lobby members of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to support the request for an independent review.

The Town Clerk also advised that he had received a copy of the ‘Turnaround Plan - Staff Bulletin 8’ which referred to increases in car parking charges and reductions in the use of agency nursing staff which formed part of the attempt to bridge the funding gap on the part of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust.

The Town Clerk also referred to a letter which had been sent by the Health Initiative for Cornwall to HASCOSC relating to the loss of the Domiciliary visit service provided by consultants (withdrawn because of no budgetary provision) which would lead to a diminished service for the most vulnerable members in the community. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to HASCOSC expressing concern over the proposed changes to the provision in service and reiterating the questions as outlined in the letter from the Health Initiative for Cornwall.

Councillor Ruhrmund declared a prejudicial interest in this item and took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

(c) West of Cornwall Primary Care Trust Meeting - 20th June 2006

This item had been included to allow any member, who had attended the meeting, the opportunity to report back to the council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Health Promotion Service Training Programme

The Health Promotion Service Training Programme for 2006/07 had been sent for information and was available from the Town Clerk for any member requiring sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) The Signpost' Incorporating the Healthy Living Network News

A copy of this bi-monthly newsletter, which now incorporated the former Healthy Living Network News which covers the whole of Cornwall, had been received and was available from the Town Clerk for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

22. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting - 30th May 2006

The Town Clerk advised that, together with Councillor Granger, he had attended the meeting held on the 30th May where there had been an advance presentation on the part of the Project Officer in relation to the public exhibition relating to the new Fish Market proposals.

The exhibitions had taken place on the 16th and 17th June and the analysis of feedback was awaited.

The minutes of this meeting would be distributed to members in due course and the date of the next meeting (Executive Committee) is scheduled for the 21st July and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meetings - 7th and 21st June 2006

The minutes of the meeting held on the 7th June had been circulated to members for information and the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st June would be circulated with the papers for the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

The Town Clerk provided a brief summary of the meeting and Councillor Clark drew attention to the fact that the Town Council was not included in the 'framework document' showing the inter-relation between groups involved in regeneration matters in the parish area.

It was also noted that the remit of some of the groups had not been finalised and the need for a 'code of conduct' for the operation of such groups was identified and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk discuss these issues with the Regeneration Officer at the District Council, with a view to improvements to the framework with the inclusion of the Town Council formally within the process and also to seek to address the rules of operation of the groups within the regeneration framework. (Copy of grid enclosed for members' information).

(c) Market Jew Street Site Meeting - 31st May 2006

The minutes of the latest meeting of the Market Jew Street Site Meeting group would be circulated to all members for information.

As members were aware, there was now an embargo on work until September when the Townscape and Heritage Initiative Public Realm works would be completed and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Port Penlee Proposals - Position of Town Council

Councillor Lambourn had enquired as to whether the Town Council had taken a position on the above proposals and the Town Clerk advised that in the absence of detailed information, the Town Council had not passed comment on this project.

Councillor Lambourn was concerned at the possibility of the loss of potential investors due to long delays in the decision-making process and requested that the Town Council consider a letter of encouragement to MDL, subject to community acceptance of the detailed proposals and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this matter be considered by full council.

23. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - STAKEHOLDER DAY -
23RD JUNE 2006**

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended this meeting at County Hall and that he would provide a written report in due course.

In brief, the Town Clerk was able to advise that the white paper on Local Government arrangements had now been delayed until the Autumn 2006, largely because of ministerial changes within the Government.

A considerable portion of the day had, therefore, been spent 'second guessing' the content of the white paper and, in short, if there was a move to the creation of a Unitary Authority based on the County Council, the potential for devolved responsibilities to Town and Parish Councils was considerable and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

24. **DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY**

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting that day relating to the latest stage of development of the draft Regional Strategy and he would provide a verbal report for council and provide copies of the executive summary and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

25. **POLICE FORCE RESTRUCTURING**

A copy letter from the new Home Secretary had been sent to all members for information, showing a slow down in relation to proposals to merge Police Forces, except those wishing to merge on a voluntary basis, eg. Lancashire and Cumbria.

Notwithstanding this welcome news, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Home Secretary expressing support for the retention of the Police Force currently based on Devon and Cornwall.

9.10 pm

Chairman
19th September 2006