

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall,
St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 10th July 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
M. Freeman
J.S. Lambourn
R.M. Lawrence
R.A. Mann
J. Parkin
K.L.W. Perry
P.C.H. Rendle
J. Ruhrmund
C.A.C. White

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, members received a short presentation from representatives of Penzance Tennis Club regarding their request to install lighting on courts 6 and 7 in Penlee Park, thus enabling those courts to be used during winter evenings.

A presentation was also received from a Director and Quantity Surveyor of Molwin Homes Limited regarding planning application number 696/06 - construction of 6 apartments and 18 dwellings and associated works, Cattrans Coal Yard, Wherrytown, Penzance and application number 697/06 - construction of 81 apartments and 4 dwellings and associated works, Jewsons Site, Western Promenade, Wherrytown, Penzance and construction of 33 apartments and 12 dwellings and associated works at the Stanmore Hotel site, Alexandra Road, Penzance.

The presentation addressed issues such as traffic safety, flood risks, environmental impact, access and benefits with respect to liveability and Mr. Abbott advised that the company had been in touch with Penwith District Council Planning Department and the Environment Agency for close on two years.

Attempts had been made to harmonise the design with the surrounding area and the optimum number of affordable homes had been included within the scheme, with prices for such units being set at £83,200.00 which was well within Government guidelines.

The inclusion of affordable homes within the scheme would shorten the current housing list and their resale would not be linked to property inflation, but would be attached to average salary in Penwith.

The population of the complete development when finished would be approximately 380 and it was hoped that pending planning consent by September 2006, the proposed development would be finished within 4½ to 5 years.

Councillor J. Ruhrmund declared an interest in this matter as a member of the District Council Planning Committee and took no part in the 'question and answer' session which followed.

The Director of Molwin Homes went on to advise that there would be an exhibition of the plans in the Queen's Hotel on the 21st July and the Town Mayor thanked the Director for the presentation and there was an adjournment to allow members to examine the drawings which were on display.

There then followed a short presentation by the Reverend Julyan Drew regarding Trinity Chapel, Newlyn.

The chapel had been chosen as one of 21 buildings to be included in the BBC series 'Restoration Village' and the item relating to Trinity would be broadcast on the 4th August.

It was very much hoped that the opportunity would be used to tell the Newlyn story with a potential link to Penlee House and inclusion of the history of Newlyn Art and Newlyn Copper.

A substantial sum of money for restoration was available to the winning building and members were encouraged to vote as many times as possible (by telephone) and to publicise this broadcast to all friends and acquaintances.

29. **PRAYERS**

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

30. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors J.H. Dixon, A.J. Richings and T.E. Williams.

31. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the following meetings:-

- (a) Full Town Council - 5th June 2006;
- (b) Special Council Meeting - 13th June 2006;
- (c) Special Council Meeting - 29th June 2006

having been circulated, it was

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

32. **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.

33. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor advised that he had no announcements to make.

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

- (a) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Code of Conduct (Minute 24(a)(v))

Arising from discussion at the previous full Town Council Meeting, the Town Clerk advised that he had received a question regarding advice and training in respect of the Code of Conduct.

The Town Clerk had made enquiries which revealed that the National Association of Local Councils do not offer specific advice to individual members of Local Councils.

However, the council's insurers offer a free legal helpline or the council can take out cover on behalf of its members for an annual premium cost of £29.50 per member.

Cornwall County Council would offer only limited guidance and would not wish to offer training as it is felt that this was the responsibility of the District Council through appropriately trained officers.

A written report will be submitted by the Town Clerk during the next cycle of meetings and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

35. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- (a) **General Purposes Committee - 26th June 2006**

- (i) Bendigo Newspaper Article and Visit of Brian Reed (Minute 17(a))

The Town Clerk informed members that a letter had been received from Peter Mundy in Bendigo thanking them for the "Cornishman" article which had been very well received in Bendigo and, also offering thanks to Councillor and Mr. Freeman for the hospitality that had been offered to Brian Reed (a former Bendigo Sister City member) during his recent visit to Penzance.

A local newspaper in Bendigo would like to write a similar article and Mr. Mundy had also queried whether video conferencing facilities were available in Penzance.

The Town Mayor advised that it would be quite easy to offer such facilities and this would

be arranged in September when local schools and Penwith College were back in session and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (ii) Meeting of County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 11th July 2006
(Minute 21(b))

Councillor Cotton advised that the coach taking protestors to Truro on the 11th July was now full.

Councillor Lawrence would also be attending the committee meeting and advised that he had space in his car for anyone who wished to attend.

The Town Clerk advised that he had written to Councillor Nigel Walker as a member of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and that he had also written making representation to the three County Councillors for the Penzance division.

The Town Clerk also referred to correspondence received relating to “Achieving Financial Balance in Adult Social Care” and to a meeting concerning this matter which was to be held in the Kerrier District Council offices on Friday 14th July.

The correspondence would be distributed to all members by first class post and members were encouraged to make representation in respect of this issue and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (iii) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meetings - 7th and 21st June 2006
(Minute 22(b))

The Town Clerk had been in touch with the District Council and it had been agreed that Penzance Town Council should now be added formally to the grid showing the framework for regeneration management and consultation in Penzance.

The Town Council would sit between the Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group and the Penzance Consultation Group and this would facilitate the flow of information between the parties concerned and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (iv) Port Penlee Proposals - Position of Town Council (Minute 22(d))

Councillor Lambourn referred to the Port Penlee proposals as an example of inward investment and the need to ensure that investors across the board were encouraged to bring forward proposals which are broadly acceptable, sustainable and which would have economic benefit to the community at large.

In this respect, Councillor Lambourn proposed that a letter should be sent to the Leader of Cornwall County Council and, via him, disseminated to members and officers involved in

regeneration issues throughout the County to say that the Town Council would support and welcome inward investment which is appropriate to its location, whether it be from public or private sources, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write accordingly.

Councillor J. Ruhrmund, as a member of the District Council Planning Committee, took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

(v) Draft Regional Spatial Strategy (Minute 24)

With regard to the draft Regional Spatial Strategy, it was proposed that the Town Council hold a Special Meeting to which should be invited the appropriate officers from Penwith District Council, ie. Andy England - Sustainable Development Manager, Dominique Gabry - Economic Development Manager and Karen Clowes - Sustainability Co-ordinator.

The meeting would take place at 7.00 pm and the Clerk would confirm the date in due course and furnish members with supporting papers and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(b) Penlee House and Park Committee - 27th June 2006

(i) Correspondence from Penzance Tennis Club re. Floodlighting - Courts 6 and 7 (Minute 10(c))

The effect of the proposed floodlights was discussed, not so much in terms of their height (set at 6 metres) but in terms of possible light pollution, although it was noted that the height of the columns and the supporting down lighters should minimise this impact.

Given that some councillors had not yet visited the site to view the 'mock-up lighting column', it was proposed that a decision be deferred and, if possible, for the matter to be considered on the night of the Special Meeting with a short meeting at the park so that members were fully aware of the proposal and it was

RESOLVED: to proceed as outlined above.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(c) **Planning Committee - 8th June 2006**

(i) New and Amended Planning Applications (Minute 12)

In respect of application number 609/06, the Town Clerk confirmed that the land adjacent to Heamoor Primary School currently held agricultural status.

Councillor Perry advised that he had approached the Head Teacher at the school to enquire whether additional land might be considered for joint use with the community, eg. creation of a village football team, and the Head Teacher's response had been favourable. It was

RESOLVED: not to object to the application.

Councillor Lawrence requested that his objection to the application be noted.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(d) **Planning Committee - 28th June 2006**

(i) New and Amended Planning Applications (Minute 18)

Councillor Ruhrmund declared an interest in this matter as a member of the District Council's Planning Committee and took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

In respect of application numbers 696/06, 697/06 and 695/06 - Molwin Homes Limited and Molwin Developments Limited - applications in respect of the former Jewsons site, Cattrans Coal Yard site and the former Stanmore Hotel site, it was

RESOLVED: to object to the development and to say that the Town Council was extremely disappointed with the design and external finishes and the proposed layout of the development.

Further, it was noted that this is a prime site of major significance in the town and the Town Council questioned whether a residential development was the best use of the site and whether, through the District Council's Regeneration Department, consideration had been given to some form of commercial development which could be of a major benefit to the Promenade area.

The point would be made to Andy England, if he was able to attend the Regional Spatial Strategy meeting, that the Town Council would request earlier involvement in such major applications which could well assist in bringing forward proposals which would be acceptable not only to the planners but to the wider community.

(ii) Residential Development on Garden Land (Minute 14(e))

Members noted the concern expressed by members of the Planning Committee and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Head of Sustainable Development as outlined in the above minute.

Subject to the above,

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee - 29th June 2006**

(i) **Report re. Meteorological Station (Minute 9(c))**

The Town Clerk advised that although the District Council had now secured the necessary funding for the provision of the Meteorological Station, the Met Office had advised the council not to proceed to purchase the equipment pending the introduction of new standardised equipment across the board.

This equipment was currently being trialed on 25 sites nationwide over the next month and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should request that the Penzance site be considered as one of those trial sites.

(ii) **Minor Awards - Healthy Active Lifestyles Projects - 'Street Games' (Minute 11(a)(i))**

The Town Clerk advised that he had ascertained that there was only one further site for 'Street Games' within the parish area which was at the Gwavas Playing Field and it was

RESOLVED: to make an award of £100.00 in respect of the activity at this site.

(iii) **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 remainder of the meeting.

The Town Mayor referred to the confidential appendices attached to the minutes of the Penlee House and Park Committee Meeting held on the 27th June 2006, ie. Appendix "A" and Appendix "B" and, in this respect, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write a letter of thanks on behalf of the Council to Alison Bevan, Director of Penlee House, for all her hard work in obtaining the Stanhope Forbes painting.

In respect of Appendix "B", the Town Clerk regretted to advise that since the date of that meeting, the current contractor had indicated that they would no longer be able to accept

contracts with a value of less than £50,000.00 and that three months' notice had been given to Penlee House.

Work was taking place to establish a short-list of firms to which tender documentation could be sent and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

In respect of the Confidential Appendix "A" attached to the Planning Committee Meeting held on the 8th June, it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

In respect of the Finance/Property Committee Meeting held on the 29th June, it was

RESOLVED: that Confidential Appendix 'A' should be approved.

8.50 pm

Town Mayor
2nd October 2006