

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> August 2006 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

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

Councillors S. Bennett  
R. Clark  
C.A. Dennis  
J.H. Dixon  
M. Freeman  
R.M. Lawrence  
J. Parkin  
K.L.W. Perry  
P.C.H. Rendle  
J. Ruhrmund

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, members stood in silent tribute to remember former councillor Malcolm Oats who had died recently.

The Mayor then extended a welcome to the following who had been asked to attend the meeting regarding a response to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy:-

Visiting Mayors: -

Councillor P. Birch (Hayle)  
Councillor B. Fry (St. Ives)  
Councillor Mrs. S. Smith (St. Just)  
Councillor Mrs. P. Hosking (Marazion)

Penwith District Council Officers:-

Mr. A. England (Sustainable Development and Design Manager)  
Miss K. Clowes (Sustainability Co-ordinator)  
Miss D. Gabry (Economic Development Manager)

35. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors M.R. Cotton, R.A. Mann, A.J. Richings and C.A.C. White

36. **DRAFT REGIONAL SPATIAL STRATEGY FOR THE SOUTH WEST  
2006-2026**

The Town Mayor invited the District Council representatives to provide an outline of the proposed response to the Draft Spatial Strategy.

Andy England advised members that the main focus of the draft document was on Pool/Camborne/Redruth: Truro: Falmouth/Penryn and this raised concerns over the level of funding which would be available for the remainder of West Cornwall.

He felt that a clarification of Penzance's role in West Cornwall was required and that the strategic importance of the hospital should be stressed. The current document recognises Penzance only as an area of deprivation.

Dominique Gabry referred to the economic focus of the draft document which tended to slant towards city areas and with the absence of conurbations large enough to enjoy this status, the document had drawn together areas within the county on which development should be centred.

Penzance is recognised for its role as a market town, but the document lacks specific policies to take account of this point and the same applies to St. Austell.

In opening up the debate to take account of comments from visiting Mayors, the following points were made:-

Transport problems in St. Ives - no recognition of this fact or strategic plan within the policy;

Penwith is omitted from the strategic plan and should be afforded greater consideration;

St. Just now has 'World Heritage' status and reference should be made to this fact in the document to take account of increased visitor numbers and infrastructure which it is hoped will follow from its designation.

The response made by Hayle Town Council, which had been copied to members for information, was noted and Dominique Gabry advised that the District Council's response recommended the inclusion of St. Just in terms of its 'World Heritage' status and Hayle in terms of ongoing developments for inclusion in the Draft Strategy.

Reference was made to the Town Council's response to the Cornwall Town Study in June 2005 and this document had highlighted transport and infrastructure issues and it was agreed that attention should be drawn to the current difficulties of access to Truro which would only be exacerbated by further investment if infrastructure issues were not addressed.

Areas of concern related to the fact that:-

Cultural heritage in Cornwall is completely ignored within the document;

How will the Regional Spatial Strategy support or constrain the content of the Local Development Frameworks;

Greater emphasis needed to be placed on Penzance's role as a market town and its importance to the satellite communities within the far west of Cornwall.

With regard to the 'Examination In Public' process, the District Council has indicated that it would wish to attend to make direct representation to the panel and it was resolved that the Town Council should be involved in this representation with an invitation extended to representatives of the neighbouring Town Councils in order that a united front could be

shown.

The response from the District Council would be considered at a full District Council meeting to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> August and a copy of the response would be sent to all Town Councils in due course. It was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council formulates a response based on all the points raised above which would also make reference to the Penwith District Council response which would enable issues referred to therein to be raised by the Town Council during the 'Examination In Public' process.

The Town Mayor thanked the District Council officers for their attendance at the meeting and they left at 7.48 pm.

It was then

**RESOLVED:** to change the order of the agenda to enable consideration of the threatened St. Michael's Hospital closure and reduction in services to be considered in the presence of visiting Mayors.

### **37. THREATENED HOSPITAL CLOSURE AND REDUCTION OF SERVICES IN CORNWALL**

Councillor Paul Birch, the Mayor of Hayle, provided an update on actions being undertaken to protest about the threatened closure of St. Michael's Hospital and the proposed reduction in services at West Cornwall Hospital.

A Protest March was being planned to take place in Hayle at 5.00 pm on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> August and Hayle Town Council was taking a lead in the arrangements with representatives of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team.

There had been 285 letters sent out to every town and parish council in the county and the response, so far, had been very encouraging.

The logistical arrangements for the day in terms of coach and car parking were being finalised and negotiations were being undertaken with First Great Western to establish whether additional train services could be provided on the day.

Filming of the march from a strategic vantage point was being organised in an attempt to gain national coverage for the march and final details would be posted in the 'Cornishman' newspaper in due course.

The Town Clerk advised that correspondence had been received from Andrew George, MP which indicated that the proposed cuts to services at St. Michael's Hospital were likely to be less than originally thought and services at West Cornwall Hospital might be drastically reduced and the changing nature of the proposals on the part of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust was a matter of concern and could be seen as an attempt on their part to wrong foot the Campaign Team.

Alongside the march, it was noted that pressure needed to be applied to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of the County Council, the only group with the power to request an independent review of healthcare in Cornwall and councillors were encouraged to make representations to members of that committee.

With regard to future action, it was noted that consideration was being given to a further protest march in Truro and that if the campaign at local level did not bring forth the required results, consideration should be given to taking the case to London and directly to the Secretary of State for Health. It was

**RESOLVED:** to note the information provided in respect of the protest march and to encourage members to spread the word and to support the protest in any way possible.

The Town Mayor thanked the visiting Mayors for their attendance and they retired from the meeting at 8.10 pm.

38. **DEMOCRACY DECLARATION FOR CORNWALL**

The Town Clerk advised members of the document received from Restormel Borough Council dated the 8<sup>th</sup> May 2006 which was entitled “A Democracy Declaration for Cornwall”.

A copy of the declaration now appears as Appendix “A” to the minutes and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council should support the Democracy Declaration.

39. **DEVELOPMENT OF HOUSEHOLD RECYCLING CENTRE AND NEW SITE - ENTRANCE FROM B3315 (FORMER WESTERN POWER DEPOT, THE COOMBE, NEWLYN)**

Councillor D. Axford declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and retired from the meeting - proximity to proposed development.

Councillors J.H. Dixon and J. Ruhmund declared a personal interest in this matter as members of the District Council’s Planning Committee and took no part in the discussion or resolution thereon.

The Town Clerk provided members with copies of the mitigation proposals and revised site layout and proposed roundabout plans at the junction of the A30 with the B3315.

It was acknowledged by members that a household recycling centre was urgently needed in the Penzance area but concern was expressed in relation to the difficulties of access and traffic volumes at the proposed site.

The issue of the loss of trees, which would be required with the development of the site and the creation of a new roundabout on the A30 with its junction with the B3315, also caused concern.

After considerable discussion, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council would not support the proposal in its present form but would offer support, subject to highway improvements with the construction of a new roundabout at Trereife crossroads, prior to the facility being created and with an assurance that flood-plain issues would be dealt with to the satisfaction of the Environment Agency.

The issue of the loss of trees should also be compensated with a planting scheme, both around the perimeter of the proposed site to provide screening and in the area of the proposed roundabout.

Councillor Lawrence requested that his vote against this proposal be recorded.

40. **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.

41. **CODE OF CONDUCT AND INSURANCE**

See Confidential Appendix "A".

9.15 pm

Town Mayor  
2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006