

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 18th September 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Ruhrmund (Vice-Chairman)

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

26. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, S. Bennett and C.A.C. White

27. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 26TH JUNE 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

28. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

The Town Clerk advised that the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act had been a Private Members' Bill which has now become a statute and a summary of the act, as provided by the National Association of Local Councils, had been copied to all members for information.

The aim of the act was to promote the reduction of emissions of greenhouse gases, the alleviation of fuel poverty, the promotion of micro-generation and the introduction of a renewable heat obligation.

Of particular interest to Town and Parish Councils was clause 20 of the Act which provided powers to such councils to encourage or promote energy saving measures in their area.

The clause also enabled councils to provide financial assistance, although expenditure in this respect would be subject to the terms of Section 137 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Advance Notice from Penwith District Council re. Youth Democracy Week and Youth Council Handbook

The District Council had written to advise that an event was being organised on the 16th October, between 4.00 pm and 7.00 pm, to raise awareness of issues affecting the lives of young people and to enable young people to better understand the various stages of the democratic process.

The youngsters involved would be preparing and sending invitations in due course and the Town Clerk went on to advise that there was an inter-generational meal taking place on Wednesday 21st September and Councillor Granger advised that all places at this event had now been booked.

With regard to the Youth Council hand-book, this was now available on-line and would be of use if the Town Council were able to resurrect the Penzance Youth Council.

Given the improved staffing situation in the Town Clerk's Office, the Town Clerk advised that he would bring this matter forward in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Correspondence from Home Office re. Police Reform, ie. Merging of Forces

In response to a letter from the Town Council, the Home Office had written to confirm that the merger of Police Forces will not now take place but the reasoning behind the proposals remained in as much as the Home Office still considered that there was a need to improve protective services, whilst maintaining the provision of neighbourhood policing and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Correspondence from DEFRA re. Conservation of Lobsters (Consultation Detail Available from Town Clerk)

The Town Clerk advised that this issue may be of limited concern to members but authorities in coastal communities had been included in the consultation process.

The proposal was to increase the minimum landing size of lobsters from 87 mm to 90 mm, and comments were required by the 17th November, and if any member wished to have a copy of the full consultation papers, they were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Beach Safety and End of the Season for Lifeguards

The District Council had provided a copy of a new Beach Safety leaflet which was being used to raise awareness in schools and it featured 'Bilbo the dog' - a Newfoundland breed which was stationed at Gwenver and which had been trained to assist in sea rescue.

The District Council had also written to advise that the lifeguard provision had been withdrawn somewhat earlier than usual, with the Jubilee Pool closing on the 10th September and lifeguarding removed from all beaches on the 17th September and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) BREANA CURNOW - Children and Young People Support Group

This new support group had written to introduce themselves and to explain that their aim was to raise funds to assist children and young people fleeing domestic violence.

The group was kicking off with a major fund-raising event, a charity ball, which would take place on the 23rd September and any member requiring further information could obtain it from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt of the letter be noted.

(g) Penwith Junior Life Skills Event - 11th to 13th September 2006

The above annual event had taken place on the dates shown and most Penwith primary schools had attended.

Emergency services and other agencies were present, with the aim being to provide information to youngsters on the roles of such services and with advice being provided in relation to fire safety, beach safety and the role of the Police Force and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Correspondence from HMS Penzance - 'Thank You' and Newsletters

The ship's Commander, Ben Ripley, had written to thank the Town Council for its hospitality during the July visit and to confirm that the ship would be in Penzance again from the 19th to the 23rd October and that the crew would participate in the Trafalgar Service at Madron on the 22nd.

The Town Clerk would be liaising with the ship shortly to produce an itinerary for the visit and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Correspondence from Penwith District Council Sustainable Tourism Office re. Language Courses

In an attempt to provide support for local businesses, particularly those in the tourism sector, subsidised language courses (£45.00 for 12 week course) were being held.

Members with connections to the tourist industry were asked to spread the word and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(j) Restoration Village - Newlyn Trinity Project

As members were aware, the Newlyn Trinity did not win the Grand Final of the 'Restoration Village' competition but, nevertheless, came away with £50,000.00 in support of the project. It was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter should be sent to Reverend Julyan Drew expressing commiserations but also congratulating all those involved.

(k) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Public Conveniences - Clarence Street and Information on the Funding of Toilet Facilities

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a reply regarding the lack of disabled facilities in the public conveniences in Clarence Street.

The District Council had indicated that the toilets had been refurbished last year but the size of the building had prevented the widening of doorways to provide full disabled access and it had, therefore, been decided to provide two multi-user type toilets.

The letter went on to say that there are 7 other public conveniences in Penzance which do provide disabled facilities.

Concerns were raised about the lack of cleaning of some public conveniences in Penzance, particularly those in Jennings Street and those adjacent to St. John's Hall.

Members also requested that the proposals for the former toilet block in Albert Street be brought forward and whether the District Council had any plans to improve signage to toilet facilities within the town. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the District Council in respect of the above and also to request that the toilets at the cemetery should be open for longer periods.

(l) Correspondence from Department of Work and Pensions re. Review of Remploy Limited

The Town Clerk advised of a reply which had been received from the DWP which indicated that the report from Price, Waterhouse, Coopers had shown that Remploy's Inter-Work Services were good value for money, but that the factories were less so, and that there was a need to re-engineer the profile of the Remploy business to improve overall value for money and it had been accepted by Remploy, the Unions and its employees that the current business model was not sustainable.

However, in respect of the fight to save the two Cornish sites, a rally was to be held in Plymouth at a date to be set and the District Council had indicated that it would support this rally and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council also offers support to the local Remploy employees in any way which it could.

(m) Correspondence re. Penwith Play Strategy - Member Representation on Group

The Penwith Play Strategy group had sought representation from the Town Council and Councillor Lawrence had offered to attend meetings.

There is £200,000.00 of Lottery money earmarked for the Penwith area in terms of play provision and the production of a strategy was a pre-requisite for the release of such monies and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(n) Correspondence from Cornwall Enterprise re. Projects Consultancy

The above group had written to advise of the services which they could provide to any group relating to project development and management with charges being set at a 'not for profit' rate and further details were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(o) Rural-Net Conference - October 2006

The next Rural-Net Conference would be taking place on the 11th and 12th October at Center Parc, Nottingham and was entitled 'Exploiting Your Rural Capital - New Perspectives on Rural Areas'.

Councillor Lawrence advised that he would be attending this conference and that he would provide a report for members in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(p) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Homeseekers Register

The District Council had written to offer a presentation to members in relation to the operation of the register throughout the parish area.

The Town Clerk suggested that the meeting should be on an informal basis and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk arrange such a meeting in due course.

(q) Mining World Heritage Site Status

Following the conferment of this status in respect of mining in the St. Just area, it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter of congratulation should be sent from the Town Council to all those involved.

(r) Correspondence from Devon and Cornwall Constabulary re. Police Community Support Officers and Traffic Wardens

The Town Clerk had written to the Chief Constable requesting that consideration should be given to PCSOs undertaking Traffic Warden duties.

The reply from the Assistant Chief Constable, Caroline Winter, had indicated that the letter had been forwarded to the Chief Superintendent with responsibility for Cornwall and would be taken into consideration when determining the needs of local communities and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(s) Launch of 'Everybody on Line' - Newlyn Project

'Everybody on Line' was now up and running and was committed to providing Information Technology for all members of the community, especially those disadvantaged by location, skills or economic factors.

Details of how to access the service could be obtained from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(t) Proposed Meeting re. Gorsedd 2007

The annual Gorsedd in Redruth had been a success despite the poor weather and, as members were aware, the 2007 event would take place (possibly with Penlee Park as the location) on the 1st September.

A meeting had been arranged to take place on the 4th October 2006 to discuss arrangements and would be attended by council representatives and the outgoing Grand Bard, the new Grand Bard and the Deputy Grand Bard and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Secretary of the Gorsedd to inform her that arrangements were underway.

(u) Charity Trustee Networks - Good Governance - A Code for the Voluntary and Community Sector

The above document was available from the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(v) Children's Hospice South West - Big Cream Tea at Trengwainton

The organisers of the above event had written to advise that it would take place on Friday 22nd September, from 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm, with entry at £5.00 to include a tour of the gardens, and members were asked to support the event if at all possible, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (w) Cornwall Blind Association - Launch of New Study re. The Needs of Visually Impaired People in Cornwall

The CBA had provided the Town Council with a copy of the above report which was, again, available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

- (x) Circulars Received

The circulars, as listed in Appendix "A", were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and in addition to those listed, the Town Clerk advised that the Summer Newsletter of the Penwith Housing Association had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

- (y) Reports from Outside Bodies

A brief report on the Chamber of Commerce meeting held on the 5th September was provided by Councillor Granger and he advised that a large part of the meeting had been given over to discussion relating to the regeneration of the Promenade.

The minutes of this meeting would be available in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

Councillor Granger advised that he had also attended the meeting of the Older People's Forum held on the 18th September where there had been discussion with regard to the 'Everybody on Line' project mentioned above.

Members had also been advised of the setting up of the new Carer's Theme Group which aims to assist carers and those cared for and to offer respite provision.

The Forum had also been advised of a new dedicated radio channel for the elderly which had been launched but which was not yet available in all areas of Penwith.

Finally, Councillor Granger referred to the annual 'Yuletide Lunch' which was held at the Pengarth Centre for those who would otherwise be alone on Christmas Day and it was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Granger's report be received.

29. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

(a) The Town Clerk advised, for information, of the application by Dr. N. Whitlock to trade at Market Place on Saturdays in the sale of black and white contemporary photographs framed on slate.

Under delegated powers, there had been no objection to this application and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (b) Deborah Martyn Events Limited - Cornish Market - Harbourside Car Park
27th and 28th October 2006

It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

30. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st July 2006 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of May, June and July 2006 and it was

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

With regard to expenditure on Christmas lights, the Town Clerk advised that the Cornwall Hospices Movement had approached him to establish whether the Christmas tree in Market Jew Street could be used to hold a Tree of Light Ceremony which would require the purchase of white lights for the tree.

The Town Clerk advised that he felt that this was clearly a very worthy cause and had agreed to assist the Hospices Movement and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council would fully support the event.

31. **HEALTH MATTERS**

- (a) Protest March and Latest Position re. Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team
Meetings and External Financial Report

For the record, it was noted that the march held in Hayle on the 27th August had been attended by approximately 27,000 people.

The Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team would next meet on Thursday 21st September to discuss their continuing strategy and a copy of the External Financial Report provided by Price, Waterhouse, Cooper would be circulated to all members with the papers for the next Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Copy Correspondence from St. Ives Town Council

The Town Clerk advised members that he had received copies of letters from St. Ives Town Council addressed to a number of organisations connected with health provision and demanding that there should be an Independent Review into health service provision in the county.

Copies of the letters and the responses to them were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(c) Correspondence from the Local MP

Again, the local MP had provided the Town Council with copies of written representations which he continued to make in respect of health provision in West Cornwall and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(d) Reply from Department of Health re. Local Health Provision

A rather predictable reply had been received from the Department of Health in response to the Town Council's letter, which merely referred to the fact that the determination of service levels was a matter for the local trust, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Reply from Chairman of RCHT

A response had been received from the Chairman of the RCHT setting out the position of the Trust in endeavouring to turn around the financial crisis, details of which had been widely reported in the local press, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

32. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) THI Partnership Meeting - 1st August 2006

The Town Clerk advised that the minutes of the above meeting would be circulated to all members with the agenda for the forthcoming Town Council Meeting.

In summary, the Town Clerk advised that the THI was progressing well and a number of properties had expressed an interest in carrying out works in a manner which would maintain the historic integrity of the building.

A query was raised as to whether the THI would be making any funds available for the Abbey Basin Project and clarification was also sought with regard to the funding of the Public Realm Works in Market Jew Street and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk raise these queries with the District Council and the County Council respectively.

(b) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meeting - 19th July 2006

The minutes of this meeting would be circulated to all members for information in due course.

The meeting scheduled for early September had been postponed and would now be held on the 4th October.

In relation to the production of an Economic Development Plan on the part of the District Council, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk seek clarification with regard to the Plan in terms of consultation and promotion/publicity of the Plan.

N.B. The Town Council's representation on this group requires consideration at the Town Council Meeting.

(c) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Executive Committee Meeting - 21st July 2006

The minutes of the Executive Committee meeting would be circulated to all members for information and it was noted that the next meeting of the full Forum would take place on the 21st September and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Market Jew Street - Recommencement of Works

Members noted that work in Market Jew Street had recommenced on the 12th September and the Town Clerk would arrange for site meetings with Cormac throughout the 12 week contract period and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Penwith District Council - Regeneration, Tourism and Leisure Newsletter

The above newsletter had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

33. **PENZANCE/CONCARNEAU TWINNING - 25TH ANNIVERSARY - REPORT OF MEETING**

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting had taken place on the 1st August to discuss arrangements for the 25th Anniversary of the Penzance/Concarneau Twinning.

It had been suggested at the meeting that the event should coincide with Golowan and the Mazey Day weekend in particular and it was hoped that celebrations would include the presence of a Royal Marine Band with HMS Penzance exercising its Freedom of Entry to the port.

It was further proposed that the rededication of Penlee Park following the improvements should take place at that weekend.

Councillors Axford and Cotton had made informal approaches to members of organisations in Concarneau and should be able to report further at the next Town Council Meeting.

Finally, Golowan had been requested to invite the traditional dancers and the Bagad which would take centre stage in the Mazey Day parade and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

34. **CORRESPONDENCE RE. VIRGIN CROSSCOUNTRY TIMETABLE**

The Town Clerk confirmed that a letter had been sent to Virgin Trains expressing concern with regard to timetable changes which would result in passengers to the north-west of England and Scotland having to change trains in the Midlands.

Virgin Trains had responded to say that the Department for Transport was responsible for the timetable and representation had now been made to the Department and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

35. **TOWN AND PARISH STANDARD: BULLETIN 07**

The latest newsletter from the Standards Board had been received and had been circulated to members and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

36. **CLEAN NEIGHBOURHOOD AND ENVIRONMENT ACT 2005 - DOG CONTROL ORDERS**

Correspondence had been received from the District Council concerning the new Act which would, in terms of dog fouling, increase the spot-fine to £75.00 and which would be enforceable in relation to 'all spaces open to the air' and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council should support the proposed order.

37. **ENCAMS - GUIDE TO VARIOUS ISSUES RELATING TO LITTER, FLY-POSTING, FLY-TIPPING, ETC.**

ENCAMS had produced a new guide relating to the responsible bodies and the process to be followed in respect of a number of anti-social issues.

It was suggested that the information in the guide should be available in the local Library and reference should be made to it on the Town Council's website and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

38. **LESCUDJACK HILL FORT - DRAFT MANAGEMENT PLAN**

The Town Clerk advised that the District Council had now produced a Draft Management Plan relating to the future care of the Lescudjack Hill Fort site.

The plan had been forwarded to Councillor Ruhrmund, the Town Council's representative on the Management Group, and Councillor Ruhrmund advised that she was pleased with the general direction proposed within the plan and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

39. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER - REPORT FROM CALC ON CONSULTATION DAY HELD ON 23RD JUNE 2006**

The CALC had provided notes in respect of the above Consultation Day and it was noted that the White Paper was now expected during the Autumn.

There would now be a debate relating to the retention of the 'status quo', ie. County and District Councils or whether there would be a move to Unitary Authorities and, in this respect, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the District Council seeking their views on this issue (Section 2.1 of the report).

Members also noted that the websites of both the County and the District Councils do not provide information about who is responsible for specific areas, ie. the organisational structure is not made available to the public and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk raise this matter with both the District and County Councils.

40. **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.

41. **TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRES**

The Town Clerk referred to the confidential report received from the Sustainable Tourism Officer which had been circulated to members for information. It was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should arrange a meeting of the council with the Tourism Officer linked, if possible, to the proposed informal meeting relating to CCTV.

9.20 pm

Chairman
30th October 2006