

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 2nd October 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors R. Clark
M.R. Cotton
C.A. Dennis
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
J.S. Lambourn
R.M. Lawrence
J.F. Moreland
P.C.H. Rendle
A.J. Richings

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Town Mayor extended a warm welcome to the newly co-opted member, Councillor J.F. Moreland, who was representing the East Ward.

46. **PRAYERS**

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

47. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors S. Bennett, R. Mann, J. Parkin, K.L.W Perry, J. Ruhrmund, C.A.C. White and T.E. Williams.

48. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

- (a) Full Town Council - 10th July 2006
- (b) Special Council Meeting - 8th August 2006
- (c) Special Council Meeting - 13th September 2006

In respect of the papers attached to the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 8th August 2006 relating to the Draft Regional Spatial Strategy for the South West 2006-2007, the Town Clerk advised that item (b) in the response had been amended to read "Penwith District Council is the 34th poorest council area nationally" and at item (n) it had been corrected to read "In relation to Penwith's 2026 vision for the district".

In respect of the Special Meeting held on the 13th September 2006, Councillor Rendle advised that he had requested that his name be recorded as not taking part in the vote and the minutes would be amended accordingly.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the above meetings, having been circulated, should be signed as true and correct records.

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

(a) Street Trading

(i) Michele Rescorla

Application to trade at Market Place on Saturdays (fortnightly) between 9.00 am and 5.00 pm for a period of 12 months in the sale of stained-glass, mobiles, fairies, fridge magnets and cards, all of which were hand-made. It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

50. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor announced the following forthcoming events:-

(a) The Town Mayor advised that the annual Paul Feast Service would take place on Sunday 8th October and he hoped that as many members as possible would join him at this Service;

(b) The Town Mayor also advised of the annual Trafalgar Service which would take place at Madron Church on Sunday 22nd October, and also of the visit of HMS Penzance which would be in port from Thursday 19th to Monday 23rd October, and an itinerary of events was being prepared and would be issued to members in due course.

51. **QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24**

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

52. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee - 18th September 2006**

(i) Restoration Village - Newlyn Trinity Project (Minute 28(j))

The Town Mayor offered commiserations to the Reverend Julyan Drew in respect of the Newlyn Trinity Project.

Having reached the final of the competition, Trinity finished 5th in the voting and the Town Mayor, on behalf of the council, offered congratulations to all those who had worked so hard to raise the profile of the project and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Health Matters (Minute 31(a))

On behalf of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team, Councillor Cotton provided members with a brief history of events leading up to the current problems.

The Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team had been formed five years ago and had been responsible for the organisation of the protest march in Penzance in 2002 which had been attended by 20,000 people.

The Campaign Team has continued to lead the fight to ensure that hospital services and health provision are maintained to an appropriate level for the western end of the county in particular, although the argument has now expanded countywide.

The Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust appears to be reluctant to release actual figures relating to overspends and the deficit but it is understood that it currently stands at £53 million, of which £17 million relates to the current year.

The County Council committee with the power to call for an Independent Review, ie. the Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, has failed on three occasions to call for such a review and, at their latest meeting on the 27th September, voted instead for an internal review which would involve public consultation under an independent chairman.

Some changes to health provision had already taken place with the closure of one theatre and one ward at St. Michael's Hospital in Hayle and the Trust's view had been that these changes were not sufficiently substantial as to require public consultation.

Councillor Cotton went on to advise that there had been a number of changes at senior level in the organisations charged with health provision as follows:-

The Chairman of the RCHT resigned at the beginning of the year and the Chief Executive resigned this summer, leading to the appointment of the new Chief Executive who took up post on the 1st October.

The Strategic Health Authority has a new Chief Executive.

The three Primary Care Trusts have now been amalgamated into one Trust for the county and has appointed a new Chief Executive.

Councillor Cotton advised of the latest representations which were being made by the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team, as a result of which it was

RESOLVED: as follows:-

(a) That the Town Council has no confidence in the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust to provide adequate and suitable health care for this area and that the Board, along with senior management, should resign immediately as they have also failed to provide effective financial management of the Trust.

(b) That Cornwall County Council Health and Adult Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee, having failed to demand an independent review in referring the matter to the Health Minister, should be invited to resign along with the Leader of Cornwall County Council.

And, further, that

(c) A letter be sent to the Strategic Health Authority expressing this Council's dismay at the lack of action in overseeing the situation which has been developing over the last five years.

(iii) THI Partnership Meeting - 1st August 2006 (Minute 32(a))

Members queried as to whether there was any further information in respect of the Abbey Basin warehouse/restaurant project in terms of THI funding being made available to support the development.

The Town Clerk understood that monies had been earmarked for the project and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the THI Project Co-ordinator to seek clarification in this matter.

Councillor Clark drew attention to the minutes of the THI meeting on the 1st August where reference was made to the Townscape Heritage Initiative and the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to each group to establish what relationship existed, if any.

(iv) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meeting - 19th July 2006 (Minute 32(b))

Councillor Clark advised that he would be stepping down as the Town Council's representative on the Regeneration Consultation Group in order that he could represent the Civic Society, of which he was chairman, and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Rendle be nominated to serve as the council's representative.

Concern was expressed with regard to the Isles of Scilly Route Partnership, and to the fact that there had been no further information since August in relation to the current status of the project and analysis of the expected consequences of the proposed developments of the harbour on its immediate environs, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should endeavour to arrange a meeting with the appropriate County Council officers or extend an invitation to the Chief Executive of Cornwall County Council to clarify the position, drawing reference to the Freedom of Information Act but expressing the reluctance of the Town Council to invoke it.

(v) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Executive Committee Meeting - 21st July 2006
(Minute 32(c))

The Town Clerk advised that members of the NFIF had, that day, met with Sir Harry Studholme, Chairman of the South West Regional Development Agency who also had a place on the Development Agency Board at national level.

The Town Clerk advised that he would prepare a report of the meeting in due course but the initial feeling of members of the NFIF had been that the day had been extremely worthwhile in furthering the project and the case for funding and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vi) Penzance/Concarneau Twinning - 25th Anniversary Year, 2007 - Report of Meeting (Minute 33)

The Town Clerk advised members that a second meeting of the organising group would take place and he confirmed that the secretary of the Twinning Association had now sent an invitation to the traditional dancers and the band from Brittany to participate in events centred around Mazey Day 2007.

A request had also been lodged with the Royal Marine Band and an invitation had been extended to HMS Penzance to visit, via the ship and the Naval Regional Office at Bristol.

The Mayor advised that a member of staff of its counterpart in Brittany would be visiting Penzance in October, and it was hoped that the next meeting of the group could be organised to coincide with this visit, and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vii) Clean Neighbourhood and Environment Act 2005 - Dog Control Orders
(Minute 36)

Members enquired as to whether Town Council staff would be receiving training in relation to the issue of 'spot fines' or whether the council would be employing someone to carry out this function.

The Town Clerk advised that Dog Wardens would include Penlee Park in their patrols, and that they would respond to a complaint regarding dog fouling, but it was intended that Town Council staff would avail themselves of the training to take advantage of the new powers and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(viii) 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 next part of the meeting.

(ix) Tourist Information Centres (Minute 41)

See Confidential Appendix "A".

(x) Resolution to Re-Admit the Press and Public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public to the meeting.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(b) **Penlee House and Park Committee Meeting - 19th September 2006**

(i) Acquisition of Painting (Minute 14(c))

Councillor Freeman wished to place on record the appreciation of the council for the hard work of the Director of Penlee House and her staff in relation to the acquisition of grant aid to enable the purchase of the painting entitled 'On Old Paul Hill' by Stanhope Forbes.

The Mayor fully endorsed this view and advised that he would be happy to write both personally and on behalf of the council and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Sensory Garden (Minute 15(a)(iii))

The Mayor offered his congratulations, both to the Town Council staff and to Michael Johnson the designer and maker of the copper water-feature and, to Jane Haslam who designed the sensory garden, and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iii) Open Air Theatre (Minute 15(h))

The Town Clerk advised members that the report relating to the 2006 Open Air Theatre season had been received that day and it would be copied to members for consideration during the next cycle of meetings and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(iv) Floodlights - Courts 6/7 (Minute 15(i))

The request from the Tennis Club to erect floodlights on courts 6 and 7 had been brought forward from previous meetings and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the erection of the floodlights at the agreed height of 6 metres with the stanchions and shades being painted green to fit with the park livery.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(c) **Resolution Regarding Confidential Appendices**

It was

RESOLVED: that the Confidential Appendices “A” and “B” of the Penlee House and Park Committee and Confidential Appendices “A” and “B” of the Finance/Property Committee should be dealt with ‘in committee’ following adoption of the Finance/Property Committee report.

(d) **Planning Committee - 7th September 2006**

(i) The 2007 Civic Trust Awards for Architectural Design (Minute 21(g))

Councillor Moreland provided photographs and a narrative in relation to the “Affordable Homes” development at Chapel Yard, Penzance and enquired whether it was too late to consider this project for nomination under the Civic Trust Awards.

It was noted that the closing date for awards was the 13th September and the Town Clerk advised that he would establish whether it was possible to make a late nomination and, in any event, he would bring the matter forward for consideration in relation to the Cornish Building Group’s Award Scheme later in the year.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Planning Committee - 20th September 2006**

(i) Application No. 06/P/0897/F - Replacement of Existing Buildings and Construction of 10 No. Residential Apartments (Retention of 2 No. Shops and Commercial Use of Lower Ground Floor), Former Blewett and Pender Site, Lower Albert Street, Penzance

The Town Clerk advised that a number of members had visited the District Council’s Planning Office to take a further look at the plans attached to the above application and under delegated powers had made further comment and these comments would be made available to the Planning Committee in due course and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(f) **Finance/Property Committee - 21st September 2006**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

53. **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 next part of the meeting.

The Confidential Appendices “A” and “B” attached to the Penlee House and Park Committee minutes and the Confidential Appendices “A” and “B” attached to the Finance/Property Committee meeting were tabled for approval and it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the appendices.

8.30 pm

Town Mayor
13th November 2006