

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 30<sup>th</sup> October 2006 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

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

In the absence of the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Clark be elected to chair the meeting.

42. **APOLOGIES**

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

43. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 18<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

44. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

- (a) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. The Penwith Play Partnership - Community Event re. Grant Aid - 9<sup>th</sup> November 2006

The letter from Penwith District Council, in respect of the above, had been copied to all members and contained information relating to the Big Lottery which was providing the District Council with the opportunity to bid for £200,000.00 worth of funding and that through the Penwith Play Partnership, there would be the opportunity for Town and Parish Councils and community groups to apply for up to £5,000.00.

The grants are aimed at funding projects which “create, improve and develop children and young people’s free local play spaces and services”. The District Council were hosting a community event to be held at the Astro Park clubhouse on the 9<sup>th</sup> November at 1.00 pm and Councillor Lawrence, the Town Council’s representative on the Play Strategy Group, advised that he would attend and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(b) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. New Grant Programme and Changes to the Small Grants Programme

Notification had been received from Penwith District Council concerning the launch of a new Small Grants Programme in relation to community planning and changes to the existing Small Grants Programme for community projects.

As part of the County Local Area Agreement outcome, each Local Authority in Cornwall had been awarded £7,000.00 for the financial year 2006/07 to be spent on activities which would contribute towards the “empowerment of local people to have greater voice and influence over local decision making and the delivery of services”.

Penwith District Council was proposing to use the money to support activities which would add value to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative process and the parish planning process and local community groups were being invited to apply for funding with application and guidance packs being issued shortly.

The letter went on to describe the role of Town and Parish Councils within the process which was “to strengthen the links with these bodies in order to develop an effective organisation of partnership to take the work forward”.

This placed the role of the Town Council as one of taking forward initiatives arising from community groups in which the Town Council would not have had any input.

It was, therefore,

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to the Head of Regeneration at Penwith District Council, raising this issue as outlined above.

Discussion continued in more general terms regarding the role of Town and Parish Councils and, in this respect, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that members be asked to familiarise themselves with the details of the recently published white paper (available on the Internet) and that a ‘Single Issue Meeting’ be arranged to discuss the role of the Town Council and to formulate a response to the white paper by the deadline of the 25<sup>th</sup> January.

The Town Clerk undertook to provide copies of the Executive Summary which would be forwarded to members who did not have Internet access.

(c) Correspondence re. ‘Our Money - Your Dream’ re. Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund

Information had been received concerning a new initiative entitled ‘Our Money - Your Dream’ funded by the Department for Education and Skills through the Youth Opportunity Fund and the Youth Capital Fund.

The sum of £70,000.00 was available for each district within the County and applications for funding may only be made by or on behalf of a group of young people or by an individual young person.

Members involved with youth community groups were asked to impart this information to them and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt of the information be noted.

(d) Attendance at Rural Net Conference

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had attended the Rural Net Conference which had been held this year at Centre Parc at Nottingham.

One of the central themes of the conference had been the issue of 'Affordable Housing' and Councillor Lawrence advised that he had put forward the case in respect of Cornwall in relation to the impact of 'second homes' and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Lawrence's verbal report be received.

(e) Response from Penwith District Council re. Public Conveniences

The Town Clerk advised members that a response had been received from the District Council in relation to a number of issues raised at the previous General Purposes Committee meeting.

The District Council requested that, in future, all complaints be reported immediately and the letter went on to explain that, although the toilets are cleaned on a regular basis (including periodically closing the facilities to enable steam-cleaning to take place), the cleaning of the toilets was becoming increasingly difficult and sometimes dangerous due to the presence of people thought to be under the influence of alcohol and drugs who often refused to vacate the premises.

The letter also acknowledged that the facilities in Jennings Street and adjacent to St. John's Hall were in need of refurbishment but this would not be possible in the short-term due to lack of capital funding.

Repeated vandalism had also been a problem and weighed heavily on the maintenance budget.

With regard to the former toilet block in Albert Street, the letter advised that this was in the process of being sold.

The issue of the lack of signage to toilet facilities in the town was noted and would be looked into in due course.

Finally, the letter addressed the issue of the opening times of the toilet at Penzance Cemetery and, again, explained that, due to repeated acts of vandalism and misuse, the toilets were only open for a limited number of hours.

Notwithstanding the explanations offered, members remained concerned regarding the cleanliness of the toilets in an area that relied so heavily upon tourism and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk should write to the District Council requesting details of the cleaning schedule and also details of the monitoring process on the part of officers.

With regard to the sale of the toilet block in Albert Street, it was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk obtain right to request details of the tender process.

- (f) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. 'Affordable Housing' in Penzance plus Correspondence from Matthew Taylor, MP re. The Cornwall Housing Report

The District Council had responded to the enquiry from the Town Council in respect of the operation of the 'Affordable Housing' Register.

The response would be copied to all members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting.

Given the importance of this issue, and in noting the fact that the 'Affordable Housing' Team were offering presentations to Town and Parish Councils, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the 'Affordable Housing' Team should be invited to a 'Single Issue' meeting of the Town Council in due course.

- (g) 'Penzance Post' - HMS Penzance - September 2006 Newsletter

The latest newsletter from HMS Penzance had been received, together with a letter of thanks from Lieutenant Commander Ben Ripley in respect of the assistance provided by the Town Clerk's Office in organising the events surrounding the Trafalgar Day weekend.

As members were aware, the ship had not been able to berth in Penzance due to bad weather and had relocated to Falmouth.

However, the ship's company had still been able to participate in the football match against the Mayor's Eleven on the Saturday and the crew had also participated in the Trafalgar Day service at Madron on the Sunday.

Concern was expressed with regard to the lack of attendance by councillors at the football match and reception on the Saturday and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk write to Ben Ripley suggesting that for future visits, Newlyn Harbour Authority be asked whether the ship could berth at Newlyn in the event of it not being able to enter Penzance harbour.

(h) Gorsedd 2007 - Report of Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and Date of Eisteddfod Meeting - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006

The Town Clerk advised that the first meeting of the Gorsedd 2007 Organising Committee had taken place on the 4<sup>th</sup> October and Penlee Park had been selected as the venue on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> September 2007.

St. John's Hall had been booked for the evening concert and had also been booked for the day as a contingency in the event of bad weather.

The next meeting of the organising group would take place on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2007 and the Town Clerk was endeavouring to establish what budgetary provision would be required on the part of the Town Council prior to the December meetings.

In the week leading up to the event, an Eisteddfod would take place and a separate organising group had been formed for this event and the first meeting of the group would take place on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> November with Councillors Clark and Rendle representing the council at this meeting and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(i) Correspondence from Virgin Trains - Revised South West England Timetable - 20<sup>th</sup> November 2006 to 8<sup>th</sup> December 2006

Information had been received from Virgin Trains relating to a revised train timetable for the period 20<sup>th</sup> November to the 8<sup>th</sup> December, and relating to essential engineering works between Taunton and Bristol, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(j) 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 two further circulars had been received - 'Fishing Focus', Fisheries Vision and Shoreline, the Penwith District Council Autumn Newsletter and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(k) Reports from Outside Bodies

The Town Clerk informed members that the papers and minutes relating to the meetings listed on Appendix "B" were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(l) Licensing Act 2003 - Licensing Forums

The District Council had written to advise that the current Licensing Policy would be reviewed in 2007.

The review process would be through Licensing Forums which were to be formed and Penwith would link with Kerrier District Council in this respect, with a proposed frequency for reviews being every 18 months.

The Town Council was being asked to nominate a representative to serve on the Forum and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Dennis should fulfil this role.

When notifying the District Council of the Town Council's representative, it was

**FURTHER RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk establish why the two District Councils were proposing to link to carry out the reviews and, given that there were a number of issues relating to late-night licences, the review should be carried out early in 2007 to establish the effectiveness of the policy, both in terms of its content and its operation.

45. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

The Town Clerk advised that no street trading applications had been received.

46. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2006 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

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

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

The Town Clerk provided a brief report concerning the Christmas lights which showed that the estimated costs were currently well within budget and if the cost of repairs to a number of lighting units were not too high, there should hopefully be funds available for the purchase of a number of new lights in 2007 and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

47. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team Meeting - 13<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and General Update

The Town Clerk advised that a letter of response had been received from the Chairman of the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, Professor Colin Roberts, in response to the resolution of the Town Council relating to the resignation of senior management staff.

The letter would be copied to all members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting at which there would be the opportunity for Councillor Cotton, as the council's representative on the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team, to provide a further report.

(b) Primary Care Trust Board Meetings - 26<sup>th</sup> September and 19<sup>th</sup> October 2006

The papers for the above meetings had been sent for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

48. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meeting - 4<sup>th</sup> October 2006 and Special Meeting of Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group - 27<sup>th</sup> September 2006

The Town Clerk advised that the Special Meeting of the Regeneration Management Group had taken place on the 27<sup>th</sup> September for the specific purpose of interviewing and appointing consultants to provide a Business Plan in respect of the harbour area.

It was understood that the appointment was to be confirmed shortly and the Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group (next meeting 15<sup>th</sup> November) were requesting an early meeting with the consultants to establish the parameters of and the way in which the Business Plan would be produced.

The draft minutes of the meeting of the Consultation Group, in respect of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> October, would be distributed to members for information with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting.

It was confirmed that no further information had been received in respect of queries raised regarding the Isles of Scilly Route Partnership and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should write formally to the Project Manager, copying the letter to Andrew George, MP, Andy Davies and Charlotte Hill of the Penwith District Council Regeneration Team and the three County Councillors for the Penzance division.

(b) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting - 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2006

The Town Clerk reminded members that this had been a full day meeting with Sir Harry Studholme, Chairman of the South West Regional Development Agency, and the Town Clerk would provide a written report in due course, together with a report of the earlier meeting of the Newlyn Fish Industry Forum and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(c) Market Jew Street Works

The Town Clerk advised that he had been invited to attend a site meeting convened by the County Council in respect of the area around the Humphry Davy Statue.

The Town Clerk had understood that his presence was required in terms of the location of the town's Christmas tree and its power supply and the temporary arrangements for access required on the 2<sup>nd</sup> December 2006.

In the event, there had been a number of officers present at the meeting and the plans for the treatment of the Humphry Davy area in terms of surfacing were also presented.

Members were aware of the consultation process in respect of works in Market Jew Street through the Market Jew Street Steering Group and concern was expressed that the newly erected traffic signs, with a 'curl top' design, had not been seen by the group.

The Town Clerk was able to confirm that the design for the new hanging basket support posts had been agreed by the group, and there now only remained the treatment of the area in front of the Wimpy Bar block, and the Town Clerk would liaise with the County Council Project Leader to ensure information was provided and a meeting of the Steering Group convened if necessary.

The Town Clerk also advised that it was proposed to convene a 'walk-through' site meeting and he would notify the relevant members in due course and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

Councillor Perry enquired as to whether there had been any further correspondence from the County Council regarding the safety issue of some of the paving slabs in Market Jew Street (potential trip hazard for heeled shoes) and the Town Clerk advised that he would raise this issue with the County Council.

In respect of the Townscape Heritage Initiative, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk seek clarification of its role in respect of the public realm works in Market Jew Street and, in this respect, the Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the THI Group was to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> November 2006.

49. **TOWN AND PARISH FORUM MEETING - 3<sup>RD</sup> OCTOBER 2006**

In the absence of Councillor Axford, this matter would be carried forward to the full Town Council Meeting or the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

50. **PROPOSALS FOR RE-ENACTMENT OF THE ROSEBUD VOYAGE**

Councillor Lambourn advised that he would, at this point, declare a personal interest in this matter in view of the fact that the Lugger Trust would require financial support to enable the Rosebud to participate in the event.

The Town Clerk provided a brief report following the first meeting which had been held on the 10<sup>th</sup> October, the notes of which will be copied to all members for information.

The Organising Group, which would expand in size as necessary, was keen that the event should take place but a number of logistical matters had to be sorted such as consents in relation to berthing near the House of Commons (present day security measures) and the height of the mast of the Rosebud in terms of bridges on the Thames.

Letters had been sent to the Port of London Authority in this respect and in terms of having the event diaried for guests, notifications of the proposal had been sent to the Lord Mayor of London, the Duke of Cornwall and the London Cornish Association.

Given that the Rosebud had travelled to London with a message as part of a campaign in respect of the slum clearance of housing, the Organising Group felt that it would be appropriate if some cause could be determined, relevant to Newlyn at the present time, and presented to the powers that be.

Costings for the re-enactment were being worked up for consideration within the budgetary process and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

10.00 pm

Chairman  
4<sup>th</sup> December 2006