

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 2nd November 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor R. Clark - Vice-Chairman (In the Chair)

Councillors J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
F. Granger
J. Moreland (joined meeting at 7.25 pm)
C.A.C. White

19. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, M.R. Cotton and S.J. Reed.

20. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST SEPTEMBER 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

21. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) Audit 2005-2006 - Annual Return

The Town Clerk referred to minute 28 of the Special Town Council Meeting held on the 29th June 2006 when the accounts in respect of the above year had been formally approved.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the council is now subject to the 'Annual Return' process as opposed to an on-site audit and, based on the approval of the accounts, the Town Mayor had now signed the Annual Return on behalf of the council which had been submitted to the District Auditor by the due date of the 31st October 2006 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Wherrytown Skateboard Park

The Town Clerk provided members with a brief history of the skateboard park as follows:-

The skateboard park was constructed in 2000 by a local community group known as 'Kerbs' and with the assistance of a grant from the Princes Trust.

This was the first skateboard park in the parish area and with 'Kerbs' having expended considerable energies in its construction, the Town Council had agreed to take over the annual rent in the sum of £90.00 (a section of Wherrytown car park is leased to the trustees by Penwith District Council), to provide assistance with maintenance of the equipment and,

latterly, to undertake ROSPA inspections of the site.

The site has been maintained over the years, principally by a local builder who was a member of 'Kerbs' and who has given freely of his labour, with the occasional bill submitted to the Town Council in respect of materials.

However, with the equipment, the main ramp in particular, being six years old and located as it is in the exposed position on the seafront, a number of panels now require replacement.

The ramp has now been fenced off for safety purposes with suitable signage erected and the cost of replacing the seventeen damaged/worn panels is £1,037.00 plus £740.00 to fit them.

In the meantime, information has been provided with regard to a new type of surface which would cost £10,000.00 but which is completely waterproof and which would last considerably longer than the current panels.

It is, therefore, proposed that the ramp remains closed over the winter period and that some local fundraising efforts are made by its users and that the Town Council make an application for the £5,000.00 likely to be available from the District Council through the Big Lottery Fund award to install the new surface and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council support this initiative and place a bid to obtain the grant aid towards the cost of updating the skateboard park.

(c) 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.

(d) Staffing - Penlee Park

See Confidential Appendix "A".

(e) Golowan Community Arts

See Confidential Appendix "B".

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

It was

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

(g) Items from Members for Consideration in the 2007/2008 Budget Preparation Process

Two items relating to Penlee Park were raised, namely the electricity sub-station on the northern boundary of Penlee Park and, whether provision could be made to provide gates to run parallel to the railings which would prevent unsightly graffiti being sprayed on the compound doors and the fencing between Penlee Park and the football ground which was the responsibility of the Town Council.

Signage for Penlee Park and a second car park machine would also be included during the budget review process.

The Town Clerk advised that with regard to the electricity sub-station, he had written to the electricity company but had yet to receive a response and he hoped that the company would provide gates to the sub-station or at least share the cost of such gates with the Town Council.

With regard to the Football Club boundary, there were proposals to plant suitable species, such as Hawthorn, which would deter people from damaging the fence and the Town Clerk advised that he would ensure that these items are dealt with during the ensuing year and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

22. FINANCIAL POSITION

The Town Clerk advised that the three other standing committees had considered their finances during the cycle of meetings and there were no issues to report save to advise that through General Purposes, the Christmas lights rig and de-rig had been arranged together with testing of straining wires and repairs to lights and that in respect of the Planning Committee, work was now completed on the rebuilding of the Trannack allotment wall, the cost of which would be covered from a carry-forward from the Planning Committee budget from the previous year and with a contribution from the current year's Buildings Maintenance fund.

Referring to the Informal Meeting held with representatives of the District Council in respect of CCTV provision, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk invite Inspector Chris Strickland to attend the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee to discuss this matter.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to note the financial position to the 30th September 2006 and to approve the payments made in August and September 2006 (see Appendix "C" for both financial position and payments made).

23. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Vitalise - Support Holidays for the Disabled and Their Carers

The Town Clerk advised that the grant application form had not yet been received and this item would be deferred to the next meeting and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Tom Bawcocks Celebrations - Mousehole

RESOLVED: to make a grant in the sum of £160.00.

(iii) Porth Gwella CIC

Councillor White declared a personal interest in this matter as an acquaintance of the applicant.

The background of this application was that the organisation operates on a voluntary basis to deliver complementary therapies and art/creative workshops to assist clients who are possibly on low incomes, suffering from depression or who have personal low self-esteem. Discussion took place with regard to the question of support provided to the organisation by the Royal Cornwall NHS Hospitals Trust and it was

RESOLVED: that, subject to a response being received from the Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust that was deemed satisfactory by the Chairman and the Town Clerk, a grant of £150.00 would be made.

(b) Major Awards

The Town Clerk advised that there were no requests for grants under this heading and the Town Clerk went on to remind members that £2,500.00 of the current year's budget was committed to the final payment in respect of the Town Council's support for the Princess May Recreation Ground project and that £2,500.00 was required to complete the Town Council's support for the acquisition of the Lescudjack Hill Fort site and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

24. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

There was no business from other committees.

7.50 pm

Chairman
7th December 2006