

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 4th December 2006 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C.A.C. White (Chairman)

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

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor M. Freeman

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, members received a presentation from Chief Inspector Mike Ward of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary relating to the use of CCTV cameras and its impact on policing.

51. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor J. Ruhrmund

52. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 30TH OCTOBER 2006**

Having been circulated, it was

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

53. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Report from Community Action Panel Meeting - 23rd November 2006**

Councillor White provided members with a brief verbal report from the meeting which had taken place on the 23rd November.

The panel concerned itself with general issues of concern and had decided on an initiative to distribute warning leaflets on vehicles which are parked inconsiderately, often causing access problems for service vehicles and, more importantly, emergency vehicles and repeat offences would result in a Fixed Penalty fine.

The safety of the underpass at Treneere was a continuing issue, especially in the light of a recent attack which had taken place and a request had been made to the County Council to improve the lighting provision in the underpass and this also linked to a proposal to involve youngsters at Mount's Bay and Humphry Davy Schools in the design of a tiled mural which it was hoped would help deter graffiti and give some sense of ownership/pride and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the report be received.

(b) Correspondence re. Guide Dogs Treasure Hunt

A request had been received from "The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association" for the placing of "Treasure Hunt Recycling Boxes" in the Town Clerk's Office.

The boxes would be for the donation of unwanted jewellery, costume jewellery, watches, keys, foreign coins, old coins, bank notes and mobile phones which could be recycled and turned into valuable funds for the charity. Subject to space being available, it was

RECOMMENDED: that a collection box be placed in the Town Clerk's Office.

(c) Date of Next P-Tag Meeting

The Town Clerk advised that the next P-Tag meeting would take place on Thursday 1st February 2007 and would include a presentation on the Local Development Framework and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Newlyn New Community Resource - On-Line Training

The Town Clerk advised of a series of informal internet taster sessions which had been organised for the 25th November, the 7th and 14th December and that the sessions were on a 'drop-in' basis and open to everyone and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Correspondence and Literature from Bendigo Sister Cities Committee

The Town Clerk advised members that he had received a letter from Mr. Peter Mundy in Bendigo, along with various brochures and information on the city which were available in the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of them and Peter had written to say that Bendigo and the surrounding area was suffering from a drought and had had no rainfall for several months, including the winter season.

As soon as time permitted, it was hoped to set up the internet/video link with Bendigo in partnership with Humphry Davy School and members were pleased to hear that Peter Mundy would be visiting Penzance in 2007 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) The Friends of Penzance Jubilee Pool - Open Meeting 21st November 2006

The meeting of the Friends of Penzance Jubilee Pool took place on the 21st November 2006 and Councillor Lambourn advised that he had attended and was rather surprised to learn that the group did not appear to know the running cost of the pool and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk obtain these figures to be forwarded to the 'Friends'.

(g) Minutes of Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association Meeting - AGM
16th November 2006

The minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association had been received and were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt of the minutes be noted.

(h) Information from Penwith District Council re. Housing Services

The Town Clerk advised members that he had received a guide to housing services provided by Penwith and he would obtain copies of the summary leaflet which members may find useful in dealing with enquiries from parishioners and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Penwith District Council Small Grants - Community Planning

The Town Clerk advised that an application form in respect of the Penwith District Council's Small Grants - Community Planning scheme had been received, with a deadline for applications of the 6th December.

The purpose of the grant was to provide added value to work of the MCTI Group and Councillor Lambourn, as joint chairman of the MCTI Group confirmed that he had received a copy of the application form and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(j) Correspondence from Countryside Alliance re. Provision of Post Office
Services in Rural Areas

The Town Clerk referred to the letter which had been received from the Countryside Alliance and copied to all members, seeking support from the Town Council to protest against the closure of rural Post Offices, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write to Mr. Jim Fitzpatrick, MP, Minister with responsibility for Post Offices, supporting the Countryside Alliance Campaign for the retention of rural Post Offices.

(k) Links Between Kisoro Town Council and Penzance Town Council

The Town Clerk advised of an e-mail which had been received from Isaiah Tumwesigye, the Town Clerk of Kisoro in Uganda, seeking informal links with Penzance.

Correspondence had been received from Mr. Tumwesigye in October 2004 and the Town Council had agreed to informal links and a former councillor had offered to act as a link-person, but nothing further had been heard until receipt of the e-mail and with Kisoro Town Council now being on-line, communications should be considerably easier.

The Town Clerk asked members to consider the nomination of a link-person who would be prepared to communicate with Kisoro and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be considered at full Council.

(l) Correspondence from Age Concern re. Outreach Information and Advice Centre

Correspondence had been received from Age Concern providing details of the Outreach Information and Advice vehicle which would be visiting areas of Penwith throughout December and then from February onwards on a regular monthly basis.

The purpose of the resource bus was to raise awareness of resources available through Age Concern to provide support for older people and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(m) Correspondence re. Toilet Provision

The Town Clerk advised of the letter which had been sent to Councillor Freeman following the report of discussion at the last full Town Council Meeting which had appeared in the 'Cornishman' newspaper.

The letter fully supported the sentiments expressed at that meeting and the Town Clerk went on to advise of a response received from the District Council from the Chairman of the Social, Economic and Environment Committee which stated that he had visited the toilet facilities in the town with officers and had found them to be, on the whole, generally satisfactory.

The letter went on to advise that the District Council had insufficient capital to construct a state of the art facility in the town centre and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the District Council to enquire whether DLO staff could be deployed on toilet cleansing and whether this would provide for financial savings.

(n) Correspondence from Cornwall Rural Community Council re. Community Buildings Programme

The Local MP had forwarded a communication from CRCC relating to the Big Lottery Fund - Community Buildings Programme.

The deadline for stage 1 applications was the 30th April 2007 and the Town Clerk advised that he would forward the form to the Reverend Julyan Drew to provide the opportunity for an application in respect of the Newlyn Trinity Chapel project.

If members knew of any community group which might benefit from the programme the communication would be copied to all members and the information could be passed on accordingly and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(o) Modernisation (or Re-organisation) of the Cornwall Registration Service

Cornwall County Council had written to consult with regard to proposed changes to the provision of registration services in Cornwall which included the closing of the smaller Registrar Offices in Hayle, St. Ives and St. Just and a slight reduction in the opening hours at the Penzance Office and the move to a single Registration District for the county.

Concern was expressed with regard to the possible reduction of hours in Penzance and the 'tick box' questionnaire was completed as follows: -

The transition to a single regeneration district would be 'very beneficial'; the flexibility of the scheme would be 'of great concern' as members could not see that the proposed changes offered such flexibility; an on-line booking system would be 'of great concern' as this seemed to assume that everyone had access to on-line facilities;

The proposed Registration Information Service would 'be beneficial' providing it was located in county with appropriately trained staff;

With regard to the closure of out-stations, the position at St. Just seemed somewhat difficult to justify but in respect of Hayle and St. Ives, members felt that the views of the Town Councils concerned should be given due weight.

With regard to the proposed reduction in hours in the Penzance office, the Town Clerk would write to seek justification for this change and due to the time limit on the submission of replies, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should complete the questionnaire and seek a response with regard to the hours at Penzance.

(p) 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 papers

for the District Council's Resource Meeting to be held on the 6th December had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(q) Reports from Outside Bodies

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

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

54. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

Councillor C.A.C. White declared a prejudicial interest due to family friend connections and Councillor Axford assumed the chair.

(a) Mr. E. Verwaaijen

To trade in the sale of olives at Market Place on Saturdays, all year round, (consent currently held by Newlyn Olives) and it was

RESOLVED: not to object subject to no objection being made by the owners of the olive shop operating at the Wharfside Centre.

55. **FINANCIAL POSITION INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES 2006/07 AND ESTIMATES 2007/08**

The Town Clerk provided a brief report with regard to the erection of the Christmas lights and the 'switch-on' which had taken place on Saturday 2nd December.

This year's 'switch-on' had incorporated a Tree of Lights Service involving the Cornwall Hospices Association which had been very well attended and thanks went to Penzance Silver Band, Pensans School and the Golowan Band.

The Town Clerk had hoped that there would be unexpended monies in the current year's budget to acquire a number of new lighting displays but the electrician had advised that 8 displays had had to be re-rope and this would clearly impact on the budget. Also, the volunteer who visited shops in the town centre, seeking contributions, was unable to do so and the Town Clerk was endeavouring to arrange for someone to undertake this role.

Finally, the Town Clerk reiterated the point that if traders could be persuaded to sign-up to a small direct-debit monthly contribution, the Town Council's budget would cover the cost of the rig and de-rig and electrical work on the lights and commercial sector money could be utilised in the provision of new lighting and Councillor Granger agreed to raise this at the next meeting of the Chamber of Commerce.

With regard to the council's financial position to the 31st October 2006, it was

RESOLVED: to note the position and with regard to the revised estimates 2006/07 and the estimates for 2007/08, it was

RECOMMENDED: that they be approved by full council (see Appendix ‘C’ for both financial position, revised estimates 2006/07 and estimates 2007/08).

56. **HEALTH MATTERS**

- (a) Latest Position - Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust, Associated Correspondence and Report from Mayor’s Parlour Campaign Team

The Town Clerk advised that he had received correspondence from Jim McKenna at the District Council and from Andrew George, MP relating to the recent visit of Patricia Hewett, the Secretary of State for Health.

An update on the activities of the Mayor’s Parlour Campaign Team would be provided by Councillor Cotton at the next full Town Council Meeting and Councillor Lambourn advised the committee that a MCTI theme group on health issues would be meeting at 10.00 am on Saturday 9th December 2006 at the Lugger Hotel and was open to interested parties and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (b) Notes of Meeting from New Wider Community Campaign Team Meeting - 14th November 2006 - HIC (Health Initiative for Cornwall)

Notes of the meeting of the HIC that took place on the 14th November had been received and showed that the group were trying to embrace a wider audience to look at health provision throughout the county.

The first point of focus for the new group was a strong public attendance at the upcoming County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee Meeting due to take place on the 30th January 2007 and it had been suggested that coaches should run from different parts of the county and that this should be organised by the Mayors and Chairmen of the Councils concerned and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this matter be taken to full council for consideration.

- (c) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust - Public Question Time Events (Penwith College - 23rd November 2006)

A number of Public Question Time Events had been held by the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT at various dates in November, with the local event being held at Penwith College on the above date.

The Town Clerk’s Office had received a number of complaints regarding the publicity for this event and it was unclear as to the final attendance figures and whether or not the event had served its intended purpose and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT Meeting - 14th November 2006

The papers in relation to the above meeting had been received and were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(e) Community Care Guide

A booklet entitled 'Community Care Guide', which was a national publication, had been received and would be made available to any member and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

57. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Regeneration Consultation Group Minutes - 4th October 2006

The draft minutes of the above meeting had been circulated to all members for information previously and the Town Clerk advised that a further meeting of the group had been delayed as it was awaiting a presentation from the Hyder Group in respect of the proposed Harbour Business Plan.

However, a joint meeting of the Consultation Group with the Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Committee had taken place that day to focus particularly on proposals relating to the Promenade and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group Meeting - 8th November 2006 - Verbal Report including Correspondence re. Isles of Scilly Route Partnership

The Management Group had been informed that the County Council was now in a position to provide non-sensitive information concerning the Route Partnership, including the justification for a new vessel and the planned works at Penzance and St. Mary's Harbour.

In terms of inward investment, concern was expressed with regard to the ability of groups being deployed to look at the investment of venture capital into Penwith and this was a matter that the Consultation Group should raise in due course with the Management Group and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) THI Meeting - 7th November 2006 - Verbal Report and Position re. Abbey Basin Developments

The Town Clerk advised that the issue of vandalism to the warehouse buildings was causing concern and had been raised at the last Planning Committee meeting and correspondence had been sent to Penwith District Council in this respect and copied to Penzance Fire Brigade.

The Planning Committee had also resolved to write to the three major funders in respect of the Abbey Warehouse project to ascertain the status of the application and the criteria to be applied in respect of the release of public funding in support of the project and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Making Space for Water: Environment Agency Strategic Overview

A copy of the document entitled 'Making Space for Water: Environment Agency Strategic Overview' published by DEFRA had been difficult to obtain and by the time of its receipt, the closing date for responses to the consultation had passed.

Councillor Lambourn requested that the Town Council write to DEFRA requesting that it be added to its mailing list for any future communications relating to this subject and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write accordingly.

58. **STANDARDS BOARD**

(a) Town and Parish Standard - Bulletin 08

The Town and Parish Standard Bulletin 08 had been circulated to all members previously and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Process Re. Local Complaint

Councillor Lawrence declared a prejudicial interest in this matter as a member of the Local Standards Board and retired from the meeting.

Councillor Dennis also declared a prejudicial interest, having direct involvement in the issue under discussion.

Councillor Clark referred to the distribution of a report to all councillors in relation to the outcome of a complaint dealt with by the Standards Board in London.

He was particularly concerned that the name of the person who was subject to the complaint had been included, but the name of the complainant had been withheld, and raised a question with regard to what capacity the complaint had been raised, ie. had it been an official complaint on the part of the Monitoring Officer?

Members had also been furnished with minutes of the meeting of the Standards Committee that had taken place on the 23rd October where ST18 stated 'The Litigation Solicitor circulated the revised minutes of the hearing and advised that the main issue arising from the hearing was the need for training to be given to Town and Parish Councils on the process of Standards Board for England referrals'.

Members took great exception to this remark which directly impacted on the confidence of members in the regulatory process and those charged with its operation and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should endeavour to organise a meeting between the Chief Executive of the District Council, the Town Mayor and himself and to provide a further report in due course.

59. **CCTV**

Members referred to the presentation by Chief Inspector Mike Ward and to the Executive Summary papers provided by the District Council in support of Penwith's request for financial support from the three towns of Penzance, Hayle and St. Ives.

Members felt that the paper lacked details of a cost benefit analysis and that it should have included a break-down of incidents by time of day to better judge the value of the CCTV system.

It was also felt that analysis of the effectiveness of individual cameras should be sought and if this information was not available in time for the Town Council Meeting on the 14th December, that the matter should be carried forward for the next cycle of meetings in January 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk seek the above information and

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be considered at full council if the information was to hand.

60. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT WHITE PAPER**

A variety of documents and correspondence had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and the Town Clerk was proposing that, due to the importance of the subject, this issue be dealt with by way of an informal meeting on Monday 8th January 2007 followed by a formal meeting on Monday 15th January 2007 which would provide adequate time to prepare a formal response by the closing date for submission of the 25th January 2007.

Members felt that public input would be useful and consideration would be given as to whether this could be facilitated at the meeting being held on the 8th January 2007. However, it would probably only prove beneficial if representatives of the County Council and the District Council were present to explain their respective views on the Government White Paper and the Town Clerk would establish whether representatives of the two Principal Authorities would be prepared to attend.

The correspondence circulated included a letter from the Cornwall Association of Local Councils requesting endorsement of its position to continue to represent Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall in relation to the White Paper and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should continue to gather information and make its own response.

Finally, a letter had been received from CALC, quickly followed by a letter from the District Council, relating to a seminar taking place at Tremough University Campus, Penryn on the 13th December 2006 from 10.00 am to 3.00 pm.

With the exception of Councillor White, all members expressed a wish to attend the seminar but the District Council invitation was now proposing to limit the number of delegates to one per Council (204 Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall) and the Town Clerk would request at least one place at the seminar and more places if they were available and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

9.55 pm

Chairman
22nd January 2007