

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in  
The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> May 2007 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor C.A. Dennis (Chairman)

Councillors R. Clark  
M. Freeman  
R.M. Lawrence  
M. Lovegrove  
K.L.W. Perry  
P.C.H. Rendle  
S.J. Reed  
H. Worth

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, F. Granger, C.A.C. White.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

The Town Clerk advised that this item would be placed on all agendas to afford members the opportunity to advise of any personal or prejudicial interest which they may wish to declare in respect of any individual agenda item.

Members in the past had always registered their interest prior to the commencement of the discussion of a particular item or, if it became clear during the course of debate that they held an interest in the matter.

In addition to declaring an interest under this heading, members would reiterate the point at the time of discussion of the agenda item concerned and would retire from the meeting as appropriate and it was

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

3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

4. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Penwith Town and Parish Forum Meeting - 29<sup>th</sup> March 2007**

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Axford had attended this meeting in his role as Mayor and the agenda had covered issues relating to service budget cuts on the part of the District Council in respect of such items as the skip service and beach cleaning, Benefit

take-up, the White Paper on Local Government Re-organisation, update on recent planning decisions, health care in Cornwall and the response to the DTi Consultation on the Post Office network.

In respect of the latter item, the Town Clerk advised that an information bulletin had just been received relating to the present position with regard to Post Office closures and Government subsidies, and this would be copied to all members for information with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting, and it was

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

(b) Penzance/Concarneau 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations

The Town Clerk advised that it had not been possible to arrange special celebrations to mark the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2007 and that the uncertainty over the Golowan Festival had made planning that much more difficult.

It was, therefore, proposed that commemorative events would be held in 2008, hopefully, based on the Golowan Festival and, in this respect, an invite had been sent to a band and dancers and a fairly positive response had just been received.

The Town Clerk would arrange a meeting with the Secretary of the Twinning group, with a view to establishing any cost associated with the visit of the band and dancers and a report would be provided in due course.

For 2007, a delegation would attend as normal for the Golowan Festival and a number of the Twinning group and other interested parties would be travelling to Concarneau for the Filet Bleu Festival in August and it was

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

(c) Third Sector Conference - London - 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007

The Town Clerk advised that he had received details of a one day conference entitled “Transforming Public Services through Third Sector Partnerships: Removing the Barriers”.

The conference was being held in recognition of the important role that charities, voluntary organisations, social enterprises and other third sector organisations played in the delivery of public services and followed the creation of the new Office of the Third Sector in May 2006 and the Inaugural Conference was being hosted by House Magazine.

The date of the conference was Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> June 2007 and given the cost of sending a representative, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council would not be formally represented at the event.

(d) Standing for Elections - The Minimum Age

The Town Clerk advised members that information had been received from the National Association of Local Councils confirming that the legal age to stand for and serve as a Local Authority had now been reduced to 18 years.

This had, in fact, been in force in time for the recent elections but certainly, at a local level, had appeared to have had little impact on the age range of candidates standing and it was

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

(e) Cancer Research UK - 'Penzance Race for Life'

As members were probably aware, the above race was taking place on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> May at 7.30 pm, taking a route from the Wharfside Car Park through to Newlyn Green and return.

2006 saw the race take place in Penzance for the first time when £105,000.00 was raised for the charity by the 2000 participants and, at a national level, 750,000 women took part in 230 events which had raised over £46 million for the charity.

Members were asked to be aware of the event, and the associated road closures, and it was

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

(f) Correspondence from Cornwall Association of Local Councils - AGM Nomination Process

The Town Clerk reminded members that this issue had arisen earlier in the year when nominations for positions on representative bodies had not been received in time to be dealt with during the normal cycle period of the council and, this matter had now been raised with CALC and a promise had been received that a thorough review would take place, with a view to introducing a 60 day period for nominations, and it was

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

(g) The Church of England - Parochial Fees Order 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members that this consultation document had been issued to them on the 11<sup>th</sup> April 2007 with a closing date for comments of the 1<sup>st</sup> May.

Members had been asked to copy any comments to the office and none had been received and it was, therefore,

**RECOMMENDED:** that the consultation process be noted.

(h) Community Action Panel Meeting - 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007

The Town Clerk advised members that the next meeting of the panel was to take place on the date shown and, unfortunately, clashed with the Finance/Property Committee meeting.

The council's representatives on the panel were Councillor Axford and the Town Clerk and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Perry should represent the Town Council at this meeting.

(i) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council re. Grant Aid for Bus Shelters

Cornwall County Council had written to advise that it currently offers up to £1,500.00 to Town/Parish Councils for funding in respect of bus shelters, with the level of grant depending on a number of criteria.

The Local Transport Plan 2006-2011 was focussing on assisting Local Councils in establishing their role in identifying transport needs and attempts to find solutions where possible, one of which may be the provision of bus-shelters to encourage greater use of public transport.

With this in mind, the County Council had now increased its grant to £3,000.00 per annum per parish, subject to a number of criteria again being satisfied and also subject to the Town and Parish Councils adopting and maintaining the bus-shelter, and it was

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

(j) Penwith District Council - Young Citizen of the Year Award

The above award was introduced by Penwith District Council in March 2006 and was open to young people between the ages of 11 and 18 years with a prize of £100.00 to be given to a charity of their choice.

There were five awards based on the towns of Hayle, Marazion, Penzance, St. Ives and St. Just and their surrounding areas and nomination forms were available from the Town Clerk with a closing date to the District Council of the 15<sup>th</sup> June and it was

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

(k) CCTV

The Town Clerk advised of a letter which had been received from Penwith District Council following the decision of the Town Councils not to support the CCTV system in 2007/2008 and the letter went on to advise of the District Council's resolution made at its February meeting as follows:-

(i) "That partners are made aware of the intention to switch off the CCTV system at the end of the next financial year, ie. 31<sup>st</sup> March 2008 unless sufficient funds are forthcoming to carry out essential upgrade work".

(ii) "Officers be instructed to report back to the Social, Economic and Environment Committee within six months on efforts to be undertaken to secure a long-term solution in respect of future funding options for the CCTV system."

The Town Clerk went on to advise that he had met with Mr. Alan Hampshire of the District Council and it had been suggested that there should be a meeting held on the 9<sup>th</sup> July 2007 with councillors from St. Just, Hayle and St. Ives in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance and it was

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

(l) Cornwall Rural Community Council - Proposed Newsletter

After a lapse of a number of years, the CRCC had written to say that it was proposing to produce a newsletter (three per year) on a range of issues and providing information to Parish and Town Councils and local community groups.

Articles would refer to projects and funding initiatives and would enable the target audience to share useful experiences and it was

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

(m) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Lifeguard Services 2007

The District Council had written to advise that the lifeguard service would commence on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> May through to September 2007 for the most popular beaches and, for the remaining beaches, cover would be provided for July and August.

Lifeguard provision would also be provided for the Jubilee Pool at Penzance and it was

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

(n) Correspondence from Bendigo City

Mr. Peter Mundy of the Sister Cities organisation had e-mailed to offer congratulations to a number of members who had been returned to the council and who were now serving on the Bendigo/Nevada Twinning Committee.

Following the resignation of Deryk Chappell as Secretary of this committee, members concerned felt that it would be useful to meet and to nominate a lead member to investigate ways in which the twinning arrangement could be better promoted and it was

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

(o) Correspondence from Bishop Bill Ind re. His Retirement

The Right Reverend Bishop Bill had written to advise that he would be retiring from his post after 10 years in Easter 2008 and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council writes to wish the Bishop well in his retirement and to thank him for his active support for the people of Cornwall.

(p) Correspondence re. Cornish Language - Update and Recommendations

The Town Clerk advised of a letter which had been received from Andrew Climo referring to the Cornish Language Partnership which it was stated had grown in stature and had taken a position of precedence and had successfully brought together all the language organisations in the county and consensus on the language to be used was now in sight.

The Town Clerk advised that he would copy the letter to all members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the support requested therein be provided.

(q) The New Smoke-Free Law - 1<sup>st</sup> July 2007

For the record, the Town Clerk advised members that the formal notice regarding the introduction of the Smoke-Free Law on the above date had now been received and it would, of course, relate to public buildings, although a number of those currently used by the Town Council were already covered by a 'No Smoking' policy and it was

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

(r) Circulars Received

The circulars received, as listed in Appendix "A", were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

In addition to the circulars listed, papers had been received from Penwith District Council in respect of its Annual Meeting and Annual Overview and Scrutiny Meeting, both to be held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2007 and it was again

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(s) Reports from Outside Bodies

The reports and minutes from outside bodies, as listed in Appendix "B", were available from the Town Clerk for any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

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

(t) Licensing Act 2003 - Licensing Policy Review

The draft of the document prepared by Penwith District Council had been copied to all members for information and, with a closing date of the 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007 for comment, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the matter be taken forward to the next cycle of meetings and that any member with a particular interest in the policy should contact the Chairman with a view to preparing a proposed response on behalf of the council.

(u) Rami's - Variation of Licence Application

Councillor C.A. Dennis declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and retired from the meeting. Councillor R. Clark assumed the chair.

Councillor Rendle advised that he had been made aware of two letters of objection which had been submitted to the District Council, one from an address in Victoria Square which had been accepted and one from 9 Adelaide Street which had not been accepted. It was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should write to the District Council seeking an explanation as to why the letters of objection from two houses in close proximity of the applicant's premises had been treated differently and why in the rejection of one objection, the District Council's letter had referred to the decision of the Monitoring Officer when the issue was clearly not Code of Conduct related. On receipt of the response from the District Council, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the council, again, pursue a meeting with the Chief Executive in relation to outstanding issues on the Local Code of Conduct.

(v) Tourist Information Provision - Proposed Working Group

The Town Clerk reminded members that a presentation had been received at an Informal Meeting of the Council in February which looked not only at the possibility of the introduction of a 'Gateway' tourist facility at Hayle but, also discussed the cost of the service in Penwith and the various ways in which it might be delivered.

The Head of Sustainable Tourism was now suggesting that a Working Group be formed to look at the future of the service and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Freeman serve on this group.

5. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

(a) Phillipe Peigney

French Food Market - 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> August 2007 - the Town Clerk advised that this application had been dealt with under delegated powers and no objection had been lodged and was reported for information only and it was

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

(b) Correspondence from Deborah Martyn Events Ltd. re. Fees for Market Stalls on the Wharfside Car Park

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a communication relating to the above issues and to the fact that the District Council had proposed a rent in the sum of £1,200.00 in respect of a Cornish Food, Drink and Craft Fair to be held on the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April.

Although the Town Council, when commenting on such events, had not objected to the

recouping of loss of car park income on the part of the District Council, it had not understood that the level of charge would be as high as the sum stated and, given that the Town Council had resolved a policy decision to support such markets which brought economic benefit to the town, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the District Council should be encouraged to make a more reasonable charge to ensure that such markets continued to the benefit of the town.

## 6. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 and it was

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

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of February and March 2007 and it was

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

The Town Clerk reminded members that the council had already given approval for the under-spend in the sum of £731.00 to be carried forward in support of the provision of new lighting units for Christmas 2007.

## 7. **HEALTH MATTERS**

### (a) Correspondence from Mayor’s Parlour Campaign Team

The Town Clerk advised that meetings of the above team were taking place less frequently as the community awaited delivery on the proposed reinstatement of a number of services at St. Michael’s and, details of the proposals in respect of services at West Cornwall Hospital.

The item would be left open for comment by Councillor Cotton at the full Town Council Meeting and it was

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

### (b) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust Meetings

The Primary Care Trust had sent details in respect of meetings held on the 14<sup>th</sup> March, the 30<sup>th</sup> April and the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2007, and the item had been placed on the agenda to allow any member attending the opportunity to report back, and it was

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

### (c) Health Promotion Service Training Programme 2007-2008

The Health Promotion Service had written to advise of a variety of courses running

through to the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007, the details of which were available from the Town Clerk for any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

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

(d) The Healthy Futures Programme - 'Our Strategic Framework'

The covering letter from the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust had been copied to all members previously and the document entitled 'A Healthy Future for Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly', which had been shaped by the views and aspirations of local people, was available from the Town Clerk for any member wishing to have sight of it and it was

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

(e) Letter from SERCO re. Out of Hours GP Service

The communication from SERCO had been copied to all members for information and provided details of measures to improve the service following well publicised complaints and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

## 8. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Townscape Heritage Initiative Meeting - 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007

The Town Clerk advised that the above meeting had been postponed but that a briefing paper had been received and he was checking with the THI Co-ordinator on its content before copying it to members for information.

In respect of the public realm works in Market Jew Street, a 'walk-through' meeting had taken place and the notes of the meeting, taken by the County Council, would be provided in due course.

It had also been agreed at this meeting that a final meeting of the full Market Jew Street Working Group would be held in the late Summer/early Autumn to look at traffic census figures and to make comment on the physical works which have taken place and it was **RECOMMENDED:** that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended the latest meeting of the above group on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> May when the main issue under discussion had been the Promenade and, a draft report had been provided and a number of comments had been made at the meeting.

The Head of Regeneration had agreed that the report would be e-mailed to the Town Council, together with a summary of the comments made, and copied to all members for comment prior to the document's submission to the Social, Economic and Environment

Committee of the District Council and it was

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

(c) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meetings

The Town Clerk advised that three meetings of the above group had taken place recently when the main subject of discussion had been the Route Partnership.

The most recent meeting of the group had received a presentation from Mr. Tony Roche of Cornwall County Council in respect of the Route Partnership supported by Mr. Andy Davies of Penwith District Council and, given that the Town Council had endeavoured to obtain information in respect of the Route Partnership throughout the second half of 2007, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Tony Roche be invited to attend a meeting of the Town Council to which ex-councillor Lambourn would be invited, together with Mr. Mike Thomas of the Penzance Dry Dock Company.

(d) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum - 8<sup>th</sup> May 2007

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended a meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> May and there had been little to add to the presentation provided by Mr. Tony Woodhams to full Council at the Annual Town Meeting on the 16<sup>th</sup> April.

The notes of the meeting would be provided for information in due course and it was

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

9. **ADOPTION OF NEW CODE OF CONDUCT**

The revised Code of Conduct had been circulated to all members under separate cover and would now be provided to new members.

The Town Clerk reminded members that they were currently operating under the existing code until the formal adoption of the new code and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the new code be adopted at the full Town Council Meeting to be held on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

10. **STERN-BOARD OF HMS ASSOCIATION - THE GUILDHALL, PENZANCE**

Members had been made aware of proposals on the part of the Council of the Isles of Scilly to request the return of the stern-board of HMS Association and the Town Clerk advised that he had now received a letter from the Chairman of the Isles of Scilly Council.

The District Council had responded to the request seeking details of records to show ownership and, to date, no response had been received.

Members were aware, from information provided by Penlee House Museum and other sources, that the stern-board had been presented to the people of the town as a gift to mark the appreciation of residents of the Isles of Scilly in terms of the response to famine, and were concerned that the Island should request the return of such a gift, and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Council supports the District Council in the response it had made to the request.

#### 11. **PREPARATION FOR THE GORSEDD**

Councillor Reed advised that he would provide a detailed report to be presented at the full Town Council on the 4<sup>th</sup> June and it was

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

#### 12. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION**

Members acknowledged receipt of three documents:-

(a) 'One Cornwall' - proposals for a unitary structure - stakeholder consultation - document issued by Cornwall Association of Local Councils;

(b) 'One Cornwall' - improving Local Government for Cornwall - issued by Cornwall County Council;

(c) Local Government White Paper - copy of report to Special District Council Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

Councillor Clark referred to the suggestion made on the part of Councillor John Moreland with regard to special meetings of the council to gather further information and make a response by the deadline of the 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2007.

However, Councillor Clark tabled a motion as follows

'Penzance Town Council calls on the Government to:-

(i) Reject Cornwall County Council's bid for unitary status;  
(ii) Affirm its support for the principle that political powers should be exercised by democratically elected representatives at the most local competent level of Government; and

(iii) Introduce legislation to replace Cornwall County Council with a Cornish Assembly, which shall exercise

(a) Such residual powers as may not be devolved beneficially to lower tiers of government, and

(b) Additional strategic powers devolved from Central Government, including

those currently exercised by the South West Regional Assembly and other unelected quangos.

and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the above should constitute the response of the Town Council. The Town Clerk went on to advise members of a meeting to be held on the 7<sup>th</sup> June organised by the District Council and to which representatives of Town and Parish Councils had been invited and this letter would be copied to all members for their information and to advise the District Council if they proposed to attend.

13. **SOUTH WEST MARKET TOWNS AWARDS SCHEME 2007**

The Town Clerk advised that given the timetable for response on this item, ie. 1<sup>st</sup> June 2007, it was not now practical to consider nominating any scheme for an award and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

14. **PROGRESS REPORT - GOLOWAN FESTIVAL 2007**

The Town Clerk advised that he was preparing the first of four written reports which would be sent to members with the papers for the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007.

In the meantime, the Town Clerk advised that arrangements for the Festival were proceeding extremely well and he wished to place on record his appreciation of Mike and Liz Sagar-Fenton, Mr. Andy Hazelhurst and the Festival Co-ordinator - Mr. Chris Nixon and the co-ordinators who had been appointed in respect of schools' liaison - Mr. Roger Butts and in terms of the sale of advertising and the organising of stalls - Maria McEwen, and it was

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

9.50 pm

Chairman  
2<sup>nd</sup> July 2007