

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING** held  
in The Mayor's Parlour, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May 2007 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor M.R. Cotton - Chairman  
Councillor S.J. Reed - Vice-Chairman

Councillors J.H. Dixon  
M. Freeman  
R.A. Mann  
D. Nebesnuick

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, R. Clark, F. Granger and C.A.C. White.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in minute 4(g) as Treasurer of the Gorseth Organising Committee.

Councillor Mann declared a personal interest in minute 6(a)(iv) as a member of the Board of Home-Start West Cornwall.

3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 8<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

4. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) **Thank You Letters**

The Town Clerk advised that 'thank you' letters had been received from the following organisations:-

- (i) 'The Newlyn Water Project' - supporting booklet;
- (ii) Spectrum;
- (iii) Mounts Bay Harriers (in respect of assistance with triathlon event)

and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(b) Staff Training - Health and Safety Seminar at Saltash

The Town Clerk advised members of a 'Health and Safety' training day which was being organised by Zurich Municipal and which would be addressing the issues of new legislation relating to corporate manslaughter and the Compensation Act.

The Town Council was entitled to a place on the course without charge and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk should attend.

(c) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Proposed Weather Station

The Town Clerk advised of copy correspondence which had been received from the Met Office and Penwith District Council in respect of the proposed weather station in Penzance.

The Met Office had advised that it was no longer able to provide data to the broadsheet newspapers and was, therefore, no longer in a position to collect such data from local weather stations.

For this reason, Penwith District Council had decided that the project would no longer achieve the intended aim of raising public awareness of the mild climate in West Cornwall and thereby encouraging tourism. The District Council still supported the project in principle but resources were no longer available to pursue it.

The Town Clerk advised that the Newlyn Regeneration Project Officer had mentioned the possibility of working with RNAS Cudrose through the introduction of a 'slave' recording station in Penzance which would transmit data to Cudrose which could be e-mailed to the Town Clerk's Office for direct transmission to the broadsheet newspapers and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** as follows:-

(i) That the Town Clerk should approach the Newlyn Regeneration Project Officer requesting that he pursue the matter with RNAS Cudrose as outlined above;

(ii) That the issue of the presentation of the weather forecast on BBC TV be raised, with the presenters continually positioning themselves so as to obscure the Penwith area;

(iii) That staff should make contact with broadsheet newspapers to establish how information currently being provided has been received.

(d) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Review of Lease - Town Council Office

The Town Clerk advised that the Lease on the office was for a 14 year period and was currently subject to a 7 year interim review which would result in a rent increase, which at the request of the Town Clerk, would be phased in over a 4 year period.

The Town Clerk advised that the office was due for external decoration in the current year

and that this was likely to be handled in-house and it was **RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(e) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Review of Lease - Mayor's Parlour

As with minute 4(d) above, the Lease of the Mayor's Parlour had been reviewed and the annual rent had been increased from £845.00 to £3,700.00, to be implemented in stages over the next 3 years.

The Mayor's Parlour was also subject to Business Rates calculated on a square metreage basis in relation to the total floor area of St. John's Hall and it was

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

(f) Improvements to Wherrytown Skateboard Park - Resurfacing of Ramp and Receipt of Grant Aid

The Town Clerk was pleased to advise that the contribution of £5,278.00 had now been received from the Community Safety Partnership for the purchase of new surfacing for the half-pipe ramp at the skateboard park and the materials had now been delivered.

The original members of 'Kerbs' were in the process of organising a group of volunteers to work with them to assist with the installation of the new surface and repairs at an agreed cost limited to no more than £1,800.00 and it was

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

(g) Request for Financial Support - Gorseth 2007

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in this matter and did not vote.

The Gorseth Organising Committee had written to the Town Council requesting financial assistance towards the cost of decorative flags (St. Piran flags) which would be displayed for the forthcoming Gorseth Ceremony in September.

It was felt that following the Gorseth, the flags could be then given to the St. Piran-in-Penwith Organising Committee for use at their annual event.

The Town Clerk reminded members that a sum of £1,000.00 had been earmarked within the major grants budget for support for the Gorseth and it was

**RESOLVED**: that £500.00 should be released in support of the purchase of flags, with the residue being held for any additional expenses.

(h) Request for Financial Support - Veterans' Day - 15<sup>th</sup> July 2007

At the Government's behest, the Royal British Legion and the RAFA Club were organising a Veterans' Day on the 15<sup>th</sup> July which would take place in Morrab Gardens.

The aim of the event was to raise public awareness of the contribution made by ex-servicemen and women and the day would include a parade and 'poppy drop'. The group had received a grant from the Ministry of Defence in the sum of £1,000.00 and it was

**RESOLVED:** that a grant be made of £500.00 (see below for source of this finance).

(i) Correspondence from Pengarth Day Centre re. "Earmarked" Grant Aid

The Town Clerk reminded members that a grant of £1,000.00 had been earmarked to assist with the extension of the Pengarth Day Centre.

Unfortunately, due to cut-backs in the income provided by Social Services, the Day Centre had had to reduce the services it offers to the elderly and was, therefore, no longer in a position to go ahead with the extension and the grant was no longer, therefore, required.

Due to the impact of this decision on the elderly population in the parish, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that this issue be taken forward for discussion at full Council.

(j) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next matter to be discussed, it was

**RESOLVED:** to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(k) Staffing - Town Clerk's Office

See Confidential Appendix "A".

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

It was

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

(m) Increase in Level of Expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972

The Town Clerk informed members that the level of expenditure under Section 137 had been increased to £5.64 per head of electorate and it was

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

## 5. FINANCIAL POSITION

The Town Clerk informed members that the summary report on the financial year ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2007 would follow at a later date and it was

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

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

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

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

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

## 6. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

### (a) Minor Awards

#### (i) The Sailors’ Families Society

**RESOLVED:** make a grant in the sum of £25.00.

#### (ii) Shelter Cornwall

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £150.00.

#### (iii) Cornwall Rape and Sexual Abuse Centre

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £150.00.

#### (iv) Home-Start West Cornwall

Councillor Mann declared a personal interest in this matter and took no part in the discussion or vote. It was

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant in the sum of £50.00.

#### (v) Penwith Senior Life Skills Exhibition - 17<sup>th</sup> July 2007

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £50.00.

#### (vi) Penwith Sports Partnership

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £100.00.

#### (vii) Gulval Youth Project - Activity Event with ‘Swamp Circus’

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £100.00.

#### (viii) Penzance Cage Bird Society - Open Show - 4<sup>th</sup> November 2007

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £25.00.

7. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Town Clerk referred to the Confidential Appendix “B” of the Penlee House and Park Committee relating to improvements in the Park and advised members of the proposal in respect of remedial works to the Sensory Garden and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the proposed action be supported.

The Town Clerk also referred to the first of 4 reports which would be presented to members of the Town Council and the District Council in respect of preparations for the Golowan Festival and this would be sent with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

9.35 pm

Chairman  
5<sup>th</sup> July 2007