

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall,
St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 4th June 2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor F. Granger (Town Mayor)
Councillor R. Clark (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors D.J. Axford
M.R. Cotton
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
M. Lovegrove
R.M. Lawrence
J.F. Moreland
D. Nebesnuick
J. Parkin
K.L.W. Perry
S.J. Reed
P.C.H. Rendle
J. Ruhrmund
H. Worth

ALSO PRESENT

Inspector Chris Strickland of Devon and Cornwall Police and Mr. Oliver Cranfield,
Regeneration Officer of Penwith District Council.

18. **PRAYERS**

In the absence of the Council's Chaplain, the Mayor offered prayers.

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, Inspector Strickland provided an update with regard to the restructuring of the Police Force and how this would impact locally.

Inspector Strickland advised that the nine neighbourhoods of Penzance had now been reduced to five, with each of them being covered by a Beat Manager and supporting Police Community Support Officers. It was very much hoped that the new structure would provide for more bodies on the ground and that the public would be reassured by greater police presence.

There had been a recent spate of burglaries in the Penzance area and Inspector Strickland was pleased to advise that a person had been apprehended in respect of 12 of those offences.

Unfortunately, the future of Traffic Wardens was still under debate and it appeared that by 2008, there would be no Traffic Wardens in Cornwall and the responsibility for traffic control in terms of parking would be passed over to Local Authorities and this arose as a

result of a Central Government Directive which would apply nationwide.

Inspector Strickland went on to advise that the Dispersal Order in respect of the Gwavas area of Newlyn had now been lifted and as far as officers were concerned, the situation had improved considerably.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Strickland for his report and he retired from the meeting.

19. **RESOLUTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was

RESOLVED: to vary the order of business to deal with item 8(b) of the General Purposes Committee relating to Penzance Promenade as discussed at the meeting of the Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group held on the 17th May 2007.

Mr. Oliver Cranfield, the Regeneration Officer for Penwith District Council, was invited to speak in relation to the report which had been prepared in respect of the Promenade and which had been copied to all members with the agenda for the meeting. Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in this matter as a District Council member of the Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group.

Mr. Cranfield advised that the report would not contain specific proposals relating to the Promenade but had been designed to assist with the production of a plan relating to the future of the Promenade. The report was not yet in the public domain and had not yet been presented to the District Council.

Various comments were made with regard to the content of the plan but, in general, members had felt that it was not bold enough and considered that more emphasis was required at the Wherrytown end of the Promenade which provided the 'gateway' to Newlyn and concern was expressed regarding proposals relating to the Promenade as a sea defence.

On this point, however, Mr. Cranfield advised members that funding for sea defence improvements was not available under the current scoring system, i.e. for intervention on the part of the Environment Agency, a score of 23 had to be reached with the Promenade currently only achieving 8.

In a nutshell, the above provided the continuing conundrum for the District Council in as much as if it were to spend considerable capital sums on surface repairs or other enhancements to the Promenade, there was still the real danger that such investment could be quickly lost during storms.

Notwithstanding this, it was agreed that the Promenade was a huge asset to the town and it was

RESOLVED: that whilst welcoming the proposed improvements, the responsible coastal protection authority should acknowledge its statutory duty with regard to protection of this stretch of coast and the Town Council calls upon the Penwith District Council and the

Cornwall County Council to pursue a bolder course of action with regard to the future of the Promenade.

20. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors C.A. Dennis, C.A.C. White and T.E. Williams.

21. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Members were invited to declare their interest in any item listed on the agenda or contained within the committee report as follows:-

Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 4(p) "Correspondence re. Cornish Language" as a District Council representative, General Purposes minute 11 "Preparation for the Gorseth" as a Bard member of the Gorseth Organising Committee, General Purposes minute 12 "Local Government Re-organisation" as a member of the Cornish Constitution.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 11 as Treasurer of the Gorseth Organising Committee.

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 11 as a member of the Gorseth Committee and Piran in Penwith.

Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 4(p) "Correspondence re. Cornish Language".

Councillor Rendle declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 11 as a member of the Gorseth Organising Committee.

Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in General Purposes minute 11 as an active Bard.

22. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the following meetings:-

- (a) Full Council - 19th March 2007
- (b) Special Town Council - 29th March 2007
- (c) Special Town Council - 16th April 2007
- (d) Annual Town Council - 14th May 2007

having been circulated, it was

RESOLVED: that the minutes should be signed as true and correct records.

23. **TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE
TO BE DONE**

(a) Street Trading

Application to trade at Market Place on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays for a 12 month period in the sale of hand-knitted wear and other items such as 'Penzance Rock' and it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

24. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

(a) The Town Mayor advised members that, together with his deputy, he had attended the opening of Chy Govenek (Hope House) which was a centre operated by the Salvation Army providing support for homeless people.

(b) In respect of forthcoming events, the Town Mayor reminded members that the Feast of St. John Service would be held on the 17th June and that Mazey Day would take place on Saturday 23rd June.

25. **QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24**

The Town Clerk advised that no such questions had been received.

26. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee - 21st May 2007**

(i) Smoking in Public Places (Minute 4(q))

The Town Mayor advised members that notwithstanding the above legislation which would come into force on the 1st July, the Mayor's Parlour was now a 'No Smoking' area with immediate effect and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Rami's, Market Jew Street - Variation of Licence Application (Minute 4(u))

The Town Clerk advised that a response had been received from the District Council in respect of the query raised as to why a particular objection had been rejected whereas an objection from Victoria Square had been accepted.

The letter advised that the objection from Victoria Square had, in fact, been rejected on the basis of the lack of proximity to the premises in question and that the objection from the Adelaide Street resident had been rejected on the grounds that it was too general and more specific facts were required and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iii) Correspondence from Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team (Minute 7(a))

Councillor Cotton advised that there was little to report at the present time and the Campaign Team was 'holding off' at the moment whilst the new Chief Executive settled into his post and to allow him to bring forward firm proposals in respect of the future of West Cornwall and St. Michael's Hospitals and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iv) Townscape Heritage Initiative Meeting - 16th May 2007 (Minute 8(a))

Councillor Moreland expressed concerns with regard to the Townscape Heritage Initiative works in Market Jew Street and queried the extent to which they had run over budget and which organisation would be responsible for any overspend.

Notwithstanding the above, it was understood that there was a small residual amount in the budget and it was unclear as to which area of town would benefit but there was concern that, without consultation, drawings were being prepared in respect of the Greenmarket.

Councillor Ruhmund advised that there had, in fact, been some very recent developments, and that the situation was changing, and that she would be in a position to report back to council in the near future and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(v) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meeting - Isles of Scilly Route Partnership (Minute 8(c))

The Town Clerk advised that he was awaiting a report from Tony Roche of Cornwall County Council, the content of which would be made available to councillors in due course.

In the meantime, it was felt that it would be beneficial for the Town Clerk to organise an Informal Meeting with Tony Roche, the Town Mayor and the Deputy Town Mayor and to invite former councillor John Lambourn and Mike Thomas of the Penzance Dry Dock Company in their private capacity, and in respect of their knowledge of harbours and shipping, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should proceed as outlined above.

(vi) Adoption of New Code of Conduct (Minute 9)

The Town Clerk reminded members that the council had until October to adopt the new Code of Conduct and that he wished to examine clause 12(2) and the matter would be clarified during the next cycle of meetings to allow the code to be adopted and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vii) Stern-Board of HMS Association - The Guildhall, Penzance (Minute 10)

Councillor Axford advised that he had submitted a report to the District Council concerning the origins of the crest which was mounted on the wall of the Guildhall and advised that there was some uncertainty that it was, in fact, the stern-board of HMS Association.

It was generally felt, that whatever the origins of the board, it had been in the ownership of Penzance Borough and District Councils for a considerable period of time and it was understood that it was a gift from the people of the Isles of Scilly in respect of aid given to the islanders and that it should, therefore, remain in Penzance and it was

RESOLVED: to support this position.

(viii) Preparation for the Gorseth (Minute 11)

Councillor Reed had prepared a report for the Town Council concerning the preparations for the Gorseth which was to be held on the 1st September.

Alongside the Gorseth, the event would be expanded by an Eisteddfod, which would take place from the 28th August to the 10th September, and it was proposed that the town would be decorated with St. Piran flags throughout this period.

A Civic Procession would be arranged for the morning of the Gorseth involving members of the council and Bards processing through the town from St. John's Hall to the Humphry Davy statue and return.

The main event in the afternoon would be held in Penlee Park and through the Organising Committee, detailed arrangements were being progressed and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ix) Local Government Re-organisation (Minute 12)

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting had been arranged by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils for that evening but it was apparent that it would not be attended by representatives of several of the large Town Councils, who also had previous engagements, and CALC had, therefore, decided to proceed with their response but would emphasise that it was not speaking on behalf of all councils in Cornwall due to the large variety of opinions.

The Town Clerk made members aware of various communications which had been received, including Cornwall County Council's response to Professor Chisholm's critique of its Unitary Bid and copies of responses to the Bid from Saltash and Liskeard Town Councils.

The Town Clerk reminded members of the recommendation to the General Purposes Committee meeting as set out below:-
Penzance Town Council calls on the Government to:-

- (i) Reject Cornwall County Council's bid for Unitary Status;
- (ii) Affirm support for the principle that political power should be exercised by democratically elected representatives of the most local competent level of Government;
- (iii) Introduce legislation to replace Cornwall County Council with a Cornish Assembly, which would 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.

Councillor Lawrence requested that his objection to the term 'Assembly' be noted in the minutes.

An amendment to the above was tabled with the motion being put that informal meetings should be arranged with Jim McKenna of the District Council and Steve Ford of the County Council on the 11th June, followed immediately by a formal meeting of the Town Council to finalise its response, but on a 'show of hands' vote it was

RESOLVED: to reject the amendment.

A second amendment was tabled to adopt the proposal as outlined in points (i) and (ii) but to exclude point (iii) in relation to a Cornish Assembly and a recorded vote was taken as follows:-

In favour of the amendment - Councillor Axford, Councillor Cotton, Councillor Lawrence, Councillor Lovegrove, Councillor Moreland, Councillor Nebesnuick, Councillor Parkin.
Against the amendment - Councillor Clark, Councillor Freeman, Councillor Granger, Councillor Perry, Councillor Reed, Councillor Rendle.

Councillors Dixon and Ruhmund abstained from the vote and the amendment was carried.

(x) Progress Report - Golowan Festival 2007 (Minute 14)

The Town Clerk wished to place on record his appreciation for the hard work of those mentioned in the minute, especially Mike Sagar-Fenton and Andy Hazlehurst who were giving huge amounts of time as volunteers but, in truth, were operating as co-ordinators in the area of organisation of the Golowan entertainment programme, street entertainment and the rigging of banners and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(b) Penlee House and Park Committee - 22nd May 2007

It was

RESOLVED: that the Confidential Appendices to the Penlee House and Park Committee and to the Finance Committee should be considered 'in committee' following the Finance/Property Committee report.

(i) Use of Composting Facilities in Penlee Park (Minute 5(m))

As members were now aware, the District Council had expanded the 'green waste' collection facility considerably and there was, therefore, now no need to consider the above issue and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(c) Planning Committee - 2nd April 2007

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(d) Planning Committee - 26th April 2007

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) Finance/Property Committee - 24th May 2007

(i) Correspondence from Pengarth Day Centre re. 'Earmarked' Grant Aid (Minute 4(i))

Councillor Cotton declared a personal interest in this matter.

Members noted the decision to change the way in which funding was provided for users of the Pengarth Day Centre, and were deeply concerned on the impact this was having on the individuals concerned and on the way in which Pengarth was operating, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should write to Cornwall County Council expressing regret at the decision to withdraw funding which impacted greatly on individuals and their ability to access this valuable community service.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(ii) 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 meeting.

Members then considered Confidential Appendix “A” of the Penlee House and Park Committee meeting relating to staffing (minute 5(c)) and to remedial works to the Sensory Garden (minute 5(g)) and it was

RESOLVED: to accept the proposals contained therein.

The Committee also considered Confidential Appendix “B” of the Finance/Property Committee meeting on the 24th May 2007 relating to staffing (minute 4(k)) and it was

RESOLVED: to accept the proposal contained therein.

9.35 pm

Town Mayor
16th July 2007