

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in
Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 2nd July 2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C.A. Dennis (Chairman)
Councillor C.A.C. White (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R. Clark
M. Freeman
F. Granger
P.C.H. Rendle
S.J. Reed

15. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, M. Lovegrove and H. Worth.

16. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor White declared a personal interest in minute 19, Street Trading applications, as a member of Penwith District Council and Councillor Rendle declared an interest in minute 24, Local Government Re-organisation, as a member of the Cornish Constitutional Convention.

17. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST MAY 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

18. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Bendigo City Twinning - Meeting of Councillors and Interested Parties**

The Town Clerk reminded members that Mr. Deryk Chappell, the former Mace Bearer, had acted as secretary to the joint Nevada/Bendigo Twinning Association and although there was some activity in respect of Nevada, principally through the Penzance Youth Wind Band, there was the need to promote the links with Bendigo City.

Councillor Freeman had kindly offered to act as secretary in respect of the Bendigo City Sister City links and a meeting of the relevant councillors would be convened in due course.

In the meantime, the Town Clerk advised that he had received a telephone call from Sergeant Doug Turner, a policeman and member of the Sister Cities Committee in Bendigo who had requested that there should be a telephone link during their next meeting. This would take place involving the Town Clerk in the first instance on Thursday 12th July at 8.00 am.

The Town Clerk went on to advise that the possibility of setting up video-links between the senior schools and their counterparts in Bendigo would be investigated and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) To Confirm Date and Venue for Joint Council CCTV Meeting - 9th July 2007

A report on the present position regarding CCTV had been prepared by Penwith District Council and distributed to all members who were reminded that the joint meeting would take place in the Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on the above date at 7.15 pm and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Reminder of Date - Penwith Senior Life Skills Exhibition - 17th July 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members of the above event and urged them to attend as it provided a good opportunity to network, and to find out the various avenues of support and assistance which were on offer to senior citizens, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council - Confirmation of New Access Arrangements for Cornwall Registration Service

Following consultations on revisions to the service provided by the Registrar, details of the revised arrangements had been received and would be copied to all councillors for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Mencap Charity Race - "The Great Bath Race" - 29th July 2007

For information, the organisers of the above event, which was in aid of Mencap, had sent details of the race which would take place along the Promenade on Sunday 29th July and all participants and volunteers were welcome to be involved and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Consultation re. Rural Bus Services and Community Transport - Consultation Paper
Issued to Members on the 12th June 2007 with Closing Date of 29th June 2007:
Improvements to Bus Shelters in Penzance

The Town Clerk referred to the above consultation papers and advised that the matter had been placed on the agenda to allow members the opportunity to copy in any comments which had been made.

With regard to improvements to bus shelters, Councillor Ruhrmund had raised the issue of the bus shelters at the bottom of Alexandra Road and also adjacent to Fountain Court Flats, both of which were in a poor state of repair.

It was felt that consideration should be given to possible commercial sponsorship in respect of the Alexandra Road shelters and that a grant from the County Council could be considered in respect of a new shelter adjacent to Fountain Court Flats.

However, before proceeding, the County Council had advised in the grant letter that there would be a requirement for the Town Council to take on responsibility for any new shelter when erected and given that the Town Council did not have the necessary staff and mobility to deal with this issue, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk obtain further information regarding the grant aid and the possibility of the District Council assisting with the maintenance of the shelters and for a further report to be provided in due course.

(g) Correspondence from Sustainable Tourism Office re. West Cornwall Blog

Notification had been received from David Rutherford, Sustainable Tourism Officer at Penwith District Council, indicating that the Porthcurno and West Cornwall site would appear on their June Blog and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Minutes of CAP/PACT Meeting and Date of Next Newlyn and Penzance Meetings

The next meeting of the PACT would take place in Penzance on the 18th July and in Newlyn on the 19th July.

Councillor White advised members that there was now an initiative to try to improve the relationship between local youngsters and visiting foreign students ahead of the summer season and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Circulars Received

The circulars, 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.

(j) Reports from Outside Bodies

The Town Clerk advised that there were no reports to receive under this heading and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

19. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

(i) Ms. N.E. Jeckells

To trade at Market Place in the sale of contemporary jewellery on Thursday, Friday and Saturday to the end of September 2007 and, from the 1st December 2007 to the 15th January 2008. It was

RESOLVED: to object to the application on the grounds that the stall would conflict with local traders in the area paying the full Unified Business Rate.

(ii) Proposed Cornish Market at the Wharfside Car Park

Further to councillors querying the level of charge which it had been intended to make in respect of the proposed Cornish Market at the Wharfside Car Park, information had been received from the District Council to show that the proposed market was a three day event with approximately 40 stallholders participating which equated, therefore, to a charge of £15.00 per day per stallholder, which was not considered prohibitive, and the District Council felt that it was important that the Town Council understood the back-drop to the decision which had been made and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

20. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

There were no financial transactions in the months of April and May and the financial position, therefore, remained unchanged from the original budget and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

21. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - Update (Councillor Cotton)

The Town Clerk advised members that this matter would be left open for Councillor Cotton to make comment at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust Board Meeting - 29th June 2007

This item was to be left open to allow any member who attended to have the opportunity to report back at the next full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Community Care Guide - A Guide to Community Services and Information

A copy of the Community Care Guide had been received and was available from the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

22. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Informal Meeting re. Penzance Harbour Business Plan

The Town Clerk advised that the Town Council Meeting scheduled to take place on Tuesday 19th June had, unfortunately, been inquorate and had, therefore, operated as an informal meeting.

Five councillors were present, together with Oliver Cranfield the Regeneration Officer from the District Council and Mike Staples the Project Manager for Hyder Consulting.

There had been considerable discussion with regard to general development throughout the waterfront area running from Long Rock through to Mousehole but Oliver Cranfield stressed the Business Plan was very specific to the harbour area and it was endeavouring to look at the current operation of the harbour to ensure that revenue streams were being maximised and to bring forward proposals through a five year plan in an attempt to fully utilise the opportunities provided by this District Council owned asset and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Proposed Meeting of the Townscape Heritage Initiative

The Town Clerk advised that the next meeting of the Townscape Heritage Initiative group was due to take place on the 25th July but, given that there were a number of issues on which the Town Council would appreciate an update, including the Market Jew Street works and the Abbey Basin development, it was proposed that a Special Town Council Meeting be convened with Penny Stokes of the District Council, the lead officer for THI, and that this could be combined with a presentation from the District Council's 'Affordable Housing Team' and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should proceed to organise a Special Meeting in due course.

(c) Report re. Isles of Scilly Route Partnership Meeting - Tuesday 26th June 2007

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting had taken place between representatives of the County Council (Mr. Tony Roche and the Senior Projects Officer), Mr. Andy Davies from Penwith District Council, the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor and Mr. John Lambourn and Mike Thomas who had been invited in their personal capacity due to their extensive knowledge in relation to the building of ships and the general operation of ferry and harbour facilities.

Councillor Clark advised that the meeting had been extremely informative and he could see no reason why it could not have taken place some 12 months earlier and, again, both the District and County Councils had indicated that the information requested was readily available in the Bid Document.

However, it was pointed out to the District and County Councils that the District had not been able to give the Town Council access to this document because certain sections were commercially sensitive.

The County Council advised that they would indicate to the District Council which elements of the document were not available for public consumption and the remainder could then be made available to Town Council representatives and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Adoption of Code of Conduct

The revised Code of Conduct had been distributed to all members and the Town Clerk referred to the question as to whether or not to adopt Paragraph 12, Part 2.

Adoption of this paragraph would allow a member to declare a prejudicial interest but to remain at the meeting to make representation or answer questions but not to participate in the vote.

The clause could only be adopted if the same facility was provided to members of the public and this facility was available to the public through the participation element of the meeting between 7.00 pm and 7.15 pm and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Code be adopted to include Paragraph 12, Part 2.

23. **STERN-BOARD OF HMS ASSOCIATION - PROGRESS REPORT**

Councillor Granger advised that he had been invited, as Town Mayor, to attend a special meeting on the Isles of Scilly with representatives of the Island's Council and councillors from the District Council.

The Isles of Scilly Council had engaged the services of a maritime historian who had stated that the stern-board mounted on the wall in the Guildhall was that of HMS Association.

Councillor Granger went on to advise that he had also liaised with previous members of the town and former Borough Council and the strong view was that the stern-board had been gifted to Penzance and that it should remain in its present location and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be further considered at the next full Town Council Meeting.

24. **LOCAL GOVERNMENT RE-ORGANISATION - COPY OF PENWITH DISTRICT COUNCIL FINAL CONSULTATION RESPONSE AND CONSULTATION ON 'MEANS OF PRIORITISING PROPOSALS'**

The District Council's final response to the Local Government Re-organisation proposal had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it.

The document entitled 'Prioritising Proposals' had been copied to members for information and with the closing date of the 18th July, would be taken forward for discussion at the full Town Council Meeting on the 16th July and it was still expected that a ministerial announcement on the success or otherwise of the County Council's Unitary bid would be made on the 29th July.

The Town Clerk advised that he was unsure as to whether the final response paper from the Cornwall Association of Local Councils had been received and he would endeavour to obtain this ahead of the full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

25. **LICENSING ACT 2003 - LICENSING POLICY REVIEW AND LETTER RE. POTENTIAL DISPERSAL ORDER - MARKET JEW STREET**

The Town Clerk advised that he would liaise with Councillor Dennis to arrange a meeting of interested councillors to formulate a response to the Licensing Policy Review Document.

In the meantime, he had received information by way of copy letter to the District Council from Inspector Strickland, which had indicated that there were insufficient instances of disturbances taking place at the bottom of Market Jew Street to warrant the making of a Dispersal Order, and the Town Clerk advised that he would ask Inspector Strickland to provide a log of instances in due course.

Councillor White advised that she was raising a number of issues with the District Council and would copy correspondence to the Town Council in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

8.40 pm

Chairman
17th September 2007