

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> September 2007 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor C.A. Dennis (Chairman) (left meeting 8.00 pm)  
Councillor C.A.C. White (Vice-Chairman) (assumed the chair 8.00 pm)

Councillors R. Clark  
M. Freeman  
F. Granger  
R.M. Lawrence  
M. Lovegrove  
P.C.H. Rendle

**ALSO PRESENT**

In respect of item 29 "One Cornwall" - "Consultation on Implementation", Councillors J.H. Dixon, J. Moreland and J. Ruhrmund.

The Chairman advised that she would have to leave the meeting shortly after item 29 and it was

**RESOLVED:** that 2 items within the Town Clerk's Report, listed on the agenda at 5(g) and 5(l), should be dealt with immediately after item 29.

26. **APOLOGIES**

In respect of the General Purposes Committee Meeting, Councillors D.J. Axford, S.J. Reed and H. Worth and in respect of item 29 - open to all members - Councillors D. Nebesnick and J. Parkin.

27. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dennis - prejudicial interest item 30(b), Request for Meeting re. Code of Conduct Hearing; Councillors Dixon and Ruhrmund - personal interest in item 29, "One Cornwall" - "Consultation on Implementation" as Penwith District Councillors; Councillors Clark, Granger and Rendle - personal interest in item 29 as members of Mebyon Kernow.

28. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

29. **'ONE CORNWALL' - CONSULTATION ON IMPLEMENTATION**

The Town Clerk advised members that three items of correspondence concerning this issue had been received subsequent to the Special Meeting of the Council held on the 10<sup>th</sup> September 2007.

(i) An invitation from Cornwall County Council for two council representatives to attend a meeting at the Hotel Penzance on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007, the purpose of the meeting being to provide an update on the implementation process to date. Members felt that it would be appropriate for four members of the council to attend, given the population of the Penzance Parish area and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor attend the meeting and

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that Councillor Dennis, as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee, and Councillor Axford, as former Mayor, attend subject to agreement being obtained from the County Council.

Following on from this meeting, it was

**RESOLVED:** that an invitation should be extended to the County Council's Parish/Town Liaison Officer to attend an Informal Meeting with members of the full Town Council.

(ii) The papers for the Town and Parish Forum Meeting to take place on the 27<sup>th</sup> September 2007, which included an item relating to 'One Cornwall' had been received and the Town Mayor would represent the council at this meeting.

(iii) The Town Clerk advised of a letter which had been received from Andrew George, MP which included a letter from John Healey, the Local Government Minister, and these letters would be copied to all members for the next full Town Council Meeting.

The Implementation Consultation Document was then discussed and members voiced their concerns with regard to the fact of the lack of clarification concerning election timetables and, more particularly, the lack of any reference to the possible delegation of powers to Town and Parish Councils and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Rendle, together with the Town Clerk, should formulate a response to this document, making specific reference to the issue of delegation of powers.

Councillors Dixon, Moreland and Ruhrmund retired from the meeting at this point.

30. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Times of Postal Deliveries - Councillor Dennis**

Councillor Dennis expressed concern with regard to the length of time which it is taking for First Class post to reach its destination and other members also expressed concern with regard to the timing of postal deliveries, ie. some post not arriving until mid afternoon and delivery times generally variable and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that a letter be sent to the Post Office registering dissatisfaction with the erratic postal deliveries and the time taken for First Class mail to arrive.

(b) Request for Meeting re. Code of Conduct Hearing

Councillor Dennis reminded members of her prejudicial interest in this matter but requested that members take forward the request originally made in the late Autumn of 2006 for a meeting with the Chief Executive of the District Council to resolve outstanding issues relating to the Code of Conduct hearing.

Councillor Dennis left the meeting at this point. It was

**RESOLVED:** that a request for a meeting with the relevant parties again be made and Councillor Dennis would be asked to provide a list of outstanding issues in this matter.

Councillor White took the chair.

(c) Launch of Newlyn's Water Trail and Booklet

The Town Clerk advised that the launch of the Trail and the booklet would take place at 2.30 pm on Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September in the Newlyn Centre and all South Ward members had been sent an invitation.

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Town Council had donated £100.00 towards the cost of producing the booklet which is linked with Regeneration/Preservation proposals for Newlyn and that the proceeds from the sale of the booklet would go towards the Newlyn Centre funds and it was

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

(d) Abolition of Regional Assemblies - Note from CAPTC copied to Members 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members that they had been furnished with a copy of the notice from the Cornwall Association of Parish and Town Councils relating to Regional Assemblies which are to be abolished in 2010 and, the hope that this would result in enhanced powers for principle authorities.

Full details of the proposed abolition of the Assemblies were available on the CAPTC website and it was

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

(e) Information regarding The Renewable Energy Centre

The Town Clerk advised of information which had been received concerning a new website which offered home owners, businesses and students a practical introduction to new areas of renewable energy technology.

The website also includes information on sources of grants and funding, educational resources, energy efficiency, advice centres, a directory of events, an index of government centres and links to community organisations and pressure groups and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt of the information be noted.

- (f) Correspondence from Virgin Rail Group re. Loss of New Cross-Country Rail Franchise

As members were already aware, Arriva PLC had been awarded the contract for the new cross country rail franchise and Virgin Rail Group had written to express regret that they had lost the contract which it had held for 10 years but, stating that it would do all in its power to ensure that the transition to the new contractor would run as smoothly as possible.

The new contract would operate from the 11<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and it was

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

- (g) Invitation to Ruralnet/UK Conference - 10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> October 2007

The Town Clerk made members aware of the Ruralnet/UK Conference which would be taking place in October should any member wish to attend.

Councillor Lawrence advised that he was making arrangements to attend as an individual councillor not representing Penzance Town Council and it was

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

- (h) Correspondence from Cornwall Youth Offending Team re. 'Time Out for Teenagers' - Parents Course

Members were asked to 'spread the word' regarding the above parenting course which was taking place in conjunction with the National Children's Home for parents of children aged 10 to 17.

The course would be of particular benefit where parents were experiencing difficulties in respect of this age group and it was

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

- (i) The Queen's Award for Voluntary Service - Information Copied to Members on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2007

Nominations for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service were requested by the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2007 and further details as to how to make such a nomination were available from the Town Clerk and it was

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

(j) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Junior Life Skills Event - 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members that this annual event, which was open to all schools in Penwith, would be taking place on the above dates.

A range of emergency and public service organisations would be represented to disseminate information to school children and St. John's Hall forecourt would be closed on these dates and it was

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

(k) Information re. The Penzance Central Initiative

The Town Clerk had received information regarding the Penzance Central Initiative to advise that it was a local organisation which works with service providers and voluntary groups to improve the delivery of services and to assist with the organisation of constructive activities.

The initiative had access to some funding and any member requiring further information could obtain it from the Town Clerk and it was

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

(l) Climate Change - Community Gathering: The Eden Project - 31<sup>st</sup> October 2007

The Eden Project was hosting the above event with a view to bringing people together to discuss practical ideas for combating climate change and some spaces were still available, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that if any member who wished to attend should do so individually and that the Town Council would not be formally represented.

(m) Correspondence from Ministry of Defence - Veterans Day 2008 - Flagship Events

Correspondence had been received from the Ministry of Defence regarding a one day conference on the 26<sup>th</sup> September to discuss 'Flagship Events' for Veterans Day 2008 for which a potential grant of up to £10,000.00 was available. The invitation had been made to the Mayor who was unable to attend but the Chairman of the Royal British Legion advised that he would be happy to represent the Town Council at the meeting. It was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Council would not be formally represented at the meeting and that the Town Clerk should obtain further details of the proposals in due course.

(n) Correspondence from Penwith District Council - Penzance Leisure Centre - Service Update Report

The Service Update Report for the last quarter for the operation of Penzance Leisure Centre had been copied to all members for information.

Although the report provided details of numbers attending the variety of activities available and gave information regarding Customer Service satisfaction, it did not contain financial information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that an analysis of the running costs for the Leisure Centre be requested to include input from the public purse.

(o) Campaign for the Sustainable Communities Bill - Progress Report

The Town Clerk advised that although the council had not supported the above campaign, he had been advised that the Bill had now passed through the House of Commons and would shortly be progressing through to the House of Lords and it was

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

(p) PACT Meeting - 25<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - Representation of Council

The Town Clerk informed members that, unfortunately, he would not be able to attend this meeting and due to the fact that he had also had engagements at the time of the two previous meetings, it was suggested that another representative be appointed to attend and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Granger represent the council at the meeting.

(q) Conference re. Housing Challenges in West Cornwall - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007  
(Invitation Copied to Members 28<sup>th</sup> August 2007 - Opportunity for Feedback)

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had attended the above event and had an issue with regard to the way in which the numbers were reported in respect of the Housing List, which had been compiled to include people requesting a transfer, and it was

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

(r) Meetings of Twinning Association - Visit of Peter Mundy

Two meetings of Bendigo/Nevada City Twinning Association had taken place in August and September and various initiatives were now moving forward.

Peter Mundy of the Sister Cities Association in Bendigo had visited Penzance at the beginning of September and had been able to participate in the Gorsedd 2007.

With regard to the involvement of the wider community, the Town Clerk had written to the Older People's Forum and the matter would be discussed at the next meeting and Pendeen School was keen to establish e-mail links with Primary Schools in Bendigo.

Geevor Heritage site already had links through the mining community in Australia and were now attending twinning meetings and representatives of the "Cornishman" newspaper and the Bendigo newspaper had been in contact.

It was proposed by the group that the link should be extended to incorporate the Pendeen/St. Just area and the Mayor would be contacting the Mayor of St. Just to discuss this proposal.

Andy Hazelhurst had attended the last meeting because of his particular interest in Nevada City, and had provided details of a new link person in Nevada, and he had agreed to report back to the Twinning Association following the visit of the Penzance Youth Wind Band to Nevada City in October.

Councillor Freeman, as Chairman/Secretary of the Twinning Association, had been interviewed by Radio Cornwall regarding twinning activities in general and had also been informed of a town in Spain which would be interested in forming a twinning link with a town in Cornwall.

With regard to the contribution made by Peter Mundy over many years, it was suggested that his work could be recognised in some way, possibly by nominating him as a Citizen of the Year and inviting him to Mayor Choosing to receive the award and it was

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

(s) Gorsedd 2007 - Verbal Report

It was acknowledged that the Gorsedd Ceremony had been a great success and had been extremely well attended. The feedback had been very positive and the council had received two letters of thanks from the organisers and it was

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

(t) 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.

In addition to those listed in Appendix "A", the papers for Penwith District Council Resource Committee meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> September had also been received and it was, again,

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(u) Reports from Outside Bodies

The reports and minutes as listed in Appendix "B" were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

31. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

The Town Clerk advised of three items which had been dealt with under delegated powers through the month of August:-

(a) Paul Oliver - sale of local photography and driftwood crafts - objection, conflict with the existing traders;

(b) Michelle Richards - greeting cards and stationery - objection, conflict with the existing traders;

(c) Continental Market - Wharfside/Harbour Car Park - 13<sup>th</sup> to 16<sup>th</sup> September 2007 - no objection.

It was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

32. **LICENSING**

The Town Clerk advised that, working with Councillor Dennis, a response had been produced to the District Council's Licensing Policy Review and this would be copied to all members for information.

An invitation to a meeting with officers of the District Council and local police at the District Council Offices on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2007 at 9.30 am had been received and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Granger should represent the council at that meeting.

33. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its financial position to the 31<sup>st</sup> August 2007 and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

The committee also considered payments made in the months of June, July and August and it was

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

34. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team Report

A copy of a press release regarding the future of West Cornwall Hospital had been sent to members on the 24<sup>th</sup> July 2007 together with information regarding proposed ward changes at Treliske.

Councillor Granger advised that he had attended the latest meeting of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team and, in his mind, he felt that there was still a lack of clarity as to what services would be retained and modified or improved at West Cornwall Hospital.

Councillor Cotton would be asked to provide an update at the full Town Council Meeting on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007 and it was

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

- (b) Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Primary Care Trust Board Meeting - 10<sup>th</sup> July 2007 and AGM - 11<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The above meetings had been attended by Councillor Lawrence and he advised that he had expressed concern with regard to the number of outpatient appointments which could take place at West Cornwall Hospital but which were still happening at other venues. It was

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

- (c) Cornwall Partnership Trust AGM - 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 plus Annual Report 2006/2007

The Annual Report was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

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

### 35. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

- (a) Regeneration Consultation Group - Report of Meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007

The Town Clerk advised that the Regeneration Consultation Group meeting had received presentations and updates on the Local Development Framework and Townscape Heritage Initiative works, such presentations being similar to those made recently to the full Town Council.

Progress was continuing on the Harbour Business Plan and the development at Coinagehall Street and the recommended developer for the latter would be determined at the full District Council Meeting on the 17<sup>th</sup> October.

A copy of the Isles of Scilly Route Partnership bid document had now been received with all commercially sensitive material having been extracted.

With regard to the Route Partnership, Councillor Clark raised the following questions concerning the progress being made:-

- Is there now a Business Plan for the vessel?
- Will the vessel cost more than the figure currently in the public domain?
- Have the harbour works been tendered for?

- Is there a date when plans will be submitted in respect of the harbour works?
- Is there a date when the harbour works will commence and be completed?

It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk submit the above questions to the appropriate Authority and report back to full council.

(b) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum Meeting - 30<sup>th</sup> August 2007

The Town Clerk reported that the regeneration plans for Newlyn were still running to timetable and that the Harbour Revision Order was due in mid September with a 6 week consultation period.

The Fisherman's Memorial was virtually complete and would be officially unveiled by Princess Anne on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2007 and it was

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

(c) Penzance Regeneration Management Group Meeting - 6<sup>th</sup> September 2007

The Regeneration Management Group had met on the above date and had dealt largely with the items listed above but, in addition, had received correspondence from the Causewayhead Traders Association relating to improvements which could be made to assist in regulating traffic and to generate greater activity for the retailers in this part of town.

The Town Clerk advised that the Planning Committee had also received communications from the Causewayhead Traders Association and that a meeting was proposed to take place in due course.

With regard to the proposed development of office space at the Abbey Basin, there was a claim during a recent presentation to the council that the inclusion of a restaurant within the plans was necessary to render the project viable and it was felt that this had not been substantiated in the report to the Planning Committee and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Town Clerk clarify this matter with the officer concerned.

(d) Penzance Area Market and Coastal Towns Initiative

- (i) Traffic and Transport Meeting - 15<sup>th</sup> August 2007
- (ii) Built Environment - 13<sup>th</sup> September 2007

Councillor Clark advised that he had attended the event on the 13<sup>th</sup> September and expressed his concern with regard to the lack of representation by the general public.

Following further discussion, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that Councillor Clark should be nominated as the Town Council's representative to attend meetings of the MCTi.

(e) Cornwall Enterprise Services

The Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Enterprise Services would cease to exist and would be replaced by the Cornwall Development Agency in 2009/2010 and it was

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

(f) St. Michael's Mount Geomorphology and Coastal Process Studies

Members were informed that a report relating to the above study had been made available to the council for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

36. **STERNBOARD OF HMS ASSOCIATION - REPORT BY COUNCILLOR GRANGER**

Councillor Granger reported that following a recent meeting with Penwith District Council and representatives of the Isles of Scilly Council, the District Council had voted that the Sternboard of HMS Association should remain in place in the Guildhall and it was

**RESOLVED:** to place on record the appreciation of the council to Councillor Granger for his efforts in this respect and

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

37. **THE ECONOMIC SIGNIFICANCE OF POST OFFICES COMBINED WITH THE VILLAGE SHOP - PAPERS CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS 24<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2007**

No comments had been forthcoming concerning the above subject and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt of the papers should be noted.

38. **WEST CORNWALL ECONOMIC DELIVERY PLAN**

The West Cornwall Economic Delivery Plan had been received via the co-ordinator of the P-Tag group and had been distributed to all members for comment with a consultation deadline of the 5<sup>th</sup> October.

Councillor Clark expressed concern with regard to the formulation and content of this document and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the matter be taken forward for consideration at full council.

9.25 pm

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