

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 20th September 2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor M.R. Cotton - Chairman

Councillors R. Clark
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
R.A. Mann
D. Nebesnuick (left meeting 9.00 pm)
C.A.C. White

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor C.A. Dennis

15. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor F. Granger

16. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor White declared an interest in minute 18(l) due to her involvement with the Steering Group of Penzance Central Initiative.

17. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5TH JULY 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

18. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) **Thank You Letters**

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

- (i) Penzance AFC;
- (ii) Penzance Youth Wind Band;
- (iii) Cornwall Dyslexia Association

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Superannuation Scheme - Rule 85 Protection for Members Reaching 60 between 2016 and 2020

The Town Clerk advised members that Rule 85 had been abolished on the 1st April 2006 but protection was provided for employees in the scheme which would enable them to retire at age 60 up until 2016 if their age plus employment service equalled or exceeded 85 years.

Unison had written to advise that all other public sector employees were receiving this protection through to 2020 and Unison was seeking the support of individual employers for parity for Local Authority staff and it was

RESOLVED: to support Unison's position.

(c) NALC Conference and Exhibition at Bournemouth - 5th to 7th October 2007

The Town Clerk advised members of the forthcoming NALC Conference and the fee for attendance of £385.00 plus travel. It was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would not be formally represented at the conference but that if any member wished to attend they should make their own arrangements.

(d) Town Guide - 2008

The Town Clerk advised that he was in negotiation with Burrows the publishers of the Town Guide, with regard to the production of the revised Guide for next two year period.

The publishers had pointed out that the advertising sold in respect of the current Guide had barely met the cost of production and they regretted to advise that a charge of £1,500.00 for the next Guide would be required if the numbers printed was to be increased to 7,500 (previously 5,000) and the cost would also include the production of a CD to enable the Guide to be uploaded to the website.

Inclusion of the A3 fold-out town map had increased the cost of the publication and it was

RESOLVED: to agree to the charge of £1,500.00 and to proceed with the 7,500 copies but to examine ways in which the production of the map could be carried out more cheaply.

(e) Proposals re. Magpies Club (Presentation by Neil Badcock, Chairman of Penzance AFC)

Mr. Neil Badcock provided members with an outline plan of the proposals relating to improvements at Penzance Football Club.

The proposal would be to demolish the present club and to provide residential accommodation on the site of the present clubhouse, the income of which would go part to the Town Council and part to the Football Club, with such monies being used to provide new and improved facilities for changing and for a clubhouse.

Mr. Badcock advised that the club would shortly be holding a meeting with representatives of The Cornwall County Football Association to examine ways in which grant aid could be obtained from the FA and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council fully supports the scheme in principle.

(f) Weather Station and Meteorological Readings

The Town Clerk advised members that, after extensive research, it had not been possible to find a method of providing information from an approved weather recording facility which is acceptable to the broadsheet newspapers and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the situation be reviewed when the new Unitary Authority is in place and

FURTHER RECOMMENDED: that the provision of weather and surf data be included, if possible, on the Town Council's website.

(g) Members' Allowances

Councillor Nebesnick had requested a review of the situation with regard to the payment of a fixed allowance to members which may attract more people to stand for the Town Council if it was felt that assistance with the cost of postage and telephone could be provided.

The Town Clerk advised that when the legislation was first enacted in 2004, the Town Council had, at that time, resolved not to agree to a fixed allowance for members, but given that the creation of the Unitary Authority might result in further powers being handed to the Town Council with a considerably enhanced role for councillors it was that the matter should be deferred for discussion at that time and it was

RESOLVED: that the matter should be deferred for discussion at that time.

(h) Golowan Festival 2007 - Final Report

The Town Clerk provided a summary of the draft report and advised that the final report would be distributed to members for the next full Council Meeting on the 1st October 2007.

The Town Clerk provided further details with regard to the financial position relating to income and expenditure and, gave details of the analysis of financial information from all sources and the attendance at various events which would assist in the planning of any future Festival.

The Town Clerk also advised that the premises at Cross Street, which currently serves as the Golowan store for equipment and street decorations, was likely not to be available for future years and that alternative premises were being sought.

The committee wished to place on record the thanks of the Town Council to the Town Clerk and the staff for all their hard work and commitment in helping to ensure that the Golowan 2007 Festival was a success.

The Town Clerk went on to advise members that the financial security of the Festival could be jeopardised by the move to a Unitary Authority and that steps would need to be taken to ensure that the Festival would be saved for years to come. The Town Council would, therefore, have to look to what monies it had available and would need to examine current commitments with a view to providing the necessary financial support to ensure the Festival's continuation. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the verbal report be noted

- (i) 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 next part of the meeting.

- (j) CCTV - Further Report

Councillors Dixon, Mann and White, in their capacity as Penwith District Councillors, had declared an interest at District Council level in order that they could take part in and vote at Town Council level. (See Confidential Appendix 'A' for the report).

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

It was

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

- (l) Town Council Involvement in Proposed Winter Solstice Events

Councillor White declared a prejudicial interest in this matter and retired from the meeting.

The Town Clerk advised that he had been approached by an organising group who were keen to stage some form of winter solstice festivities in Penzance and required assistance with submitting a bid for grant aid to the Penzance Central Initiative and with administering the financial aspect of the events.

A grant application in the sum of £5,000.00 had been prepared and this would be submitted by the Town Council on behalf of the organisers, subject to the approval of members, and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would support the proposed events, including the application for grant aid and the administration of the finances.

19. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st August 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of June, July and August 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to approve such payments (see Appendix 'B' for both the financial position and payments made).

20. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Festival of the Arts in Newlyn

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £100.00.

(ii) Concerts in Penzance

RESOLVED: that although the Town Council would offer support for the initiative in principle, it would not be able to commit financial support.

(iii) 'Space Camp in Alabama' - Further Information, Humphry Davy School

Further information from Humphry Davy School had been received in respect of the application for grant aid and, notwithstanding this information, it was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant .

(iv) Victim Support Cornwall

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £150.00.

(v) Roscadghill Area Residents' Association - Grass-Cutting Equipment

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £100.00.

(vi) South Africa Cricket Tour - Youngster Playing for Penzance Cricket Club

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £25.00 to the Cricket Club in support of this representative tour.

(vii) Shallal Dance Theatre

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.00.

(viii) Schools' Winter Project

Information relating to this application had yet to be received and it was

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

(b) Major Awards

(i) St. Mary's Haven - Day Centre

The introduction of the Fair Access to Care Services introduced in 2006 had resulted in the reduction of funding to a number of individuals which deprived them of the opportunity to buy into services provided for the elderly in the Penzance Parish area.

The St. Mary's Haven Day Centre had, therefore, approached the Town Council for financial assistance in meeting a shortfall in funding and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant in the sum of £1,000.00 to St. Mary's Haven and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter should be sent to Cornwall County Council Social Services expressing concern in respect of the reduction in funding and that this letter should be forwarded to CALC to be distributed to all Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall with a request that they also bring pressure to bear on the authorities.

It was also felt that the Town Council should endeavour to facilitate a meeting between the two local Day Care Centres (St. Mary's Haven and Pengarth) with elected representatives and officers of the Cornwall County Council Social Services Department.

21. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

There was no business to discuss.

9.40 pm

Chairman
8th November 2007