

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 5th November 2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors D.J. Axford
R. Clark
F. Granger
R.M. Lawrence
K.L.W. Perry
S.J. Reed
P.C.H. Rendle
H. Worth

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor D. Nebesnuick (left meeting 7.15 pm) and Councillor J. Moreland.

In the absence of both the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Granger chair the meeting.

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

It was

RESOLVED: to bring forward item 7 on the agenda regarding the proposed 'Blue Plaque' scheme in respect of which a paper had been prepared by Councillor Nebesnuick and which had been circulated to all members in advance of the meeting.

Councillor Nebesnuick advised that he felt that it would be appropriate to initiate a 'Blue Plaque' scheme along the lines of that run by English Heritage which would recognise the contribution made by a number of people who are either born in or residents of the parish.

Councillor Nebesnuick went on to advise that English Heritage had planned to extend the scheme to incorporate the West Country but this had now been put on hold indefinitely but it had indicated that it would be willing to act as a consultant to any organisation wishing to adopt a similar scheme locally.

The colour and design of the plaques were a matter of detail which could be determined by a committee of the council if members were minded to support the proposal.

The starting point for the erection of any plaque would be, of course, the willingness of owners to have such a plaque affixed to their building.

In terms of funding, the Town Clerk advised members that the major grants budget currently had £4,000.00 in hand and £1,000.00 of this money could be set into a fund to commence the scheme with further funds being added over time as necessary and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the proposal be supported and that a committee be formed, with membership being confirmed at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

40. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors C.A. Dennis, M. Freeman, M. Lovegrove and C.A.C. White.

41. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in item 43.(o) as Chairman of the Montol Festival Group. Councillor Rendle declared a personal interest in item 43.(l) as a member of the Gorsedd Kernow Committee and in item 49. "One Cornwall" as a member of Mebyon Kernow. Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest item 47. relating to health matters. Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in item 49. "One Cornwall" as a member of Mebyon Kernow.

42. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 17TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

43. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Town and Parish Standard - The Standards Board for England - September 2007

The revised and condensed version of the Town and Parish Standard newsletter had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and related mainly to the adoption of the new code and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) 'Building Skills for Useful Evaluation' - Information re. Training Opportunites

Courses were being organised to provide training opportunities for staff and volunteers involved with voluntary and community groups and further details were available from the Town Clerk for any member interested and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(c) Note re. P-TAG Meeting - 20th September 2007 held at Geevor and Date of Next Meeting - 6th December 2007

This item would be left open for comment at full Council by either of the Town Council's representatives on the P-TAG group and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) 'Ways to Tackle Climate Change' - Correspondence and Information Pamphlet Received from DEFRA

The Town Clerk advised that a pamphlet had been received from DEFRA giving advice and guidance to Town and Parish Councils on ways in which climate change could be tackled and, providing details of the powers available to Town and Parish Councils under the 2006 Act.

Mention was made of schemes already in operation in other towns, Modbury in Devon and Helston, where moves were being made to reduce the number of plastic bags being used by shops and it was felt that the Town Council could take a lead in the adoption of such a scheme in Penzance.

Councillor Clark raised the question of the District Council's views on sustainability measures in planning applications in Conservation Areas and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the plastic bag schemes in Modbury and Helston be researched, with a view to the Town Council engaging with local traders, and that the Town Clerk write to the District Council with regard to advice on sustainability measures in Conservation Areas.

(e) National Association of Local Councils Seminar: 'Local Leadership in Action' - 30th January 2008

The Town Clerk advised members that NALC would be holding a seminar in London on the above date where issues such as training and leadership would be discussed and, in the light of the changing position of local government in Cornwall, representation on the part of the Town Council might be useful and it was

RECOMMENDED: that further information regarding the content of the seminar should be obtained to enable the matter to be considered in the December cycle of meetings.

(f) South West Seminars Network - Annual Conference - 10th October 2007

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had not been able to attend this conference in Taunton, and that a report would be provided via the Older Peoples Forum, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) The Launch of the 'Ripple' - Refurbished and Restored Lugger

The Town Clerk reported for the record that the 'Ripple' had been successfully launched and would, in the near future, be undergoing sea trials.

Once confirmation had been received that the boat was fully seaworthy and ready to undertake a long voyage, preparations for the re-enactment of the 'Rosebud' anniversary voyage would be revived, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Penzance/Concarneau Twinning - Newsletter and Report of Meeting re. Proposed 25th Anniversary Celebrations

A meeting had been held on the 24th October 2007 to discuss arrangements for the 25th Anniversary Celebrations of the Penzance/Concarneau Twinning which would take place in June 2008, having been postponed from 2007.

The Town Clerk's Office was in the process of contacting various key parties in Concarneau, with a view to confirming arrangements with regard to the number of people who would be travelling to Penzance, and to confirm the booking of the 'Bagad' and dancers.

Regular reports would be made to council leading up to the event and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Correspondence from Cornwall Records Office re. Storage of Administration Records and Minutes from Penzance Borough Council Meetings

Correspondence had been received from the Cornwall Records Office confirming that the minutes of the former Penzance Borough meetings (1834-1974) were available at the Records Office.

The communication was in response to an article in the Western Morning News in early September relating to the Gorseth which had suggested that a considerable number of the above minutes and other documents had been destroyed at the time of Local Government Re-organisation in 1974.

Members felt that it would be useful if the 'Cornishman' covered this item to provide reassurance to the public about the security of such records and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(j) Engaging Communities Event - held at Truro Cathedral on 22nd September 2007

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had attended this event, where there had been approximately 700 people present, and the gathering had provided a spring-board for the launch of an awareness campaign to help focus on the needs of the ever-increasing elderly population in the County.

Councillor Chris Goninan of Penwith District Council was taking the lead locally in this matter as the 'Older People's Champion' for the District Council.

The Town Clerk referred to responses to letters which had been sent to the County Council in respect of the withdrawal of funding to older people with lower and moderate needs under the new FACS system.

The County Council advised that the FACS method of assessment had been introduced as a result of the reduction in funding from Central Government but it was aware of the impact

this was having on the financial viability of Day Centres such as 'Pengarth' and consideration was, therefore, being given to the making of a block grant to each of the Day Care Centres according to their financial need and the services they provided. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write a letter of support to Councillor Goninan and seek his advice as to how to best approach Central Government to join with the protest over the reduction in Government funding to Local Authorities.

(k) Proposed Post Office Closures - News from CALC

CALC had written to advise that the proposed Post Office closures for the Truro and St. Austell postal districts would be dealt with in June 2008 and there would be a six week consultation period prior to any decisions being made.

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had written from the last meeting to raise concerns with regard to the poor postal delivery service in Penzance and the response had blamed this on the recent industrial action. However, members pointed out that the poor service was an ongoing issue and could not be totally linked to the industrial action and members were asked to gather additional evidence in order that further communications could be sent to the Post Office and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(l) Gorseth Kernow 2007 - Formal Letter of Thanks to Mayor and Town Council

A formal letter of thanks from the Secretary of the Gorseth Kernow 2007 Organising Committee had been received, expressing appreciation to all those involved in the very warm welcome and the arrangements for the Gorseth on the 1st September, and expressing particular thanks to Councillor Simon Reed, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt of the letter be noted.

(m) Appointment of Additional Town/Parish Council Representatives to the Standards Committee

The Monitoring Officer had written to advise that it was proposed to increase the number of Town and Parish Council representatives on the Standards Committee, in order to ensure that there was an adequate number of trained councillors available to serve, and members' views were sought over the proposed addition of Councillors Vaughan (Ludgvan Parish Council) and Councillor Coombe (Hayle Town Council) to the Standards Committee and, with a closing date of the 9th November, it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(n) Funding for Veterans' Day Events 2008 from Ministry of Defence

Further information regarding funding available for the organisation of Veterans' Day events in 2008 had been received and had been copied to Michael Sculthorp-Wright of the Penzance Royal British Legion, who had been responsible for organising the Veterans'

Day commemorations in 2007, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(o) Montol Festival - December 2007 - Update re. Proposed Events

Councillor Reed, as Chairman of the Montol Festival Organising Group, provided a brief update on the proposed festivities which would take place between the 15th and the 22nd December, with the core event being over the period 20th, 21st and 22nd December.

A Civic Carol Service was planned for the evening of the 16th December at Richmond Methodist Church and, on the 21st December, a Lantern Procession would take place at 6.00 pm through the town up to Lescudjack Hill Fort followed by a torch-lit procession later in the evening.

To date, a very good response had been received from the musicians and entertainers wishing to be involved which was critical to the events proceeding, given the extremely limited funds of the group.

On the 22nd December, it was proposed to hold a Christmas Market and there would be stalls and entertainment on the evening of the 20th December running in conjunction with the Causewayhead Traders who were arranging other festivities to coincide with their own late-night shopping.

As mentioned above, funding was a cause of concern and the application for grant aid from the Penzance Central Initiative had been submitted in the name of the Town Council, but had been rejected, and it was felt that a written explanation for this refusal should be sought.

Councillor Moreland advised that there were some funds available in relation to a now defunct organisation and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should make enquiries about the possibility of gaining access to these funds and that he should seek a written response from the Penzance Central Initiative group.

(p) Remembrance Day 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Remembrance Day Service would be taking place on Sunday 11th November when there would be a 'Poppy Drop' from a light aircraft, the dropping of a wreath from a helicopter from 771 Squadron and Penlee Lifeboat would be taking to sea and also placing a large wreath on the water.

There would again be a ceremony at the Wharfside Shopping Centre on Saturday 10th November with a 'Two Minute Silence' taking place at 11.00 am and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(q) PACT Meeting - Report from Councillor White - Meeting 25th September 2007

Due to the absence of Councillor White, it was

RECOMMENDED: that this item be taken forward to full Council.

(r) Circulars Received

The circulars, as listed in Appendix 'A', were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and, in addition to those listed, the Town Clerk advised members that three further circulars had been received as follows:-

- (i) Penwith District Council Resource Meeting - 31st October 2007;
- (ii) Virgin Crosscountry 'Onboard' - a special edition of the train operator's final magazine marking the end of its franchise period;
- (iii) Coastline Housing Organisation Report

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(s) Reports from Outside Bodies

The reports and minutes, as listed in Appendix 'B', were available from the Town Clerk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(t) Ruralnet Conference 2007

The Ruralnet Conference had been attended by Councillor Lawrence who informed members that the main topic of debate had been the closure of rural post offices.

Councillor Lawrence went on to express concern over the lack of a response to a previous resolution from the NALC Conference in Plymouth relating to the clean-up costs borne by Local Authorities in coastal waters, which it was felt should be funded centrally, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk seek a response in this matter.

44. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

- (a) Mrs. S. Beavis - trading in hot chestnuts and mulled juice on Saturday 1st December, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, and Thursdays 6th, 13th and 20th December, 9.00 am to 9.00 pm;
- (b) Mr. and Mrs. Holt - trading in Old Thyme Sweets and Candy Floss on Saturday 1st December, 9.00 am to 5.00 pm, and Thursdays 6th, 13th and 20th December, 9.00 am

to 9.00 pm, both applications supported by Causewayhead Traders Association in conjunction with their planned Christmas festivities and it was

RESOLVED: not to object to the applications.

45. **LICENSING**

The meeting of the police and the Licensing Committee held on the 21st September 2007 would be reported on by Councillor White at the full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

46. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its financial position to the 30th September 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The committee also considered payments made in the month of September 2007 and it was

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

47. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - Meetings 12th and 25th October 2007

The Town Council's representative on the above group would provide an update on the activities of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team at full Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance Health Fair - 15th to 17th October 2007

Councillor Lawrence advised that he had attended the recent Health Fair held in the Queen's Hotel and felt that it had been a very successful event, offering practical and sound advice on lifestyles, eating habits, etc. which could be of benefit to people's health, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

48. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Isles of Scilly Link Project - Response from Cornwall County Council to Questions Raised by the Town Council

A detailed response had been received from Tim Woods, the new Project Lead Officer of the County Council in respect of a number of issues which had been raised during the last

cycle of meetings.

Concerns were expressed that some questions remained unanswered, in particular in respect of the increase in the cost of the provision of a new vessel, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Isles of Scilly Steamship Company to establish its view on the proposals thus far and also to seek clarification with regard to the position of the tender process in respect of the harbour work.

(b) Penzance Regeneration Management Group Meeting - 18th October 2007

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended this meeting and that the minutes would follow in due course. Items discussed at the meeting were as follows:

(i) Causewayhead

Among the items on the agenda was Causewayhead and the efforts of the traders to improve the status of the street, to attract more visitors and to overcome the difficulties of delivery traffic.

Meetings were ongoing in this respect and the Town Council would offer to help in any way in which it could.

(ii) Newlyn Fish Market

A report had been provided by Mr. Tony Woodhams with regard to the Newlyn Fish Market and the project was now moving to the detailed planning stage. Moves were also being made to discuss, with the Environment Agency, the scoring criteria used in respect of triggering Central Government help for storm protection which may have a positive outcome in respect of the western Promenade.

(iii) Memorial to Fishermen Lost at Sea

As members were aware, the memorial had been unveiled by Princess Anne and all those involved were complimented on the tremendous effort which started as an idea only two years ago to the siting of a most fitting memorial at a cost of £50,000.00.

(iv) Harvey's Shellfish Company

The shellfish company would be relocating from Newlyn to Long Rock and the site at Newlyn Coombe would be freed up to provide a potential area of land for more housing and it was hoped that the relocation to Long Rock, without the restrictions of space, would enable more jobs to be created.

(v) Coinagehall Street

The Town Clerk advised that this development had been temporarily put on hold due to some legal issues which had been raised and a report would be brought to the District Council's Resource Committee as soon as possible.

(vi) Harbour Business Plan

The draft Business Plan had been received but had been returned to Hyder Consulting for further work before its acceptance by the District Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk's verbal report be received.

(c) Western Mount's Bay Traffic Movement Assessment - Meeting 23rd October 2007

A meeting convened by consultants to gather evidence in respect of the above area, ie. from Long Rock to Mousehole, had been held on the 23rd October and views on the problems encountered had been sought, together with suggestions as to how they might be remedied, which would be taken into account in the consultants report which was due to be produced by December and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Marine Bill Newsletter - Issue No. 6

The latest Marine Bill Newsletter had been received and would be copied to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(e) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative - Local Plan Consultation

Notification had been received that the MCTI Local Plan would be available for consultation within the next few weeks and the draft could be requested either in hard copy format or on CD.

Members felt that rather than deciding on a date for a meeting at this stage, it would be preferable to have sight of the draft document and then decide how to move forward at that time and the Town Clerk agreed to obtain copies of the Plan, having first established members' preference for receipt, i.e. CD or hard copy and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

49. 'One Cornwall'

(a) Meeting with Representatives of Cornwall County Council - 26th September 2007

This meeting had been attended by four members of the council who felt that there had been little information provided which had not already been reported to the Town Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Town and Parish Forum Meeting 27th September 2007

Councillor Clark advised that he had attended this meeting and had confirmed to the District Council the position of the Town Council in respect of ongoing support against the imposition of a Unitary Authority and, again, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) 'One Cornwall' Newsletter

The latest edition of the 'One Cornwall' newsletter had just been received together with a Parish and Town Council survey document (the first 'One Cornwall' newsletter had already been circulated to members under separate cover).

The survey sought the view of Town and Parish Councils under four headings, namely:-

- The composition of the council and its current functions;
- Duties and services which the Town Council feels that it could deliver;
- How the Town Council saw its future role;
- Service Access.

The Town Clerk went on to advise that in the latest newsletter, part of the remit of the Joint Implementation Team, had been to include Parish and Town Councils from the outset and, in this respect, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to Penwith District Council representatives stressing the interest of the council in being involved at all stages of development plans.

Councillor Moreland suggested that it would still be appropriate to set up working groups to address various areas where the Town Council may seek to provide services, i.e. planning and housing, and it was

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

Councillor Granger advised that he planned to hold a meeting with Sarah Mason of CALC to review the process of devolution of powers to Town and Parish Councils and would report to the council following that meeting.

Councillor Clark advised that he felt that the issue of service delivery, rather than that of control, should be discussed and that the principles for financial support available for undertaking a service need to be clarified before any council expends time and energy on detailed proposals relating to the devolution of any service to local council level and, again, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the item remain open for input of all members at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

(d) Larger Local Councils Seminar - 29th October 2007

Councillors Clark and Rendle provided a verbal report on this seminar and felt that it was clear that there were widely varying views from the Town and Parish Councils which had been represented. A number of councils were indicating that they were advanced in plans to establish that which they felt they could deliver at local level, although their arrangements were devoid of any information relating to financial support from the new Unitary Authority.

Councillor Clark advised that the County Council was proceeding to make a number of appointments which were being advertised internally, i.e. to staff of the County Council or the six District Councils which would form part of the framework of the new Unitary Authority, and councils needed to be guarded to ensure that their role was not devalued by the creation of the new area groups.

(e) Response from Cornwall County Council re. Request for Meeting with Parish Liaison Officer

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a response regarding the above request from the Parish Liaison Officer to advise that a Parish and Town Council Lead Officer was soon to be appointed, and that he had noted the Town Council's request and would ask this officer to get in touch to arrange a meeting as soon as it was practical, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

9.17pm

Chairman
3rd December 2007