

**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor M.R. Cotton - Chairman

Councillor S.J. Reed - Vice-Chairman (left meeting 7.20 pm)

Councillors R. Clark

J.H. Dixon

R.A. Mann

C.A.C. White

22. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, M. Freeman, F. Granger and D. Nebesnuick

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

It was

**RESOLVED:** to vary the order of business to allow Councillor Reed to address the committee in respect of an application for grant aid on behalf of the Montol Festival Group of which he was chairman.

**Major Awards - Montol Festival**

Following his presentation to the council on this item in which he had a prejudicial interest, Councillor Reed retired from the meeting at 7.20 pm.

Councillor White also declared an interest as Chairman of the Treneere Together Group and retired from the meeting.

Having considered the advantages to the community of the proposed festival which included a civic carol service and markets on the 20<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> December, coinciding with late-night entertainment in conjunction with the Causewayhead Traders Association and a lantern procession from various locations in the town through to the Lescudjack Hill Fort, it was

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant from the major grants fund in the sum of £500.00. It was

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** that the council would commit £75.00 to cover the cost of refreshments to be provided at the civic carol service.

24. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Dixon and White declared an interest in item 26(d)(iii) relating to the former Golowan Community Arts Group.

Councillor Reed, as mentioned above, declared an interest in minute number 23, application for grant aid - Montol Festival 2007, as Chairman of the group.

Councillor White declared an interest in the Montol grant application as Chairman of the Treneere Together Group, minute number 23, and retired from the meeting.

25. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 20TH SEPTEMBER 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

26. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) Thank You Letters

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

- (i) Roscadghill Area Residents Association;
- (ii) Victim Support Cornwall;
- (iii) St. Mary's Haven;
- (iv) Shallal Dance Theatre;
- (v) Cornwall Dyslexia Association;
- (vi) Festival of Arts in Newlyn

and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(b) Correspondence from Cornwall County Council re. 'Engaging with Communities Independent Panel'

The Town Clerk advised that as he had had reported to the General Purposes Committee, he had received correspondence from the Assistant Director of the Department of Adult Social Care which had been copied to all members for information.

In short, the letter advised that it was acknowledged that Day Care Centres were experiencing financial difficulty as a result of the reduction in funding caused by the recent introduction of the Fair Access to Care Scheme (FACS).

As a result of this, the County Council were proposing to make block grants to each of the Day Care Centres based on the services provided and a number of other factors. Councillor Cotton expressed concern that the grant may be based on current numbers attending and the present service provision at Day Care Centres, which had clearly dropped as a result of the introduction of FACS, and it was hoped that the grant would be determined by reference to services provided and numbers attending before the scheme was introduced.

The Town Clerk advised members that following discussion of this item at the General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007, it had been recommended that a letter of support should be sent to Councillor Chris Goninan, Champion of the Older People's Forum at Penwith District Council, to establish the best way in which to apply pressure to Central Government to improve funding in this matter. It was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Finance Committee support this proposal.

(c) Update re. Penzance AFC Proposals

Members were reminded that the plans for the construction of a new clubhouse at Penzance AFC had appeared in the local press and, unfortunately, this had been ahead of the matter being discussed with local residents.

As a result of this, there had been negative comment at a meeting convened by the Football Club with local residents who were concerned that the planning application had already been submitted to the District Council.

Members were also reminded that as landlord, they had given support to the proposal in principle, ahead of detailed plans being prepared for submission to the Planning Authority.

It was felt that it would be preferable to seek to negotiate a position which would be more acceptable to local residents and, to this end, it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should contact the Chairman of the Football Club to hold discussions to determine the best way forward in this matter.

(d) Update re. Golowan

(i) Lease on Barbican Building

The Town Clerk advised members that the proposed Lease on the Barbican building was moving forward but that signing of an agreement had been delayed due to some remedial works required on the part of the landlord which included the sealing of the interior granite walls and works to a number of window-frames.

An electrical survey had also been carried out which highlighted that considerable works were required, and the landlord had requested a contribution from the Town Council towards the cost of the works on the second floor, and it was

**RESOLVED:** to provide a contribution of £600.00.

On completion of the Lease, the Town Clerk advised that two keys would be available, one of which would be held in the Town Clerk's Office, with the other being held by the Golowan Co-ordinator who would receive a small retainer to act as key-holder to assist with the monitoring of the use of the building.

(ii) Volunteers' Meeting

The Town Clerk advised that a meeting of volunteers had been held on the 17<sup>th</sup> October and 53 people had been present at the Union Hotel to provide feedback in respect of the 2007 Festival and, to provide initial comments in respect of the 2008 event.

The Town Clerk had also advised members that the 2007 Golowan Management Group had offered to operate in the same way in respect of the delivery of the 2008 Festival and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the 2008 Festival be delivered by the Golowan Management Group within the same terms of reference as those which operated in respect of this year's Festival.

(iii) Materials/Equipment held by Outgoing Organisation

With Councillors Dixon and White declaring an interest in this matter, the meeting became inquorate and it was

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

(e) Newlyn's Water-Wells, Shoots and Pumps - Request to Adopt Refurbished Structures

The Newlyn Environmental Group had approached the Town Council with a request that it adopts the water-features which had recently been refurbished and which were listed in the newly produced 'Newlyn Water Trail' booklet.

The Town Clerk would establish whether or not any of the structures were listed and given that the features are very robust and unlikely to require any extensive repair, it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the features should be adopted (subject to the listing enquiry) and, further, that the Town Council accept the copyright of the supporting booklet which was on sale at Penlee House Gallery and Museum and retail outlets in Newlyn.

(f) Proposed Office Closure - Christmas/New Year

With Christmas Day falling on a Tuesday, it was proposed to close the Town Clerk's Office to include Christmas Eve on the 24<sup>th</sup> December through to the 1<sup>st</sup> January 2008 inclusive and it was

**RESOLVED:** to approve the proposed office closure.

(g) Cornwall County Council Pension Fund - Employer Bulletin 1

The first of the above bulletins had been received from the providers for the Local Government Pension Scheme and had been copied to all members for information and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that receipt be noted.

(h) Correspondence from Causewayhead Traders Association

Correspondence had been received from the above Association outlining proposals to improve the general appearance of the street and to attract more trade.

Among the proposals put forward were:-

- A leaflet outlining the history of the street (to incorporate a children's quiz)
- Commemorative plaques on walls
- Signage at the top and bottom of the street, to include a slogan (yet to be decided) and a list of the shops
- Closing the street to non-delivery traffic
- Street closure on the three late-night shopping Thursdays before Christmas to include entertainment
- Arranging for a coach drop-off point at the top of Causewayhead instead of at the Wharfside, thus enabling visitors to walk down through the town to be picked up in the harbour area.

The Association had requested support from the Town Council for any of the above measures and it was

**RECOMMENDED:** that the group be contacted to discuss ways in which the Town Council could support the initiatives, perhaps with the provision of new signage.

27. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 30<sup>th</sup> 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 'A' for both the financial position and payments made).

28. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Vitalise

**RESOLVED:** to make a grant of £50.00.

29. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

The Town Clerk advised that at the General Purposes Committee Meeting held on the

5<sup>th</sup> November, Councillor Nebesnuick had put forward a proposal which had received general support to operate a scheme similar to that of the 'Blue Plaque Scheme' operated in other parts of the country by English Heritage.

The recommendation from the General Purposes Committee was that a committee be formed to take the matter forward and suggestions from the Finance Committee were that it should be a freestanding heritage plaque scheme, with details of its operation determined locally and not under the control of any outside organisation.

The Town Clerk went on to advise that the Major Grants Budget this year had so far only utilised £1,500.00 from its total of £5,000.00, and he suggested that £1,000.00 could be allocated to the Heritage Plaque Scheme, and any unexpended monies could be rolled forward year on year and added to as necessary as the scheme developed.

8.50 pm

Chairman  
6<sup>th</sup> December 2007