

**MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2007 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor R. Clark (Deputy Town Mayor) (In the Chair)

Councillors M.R. Cotton  
C.A. Dennis  
J.H. Dixon  
M. Freeman  
R.M. Lawrence  
M. Lovegrove  
J.F. Moreland (left meeting 8.40 pm)  
D.J. Nebesnick (joined meeting 7.40 pm)  
J. Parkin  
P.C.H. Rendle  
J. Ruhrmund  
C.A.C. White

**ALSO PRESENT**

Chief Inspector Chris Strickland, Penzance Police

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, Inspector Strickland provided members with an update on the PACT process which had been set up to improve communications between the police and the public and to invite the participation of key people who could assist with the particular issues. The current priority was licensing and resources had been brought in to help tackle the problems of alcohol and drug abuse. During a recent covert operation, three premises had been caught selling alcohol to underage people and the premises had been warned accordingly.

Inspector Strickland also advised that a New Neighbourhood Beat Manager had been appointed and that a review was taking place within the Force in respect of the identification of officers who needed to be on frontline duties.

Inspector Strickland replied to a question with regard to the closure of the A30 following an accident and he advised that when an accident is deemed to be life-changing or life-threatening, the entire road had to be closed to secure the scene for accident investigations.

In relation to the status of parking enforcement in the area, Inspector Strickland advised that PCSOs had been trained to assist the one Traffic Warden but, as from May 2008, responsibility for traffic/parking enforcement would pass to the District Council which would appoint its own officers.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Inspector Strickland for his attendance and report and he retired from the meeting.

57. **PRAYERS**

In the absence of the Council's Chaplain, the Deputy Town Mayor led the Council in prayer.

58. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors F. Granger, K.L.W. Perry, S.J. Reed, T.E. Williams and H. Worth.

59. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Carrying forward from the four standing committees, the following declarations of interest were noted:

General Purposes Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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.

Penlee House and Park Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007

No declarations of interest were received.

Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007

In respect of application number 1032/07 - Mr. and Mrs. M. Hendy, 1 Helnoweth Hill, Gulval - construction of 2 storey extension on south-east elevation and application numbers 1130/07 and 114/H/07 - Penzance Methodist Circuit, Mr. R. Buley, c/o 93 Boscathnoe Way, Heamoor - change of use and conversion of Gulval Methodist Chapel to form dwelling and studio, Councillor P.C.H. Rendle declared a personal interest.

In respect of application number 1086/07 - Mrs. M. Hogg, 16 Penlee Street, Penzance - installation of replacement timber sliding-sash windows, Councillor J. Parkin declared a personal interest.

Planning Committee - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007

Councillor Rendle declared a personal interest, knew the applicant, in respect of application number 1193/07 - Mr. and Mrs. N. MacDonald, 3 Trevarrack Row, Gulval - change of use and conversion of garage and workshop to dwelling house at Trevarrack Noweth, Gulval.

Finance and Property Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007

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.

**60. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

In respect of the minutes of the previous meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2007, minute 51 - Closed Circuit Television - Councillor Nebesnuick contacted the Town Clerk to raise concern over the minuting of this topic and the fact that the comments of only one Councillor had been reported by name.

The Town Clerk advised the meeting that the Councillor concerned was the member who had made the formal proposal and that it was extremely difficult to report verbatim all that was said by each councillor.

Minute 56(a)(v) - Councillor Nebesnuick felt that the information reported in this minute was inaccurate. Members noted, however, that the slip-road referred to in the minute had been under water on several occasions during high Spring times and it was

**RESOLVED:** therefore, that the minutes should not be amended and that they be approved as a true record and signed accordingly.

**61. TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

The Town Clerk advised that there were no items under this heading.

**62. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Town Mayor reminded members of the following forthcoming events:-

- (a) Winter Soirée - invitation from the Mayor on the 10<sup>th</sup> December, 8.00pm to 10.00pm at the Lime Tree Restaurant in Chapel Street;
- (b) Civic Carol Service as part of the Montol Festival - 16<sup>th</sup> December at 6.00 pm at Richmond Methodist Church (invitations to follow);
- (c) Switch-on of town Christmas lights on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> December starting at 4.00 pm at the Wharfside Shopping Centre, followed by the Cornwall Hospice Care 'Light up a Life' Service and the switch-on of the Christmas tree at the Humphry Davy Statue, Causewayhead lights and, finally, the Christmas tree at St. John's Hall, after which refreshments would be served in the Chairman's Room.

**63. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NUMBER 24**

The Town Clerk advised that no such questions had been received.

**64. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

- (a) **General Purposes Committee - 5<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

(i) Heritage Plaque Scheme (Minute 39(i))

The Town Clerk confirmed that the Finance/Property Committee had resolved to provide £1,000.00 from the Major Grants Budget to support the above initiative which was to be a freestanding 'Heritage Plaque Scheme' to be set up independent of the English Heritage model and under the control of the Town Council. The Committee would bring to full Council, for approval, any suggestions in respect of the erection of such plaques and it was

**RESOLVED:** that a committee comprising the following members be formed:-

Councillors Lawrence, Moreland, Nebesnick and Ruhmund with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor serving as ex-officio members and the first task of the committee would be to draw up a remit for the scheme.

(ii) Ways to Tackle Climate Change - Correspondence and Information Pamphlet Received from DEFRA (Minute 43(d))

In addition to the initiative mentioned in this item, concern was expressed with regard to the amount of packaging used by manufacturers and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk should also write to Central Government regarding this matter.

(iii) Engaging Communities (Minute 43(j))

The Town Clerk advised that this item also appears in the Finance/Property Committee meeting minutes and that he had now received notification of a Public Meeting which was scheduled to take place on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December at 7.00 pm in St. John's Hall and all members were encouraged to attend to show their support and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(iv) Proposed Post Office Closures - News from Cornwall Association of Local Councils (Minute 43(k))

Members expressed continuing concern with regard to the postal delivery service in the parish and councillors were reminded that approximately 18 months ago, the Government had announced that postal deliveries would be reduced to one per day, with priority being given to businesses but, notwithstanding this, deliveries both commercial and residential were being made later and later.

Councillor Freeman, therefore, offered to accept letters of complaint from the public which would be forwarded to the Post Office Governing Body and it was requested that 'The Cornishman' publicise this item to seek details from parishioners as to their experience with the postal service and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Freeman be supported in this initiative and that the Town Clerk make contact with the Head of the local postal district, with an invitation to attend a Town Council Meeting to explain the present position and to answer questions.

(v) Montol Festival - December 2007 (Minute 43(o))

The Town Clerk advised that he had been in touch with Penwith District Council and obtained agreement for the transfer of the funds from the now defunct organisation to the care of the Town Council, with £500.00 of that money being made available towards the cost of the Montol Festival.

The remainder of the defunct fund would be held by the council and used to support local community organisations through its grants budget.

Further funding towards the cost of the Festival had now been agreed by the Penzance Central Initiative, subject to other grant bids being successful and it was

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

(vi) Licensing (Minute 45)

Councillor White advised that the recent meeting between the police and the Licensing Committee had been very useful with the two bodies better understanding the way in which they were both required to work within the constraints of regulations and it had been agreed that there would be further and regular meetings of the two parties and it was

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

(vii) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team (Minute 47(a))

Councillor Cotton advised that meetings had taken place with representatives of the Primary Care Trust and the Royal Cornwall Healthcare Trust and dialogue was continuing. Andrew George, MP, had invited Ben Bradshaw, Minister for Health, to visit Cornwall, during which time he had met with representatives of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team who had stressed that there were grave concerns over issues pertaining to the delivery of healthcare in recent years which had still yet to be resolved.

When challenged specifically over the debt of the RCHT, Mr. Bradshaw advised that it would not be possible for the Government to offset this debt.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Councillor Cotton for his continuing efforts as a member of the Campaign Team and it was

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

(viii) Isles of Scilly Link Project (Minute 48(a))

Penwith District Council had organised a meeting of the Regeneration Management Group, the Regeneration Consultation Group and the Town Council on Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November at 6.00 pm in the Queen's Hotel and invitations to all councillors were distributed at the meeting.

There were two items only on the agenda - (a) The Isles of Scilly Route Partnership (Tim

Wood, Project Officer, would be in attendance) and (b) The Market and Coastal Towns Initiative - Summary Report and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(ix) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative - Local Plan Consultation (Minute 48(e))

The Town Clerk advised members that a draft of the Local Plan should be available in December and he requested that members inform the office whether they would prefer to receive a hard copy of the plan or an electronic version (CD). Members were also asked to note that the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2008 would be set aside for a Special Meeting to discuss the plan as part of the consultation process and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(x) 'One Cornwall' (Minute 49(c))

The Town Clerk advised members of an amendment to be made to the last paragraph on page 42 of the General Purposes Committee minutes which should read as follows:-

“Councillor Clark advised that he felt that the issue of control, rather than the issue of service delivery, should be discussed and ...”, and it was

**RESOLVED:** to approve the amendment.

The Town Clerk then distributed papers including two proposals put forward by Councillors Clark and Rendle as follows:-

#### Proposal 1

Penzance Town Council resolves:-

- (1) To draw to the attention of the Joint Interim Committee that at its meeting on the 4<sup>th</sup> June 2007 the council resolved to call on the Government to affirm support for the principle that political power should be exercised by democratically elected representatives at the most local competent level of Government;
- (2) That whilst recognising the potential value of extensive consultation where practicable, urges the Joint Implementation Committee not to devolve powers to persons unaccountable to electors and therefore
- (3) Calls on the Joint Implementation Committee to:-
  - (a) Assert and adhere to the principle that the affairs of Local Government should be controlled exclusively by elected members and
  - (b) Devolve responsibility to Penzance Town Council, acting with the guidance and support of officers and administrative staff of the Unitary Authority, for all decisions pertaining to the Parish of Penzance which are not strategic

responsibilities of the new Authority and which may, within its powers, be so devolved.

Proposal 2

Penzance Town Council recognises that it has a responsibility to its voters to take proactive measures so as to ensure that it can face the expected and unexpected changes ahead.

It agrees to:-

1. List all assets held by the Town Council - noting any dispute of ownership.
2. Request from Penwith District Council a list of all its assets held within the Penzance Parish area.
3. Request from Penwith District Council its intentions concerning the disposal of these assets: to the new Authority, repatriated to Penzance or otherwise disposed of.
4. Develop policy concerning the delegation of the powers listed on Part 1, page 60 of the 'One Cornwall One Council' document.
5. Consider whether the Town Council needs to revisit its Constitution, Committee Structures and consultation procedures with the County Council, and
6. Hold a special meeting to discuss these matters in the New Year with updating presentations from Penwith and Cornwall Councils.

N.B. The 'One Cornwall' survey would be circulated to members for the New Year meeting.

After further discussion of the above proposals, it was

**RESOLVED:** that Proposal 1 and Proposal 2 be adopted.

Councillor Moreland stressed the need to take the initiative with regard to the various services that would be under review, starting with the planning process and it was

**FURTHER RESOLVED:** to hold an informal meeting, open to all councillors, to discuss initially the planning process and to possibly use this as a format for tackling other service areas and a tentative date of Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2007 was put forward for this informal meeting.

Subject to the above, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

(b) **Penlee House and Park Committee - 6<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

It was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report, including items contained within the confidential appendices to the meeting.

(c) **Planning Committee - 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007**

(i) **'A' Frames - Advertising Boards, Penzance Town Centre (Minute 39(h))**

Members expressed concern with regard to the manner in which the issue of 'A' frames had been handled and the fact that Cornwall County Council had requested the removal of all 'A' frames from the town centre, including Causewayhead, without prior consultation with local shopkeepers.

It was felt that this action, and the manner in which it had been taken, was very 'heavy handed' and had caused considerable concern amongst the local traders, some of whom had reported that their sales were already suffering.

The Town Clerk advised members that, although it had been minuted that the Chamber of Commerce would be contacted to seek the co-operation of the shopkeepers, a prior resolution made earlier in the year had been to request to Cornwall County Council that the 'A' frames be removed and this had already been set in motion and had overtaken the recent resolution of the Planning Committee.

The manner in which the boards had been removed was seen as regrettable but it was pointed out that as the 'A' frames were a contravention of the law it would be impossible to discriminate between shops as to which could erect such boards and which could not and it was

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

Subject to the above, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

(d) **Planning Committee - 7<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

It was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee - 8<sup>th</sup> November 2007**

(i) **Update re. Penzance AFC Proposals (Minute 26(c))**

The Town Clerk advised members that he would be meeting with the Chairman of

Penzance AFC the following day to discuss the way forward following concerns expressed by local residents with regard to the proposals for the Football Club and that he would provide a further report to the Finance/Property Committee in due course and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

(ii) 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

(iii) Update re. Golowan (Minute 26(d))

See Confidential Appendix "A".

Councillors Dixon, Parkin, Ruhrmund and White declared a prejudicial interest in this item and retired from the meeting.

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

It was

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

(v) Correspondence from Causewayhead Traders Association (Minute 26(h))

Representatives of the Causewayhead Traders Association had expressed gratitude for the support and assistance which they had received thus far from members of the council in their endeavours to overcome the continuing traffic problem on Causewayhead and it was noted that it would only take dissention from one trader to block a proposal to close the road completely to traffic. The Town Clerk suggested that it may be possible to consider a reduction in the closure time from just before midday to say 4.30 pm, which could be acceptable to traders, and a meeting with the Traders Association would be convened in the New Year and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

9.20 pm

Town Mayor  
13<sup>th</sup> December 2007