

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

PRESENT

Councillor C.A. Dennis (Chairman)

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

50. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D.J. Axford, M. Lovegrove, K.L.W. Perry, C.A.C. White and H. Worth.

51. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors Clark and Rendle declared a personal interest in minute number 58 'One Cornwall' as members of Mebyon Kernow.

52. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 5TH NOVEMBER 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

53. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Legislation Concerning the Sale of Knives**

The Town Clerk advised that the issue of both the sale of knives and other sharp bladed instruments and the display for sale of such items had been investigated both with the Trading Standards Department and a major retail outlet.

As had been confirmed previously, Trading Standards provided information with regard to the required minimum age below which it was illegal to sell knives and replica guns and gave details of advice which they would offer to the retail sector if requested.

Enquiries had also been made with a major national DIY store which had advised that its training system is operated through its Merchandising and Risk Management Department.

One safety measure incorporated into this system was that when a sharp bladed instrument was scanned through the till, the computer automatically reminded staff to check to establish whether the purchaser appeared to be over the requisite age.

The company also trained staff not to sell any item which has the potential to be used as a weapon to anyone who may use it inappropriately and the store had gone on to confirm that they were not aware of any direct Government guidelines in respect of the display of such items.

Members acknowledged that it would be extremely difficult to completely control the accessibility of sharp bladed instruments in the retail sector but felt that all should be done to ensure that they were not readily accessible to children and young people, or for those who would seek to use them for an inappropriate purpose and, to this end, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Department for Trade and Industry to recommend that guidance be provided to the retail sector and, in respect of the tragic incident in Penzance, that the letter be copied to the Coroner asking that he consider the Town Council's view points when the Inquest finally takes place.

(b) Eden Project - Campaign to Win the Big Lottery's People's £50 Million Contest

Information from the Eden Project had been copied to all members and advised that 15 to 20 Eden staff with drums would be in Penzance on the 8th and 9th December to encourage people to support the telephone vote in respect of the 'Edge' project.

The team would be travelling on the Devon and Cornwall Battle Bus and members were asked to spread the word to ensure that as many people as possible voted and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Land's End Trial Centenary Run - May 2008

The District Council had sent details of the above for information and to advise that 2008 marked the centenary of the London to Land's End Trial and it was hoped to mark the event with 400 classic and sport vehicles, which would be taking part on and around the 30th May and which should provide a welcome boost to tourism for the area and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt of the information be noted.

(d) Engaging Communities - Public Meeting - Tuesday 11th December 2007

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had written to Councillor Chris Goninan as the Member Champion in respect of older people following the conference in Truro Cathedral in October.

The letter sought to establish ways in which the Town Council could offer support in terms of raising awareness of the lack of resources available for Adult Social Care.

In the meantime, information had been received with regard to the proposed Public Meeting on the 11th December and members were encouraged to attend at St. John's Hall at 7.00 pm to offer support and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

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

The Town Clerk advised that he had obtained further detail of the above seminar and felt that with ‘One Cornwall’ issues requiring priority at this time, the Conference would not provide huge benefit and that other events, hopefully based in the South West, should be advertised in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (f) Montol Festival 2007

Members had received invitations to the Carol Service on the 16th December and to the Montol Eve Procession on the 21st December, together with details of the full schedule of events taking place in and around the Montol Festival.

The item would be left open for a further update from Councillor Reed at the full Town Council Meeting on the 13th December and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (g) The London Cornish Association - 122nd Annual Dinner

The Town Clerk advised that the above event would be taking place on Saturday 1st March 2008 and John Lambourn, a former councillor responsible for the restoration of ‘The Ripple’, hoped to attend and the Town Clerk advised that he was also looking into the possibility of travelling to London to forge links with the Association which it was hoped would assist with the planned ‘Rosebud’ Re-enactment Voyage and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (h) Inter-Link Cornwall - New Cornwall Database

The Town Clerk advised of the above database which provided comprehensive details of all local/community groups engaged in a variety of activities across the county.

Members could access information on-line at www.cornwallinterlink.org.uk and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (i) 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 circulars listed, the Town Clerk advised that the papers from the District Council in respect of a Licensing Panel Meeting on the 3rd December and the Social, Economic and Environment Committee on the 5th December had also been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(j) 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.

Councillor Freeman referred to the recent meeting of the Bendigo/Nevada City Committee and was pleased to advise that links between Pendeen School and schools in Bendigo had now commenced.

Councillor Freeman, as Chairman and Secretary of the group, also referred to attempts to widen the local twinning base and the Town Mayor advised of his approach to his counterpart at St. Just and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Freeman should write to St. Just Town Council explaining the proposal in more detail.

(k) Cornwall County Council Literature - Staying Safe in Cornwall - “What to do in an Emergency and in Every Day Life”

The Town Clerk advised of a free safety pack which had been put together by Cornwall County Council under the following headings:-

- (i) What to do in an emergency;
- (ii) Keeping Safe at Home;
- (iii) Staying Safe in the Community

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

54. **STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

There were no items to deal with under this heading.

55. **FINANCIAL POSITION INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES 2007/08 AND ESTIMATES 2008/09**

The committee considered its financial position to the 31st October 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The committee also considered revised estimates for the current year and estimates in respect of 2008/09 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the revised figures be approved in respect of the current year and the proposed budget for 2008/09 also be approved.

In respect of the future of Christmas lights, members felt that a move to strings of white lights powered from a single electrical source should be investigated and a further report would be brought to the committee in due course and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

56. **HEALTH MATTERS**

- (a) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - Meeting 23rd November 2007

Councillor Cotton had attended the above meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this item would remain open for his report at full Council.

- (b) Health Initiative for Cornwall Meeting

The Town Clerk had received notification of the above meeting which would be held on Thursday 13th December at 7.00 pm in Committee Room No. 1 at the District Council Offices and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

57. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

- (a) Isles of Scilly Link Project and MCTI Plan - Report of Meeting held on 29th November 2007 at Queen's Hotel

The Town Clerk advised that the notes in respect of the Isles of Scilly Link Presentation had now been received and would be copied to all members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

With regard to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Summary Report which had been circulated to all members previously, Councillor Clark advised that he took issue with the presumption made on page 4 which states as follows:-

“Specifically, this plan will give the new Unitary Council for Cornwall, the newly elected councillors, and the subsequent delivery organisations and community networks arising from implementation of the unitary structure, the clearest possible brief.

It was contended that the MCTI organisation which did not have the widest membership nor strength in numbers could claim to have a mandate to set the plan entitled ‘Penzance

Futures' as a prescribed direction for elected members and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council should make this view known to the MCTI Group at the forthcoming Consultation Meeting.

(b) Townscape Heritage Initiative - Report of Meeting 14th November 2007

The Town Clerk advised that he had attended the above meeting and that he was pleased to note that there was now considerably more interest in third party grants and the THI Project Team felt that with the passage of time, and the deadline set for completion of expenditure, was helping to focus minds.

Because the report referred to individual premises and likely grant aid and third party contributions, the Town Clerk was establishing whether the document could be copied to all members in open forum for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

58. **'ONE CORNWALL'**

(a) Informal Working Group Meeting held on 27th November 2007

As members were aware, the notes from this meeting had now been copied to all members with a view to a Special Meeting being held on Wednesday 5th December 2007 at 8.00 pm directly following the Town Council's Planning Committee Meeting.

The purpose of the meeting would be to finalise the Town Council's position ahead of the full day seminar being held at the Queen's Hotel on the 13th December and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

Councillor Clark advised that the District Council provide on their website, directly or by way of a link, access to the statutory instrument in relation to the creation of a number of new Unitary Authorities and he had also been advised that the Chairman of the District Council was that day travelling to meet John Healey, the Local Government Minister, to make a final plea in respect of drawing a halt to the 'One Cornwall' process.

With regard to the seminar on the 13th December, the Town Clerk advised that he had yet to receive confirmation as to whether the event would be open to all members and he would advise councillors as soon as possible and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) 'One Cornwall' - Issue No. 3

The latest newsletter prepared by the County Council had been circulated to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

59. **'DELIVERING PURE WATER, PURE SERVICE AND PURE ENVIRONMENT' - SOUTH WEST WATER FORWARD PLAN AND QUESTIONNAIRE**

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a questionnaire and supporting documents seeking customer and stakeholder opinions on ideas put forward by the company in respect of their Forward Plan 2010-2015. The Town Clerk would copy the questionnaire which requested that the issues be ranked 1 to 10 in terms of their importance, and further copies of the supporting document would be made available to members as required, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

60. **TOWN AND PARISH FORUM MEETING - 29TH NOVEMBER 2007**

Referring to the above meeting, Councillor Clark had already provided input on the item relating to 'One Cornwall' and he advised that the Chief Executive of the District Council had agreed that based on the work being undertaken by the Town Council, a verbal or written report lasting approximately 10 minutes could be provided at the conference to be held at the Queen's Hotel on the 13th December and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

8.45 pm

Chairman
21st January 2008