

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 13th December 2007 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor F. Granger (Town Mayor)
Councillor R. Clark (Deputy Town Mayor)

Councillors D.J. Axford
M.R. Cotton
C.A. Dennis
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
R.M. Lawrence
M. Lovegrove
J.F. Moreland
D.J. Nebesnuick
J. Parkin
K.L.W. Perry
P.C.H. Rendle
J. Ruhmund

Prior to the commencement of the business of the meeting, the Council received a presentation from Mr. Tony Woodhams, Newlyn Fish Industry Project Officer, who introduced representatives of Pringle, Richards and Sharp, the Architects for the Fish Market and associated works at Newlyn who spoke to the planning application to be considered by the Council later in the meeting.

65. **PRAYERS**

The Council's Chaplain, Reverend Julyan Drew, offered prayers.

66. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors R.A. Mann, S.J. Reed, C.A.C. White, T.E. Williams and H. Worth.

67. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

General Purposes Committee - 3rd December 2007

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

Planning Committee - 22nd November 2007

In respect of application number 1144/07 - Mrs. G. Sagar-Fenton, 4 North Parade, Penzance - change of use of part of first floor from residential accommodation to office space at 5 Alverton Street, Penzance - J. Ruhmund declared a prejudicial interest.

In respect of application number 1281/07 - Mr. R. Pulford, Charville Estates Limited, 17 Woodstock Street, London - construction of unisex ambulant toilet at the Wharfside Shopping Centre, Wharf Road, Penzance - Councillor C.A. Dennis declared a personal interest.

Planning Committee - 5th December 2007

In respect of application number 1326/07 - Mr. & Mrs. S. Worthington, 1 Sea View, Gulval - construction of two storey extension on rear elevation - Councillor P.C.H. Rendle declared a personal interest.

In respect of application number 1378/07 - Mr. & Mrs. O'Neill, c/o Former Seaman's Mission, The Promenade, Penzance - construction of dwelling with internal garage at building plot number 4, land to the east of Gwavas Bungalows, Bowjey Hill, Newlyn - Councillor J. Ruhrmund declared a personal interest.

68. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the following meetings:-

Full Town Council - 19th November 2007 and Special Town Council - 5th December 2007.

Having been circulated prior to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: that the minutes should be signed as true and correct records.

69. **TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUE TO BE DONE**

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

70. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded members of the following forthcoming events:-

- (a) Montol Carol Service - Sunday 16th December at 6.00 pm at Richmond Methodist Church;
- (b) Montol Lantern Parade - Friday 21st December starting at 6.00 pm at St. John's Hall with all participants being asked to wear masks;
- (c) The Mayor went on to apologise for his absence from the last Town Council Meeting due to illness and thanked the Deputy Mayor for chairing the meeting;
- (d) The Mayor also thanked all those councillors who had attended the Winter Soiree on Monday 10th December and extended seasons greetings from himself and the Mayoress to all councillors and he also announced the birth of his granddaughter that morning.

71. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NUMBER 24

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

72. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**(a) General Purposes Committee - 3rd December 2007****(i) Engaging Communities - Public Meeting - 11th December 2007 (Minute 53(d))**

Councillor Clark advised that he had attended the meeting held on the 11th December and he reported that a presentation had been received from Dr. Carol Tozer, Head of Social Care at the County Council, who had explained that the department was experiencing severe financial cut-backs resulting in the need for the community to play a greater role in the care of the elderly.

Councillor Clark also advised that a special Christmas card had been produced which could be sent to key political figures as a protest against the aforementioned cut-backs and to draw more attention to the situation as it affected Cornwall and, these cards were available following the meeting, and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Montol Festival 2007 (Minute 53(f))

Councillor Parkin, on behalf of Councillor Reed, invited all members to attend the lantern-making workshop in St. John's Hall during the weekend Friday 14th to Sunday 16th December, in preparation for the lantern procession which was due to take place on Friday 21st December, and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iii) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team - Meeting 23rd November 2007 (Minute 56(a))

Councillor Cotton advised members that, together with several other councillors, he had attended a meeting where a presentation by the Chief Executive of the Royal Cornwall Hospital Trust had been received concerning the future of the Pathology Department at West Cornwall Hospital.

A further meeting had been held by the RCH Management with staff at West Cornwall Hospital in relation to the 'need' to modernise the department which would result in a loss of man hours and to all blood samples from the Penwith area being sent to Treliske for processing in the future.

The proposal was that the samples would be transported by taxi out of hours and those attending the meeting had felt that this change would result in an additional financial and time burden on existing staff having to travel to Truro as a result of being located other

than at West Cornwall Hospital.

Concern was also expressed with regard to the level of interest which would be taken by the new Unitary Authority in West Cornwall Hospital, and whether the facility would be championed in the same way as it had been by the District Council which had resisted plans to reduce the services over the last five years, and it was felt that the Town Council would need to be aware of this issue and to possibly bridge this gap and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (iv) Isles of Scilly Link Project and MCTI Plan - Report of Meeting held on 29th November 2007 at Queen's Hotel (Minute 57(a))

Concern was expressed by a number of members with regard to the Market and Coastal Towns Initiative Summary Report in respect of important decisions which could be seen to be taken by non-elected persons and, through lack of numbers participating, could not be seen as truly representative of the community as a whole.

Further, it was acknowledged that community groups can add a lot of value and should be involved at the planning stage of projects subject to final decision making remaining as the remit of elected bodies and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

- (v) 'One Cornwall' (Minute 58)

A 'Town and Parish Survey' document had been distributed to all members and the Town Clerk had drafted a response to sections 1 and 4 which had a submission deadline of the 17th December. The draft response was circulated to all members present and it was

RESOLVED: to accept and submit the response drafted by the Town Clerk and to include the preface that a divisional office should be located as far west as possible, ideally in Penzance, to service the West Penwith area.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

- (b) **Penlee House and Park Committee - 4th December 2007**

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

- (c) **Planning Committee - 22nd November 2007**

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

- (d) **Planning Committee - 5th December 2007**

- (i) New and Amended Planning Applications (Minute 62)

Councillors Dixon and Ruhmund, in commenting on the planning applications, made it clear that their comments were based on the information currently available and did not commit them to taking the same position when the matter was discussed at the District Planning Committee meeting.

In respect of application number 1366/07 - Newlyn Pier Harbour Commissioners, The Harbour Block, Newlyn - demolition of Fish Market buildings and construction of two retail units and new Fish Market with open spaces - Councillor Granger and the Town Clerk declared personal interests as members of the Newlyn Fish Industry Forum.

Referring back to the presentation prior to the commencement of the meeting in respect of the above plans, it was

RESOLVED: to fully support this planning application.

(ii) The Town Clerk advised members of a revised set of plans which had been received subsequent to the last Planning Committee in respect of minor amendments to the Abbey Warehouse development and this meeting provided the only opportunity for the council to pass comment and it was

RESOLVED: not to object to the revisions.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee - 6th December 2007**

(i) **Financial Position and Budget Revisions 2007/08 and Proposed Budget 2008/09 (Minute 35)**

Councillor Cotton, as Chairman of the Finance Committee, provided a summary of the proposed budgets which had been fully considered by the four standing committees of the council and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the revised budget for the year 2007/08 and also to approve the proposed budget in respect of the forthcoming year 2008/09, giving rise to a precept requirement in the sum of £421,934.00 to which would be added the annual contribution over the next 6 years in respect of the CCTV system upgrade, with this contribution appearing as a separate line entry on the precept demand to offer a full explanation to the parishioners of Penzance.

The final precept requirement including the above was, therefore, £434,184.00.

8.55 pm

Town Mayor
4th February 2008