

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 24th January 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor M.R. Cotton - Chairman

Councillors R. Clark
J.H. Dixon
M. Freeman
F. Granger
R.A. Mann

38. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D. Nebesnick and C.A.C. White.

39. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in minute number 41(i) - 'Golowan Community Arts' as former Chairman of the latter organisation.

Councillor R. Clark declared a prejudicial interest in part in respect of minute 42(b) - 'St. Piran's Day Grant' as former Treasurer of the Organising Committee.

40. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH DECEMBER 2007**

Having been circulated, it was

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

41. **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(a) **Thank You Letters**

The Town Clerk advised that 'thank you' letters had been received from Penzance Methodist Church Youth and the Tom Bawcocks Eve Committee and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) **Notification from Penwith District Council re. Change to Empty Property Rates**

The Town Clerk advised members of a Central Government Initiative coming into force on the 1st April 2008 which was designed to provide an incentive for owners to bring empty properties back into use.

From that date, rate relief on such property would no longer be available after the first three months in respect of residential buildings and after six months in respect of industrial

premises and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) NALC - Financial Update 2007 - Report re. Credit Arrangements and Borrowing by Town and Parish Councils

The Town Clerk advised that concern had been raised with the Department of Communities and Local Government by some auditors with regard to the propriety of Local Councils pertaining to credit arrangements, other than loans such as HP, deferred purchase and operating leases without the necessary approval of the Secretary of State.

The DCLG had clarified the position in this respect and had made it clear that where there was no direct borrowing of money, consent was not required and that the leases held by the Town Council in respect of photocopiers were exempt from the requirement of approval and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Update re. Heritage Plaque Scheme

The Town Clerk advised that the initial meeting of the Heritage Plaque Scheme Committee had taken place on the 3rd January and that a second meeting had been scheduled for the 7th February.

A mock-up of the style of plaque was being prepared by a local sign-maker and would be available to the next meeting, together with approximate production costs.

Councillor Nebesnuick had offered to draw up a list of criteria for discussion, against which proposals to erect plaques could be judged, and following agreement on this criteria, an article could be placed in the 'Cornishman' newspaper seeking suggestions from parishioners and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Review of Town Council Insurance

The Town Clerk advised that the Council's present long-term insurance arrangement would be due for renewal in August 2008 and, in the meantime, the market was being tested through local insurance brokers and a report would be provided in due course for the Finance Committee and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Update re. Wherrytown Skatepark

The Town Clerk reminded members that a grant of approximately £5,000.00 had been obtained for the acquisition of a new and more durable surface for the skateboard ramp at Wherrytown and, unfortunately, there had been a considerable delay in the resurfacing

work which was part professional and part volunteer.

However, it was now hoped that the problems had been resolved and work had recommenced on the skateboard park with a view to it being in use by Easter and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) Golowan 2008

The Town Clerk advised members that the Management Group for the 2008 Festival had commenced work and its first meeting of 2008 had been held on the 7th January, with the next meeting proposed for the 29th January. An Entertainment Sub-Committee had been formed, and it would be working towards finalising the detail of the 2008 Programme, and the Town Clerk went on to advise that together with the Chairman of the Management Group and the Festival Co-ordinator, a presentation would be made in respect of the 2007 Festival to the Social, Economic and Environment Committee of Penwith District Council on Wednesday 30th January.

With regard to the use of the Barbican building, the Town Clerk advised that it had not been possible to take possession of the building due to essential works being carried out by electricians but it had now been agreed that the building would be ready to hand over on the 1st February and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next matter to be discussed, it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(i) Golowan Community Arts

See Confidential Appendix "A"

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

It was

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

(k) Update re. Proposals for Penzance AFC

The Town Clerk advised that the Chairman of the Club would be holding a presentation event for residents of neighbouring properties on Sunday 26th January 2008, when at least three proposals would be available for discussion and, following this event, the Chairman hoped to bring forward proposals for consideration by the Town Council as landlord and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

42. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st December 2007 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of October, November and December and it was

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

(a) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next matter to be discussed, it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(b) St. Piran-in-Penwith

See Confidential Appendix "C".

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

It was

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

Councillor Clark remained for the initial part of discussion in respect of minute 42(b) but then declared a prejudicial interest and retired from the meeting.

43. **APPLICATION FOR GRANT AID**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Esethvos Kernow 2007

Esethvos Kernow 2007 had written to the Town Council requesting some financial assistance with the administration costs incurred in organising the 2007 event and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Treasurer of Gorseth Kernow 2007 to establish whether it could make a grant to the Esethvos in view of the Council's contribution to that event, particularly in respect of the purchase of St. Piran flags which were used for the Gorseth and which were to be retained for annual use by the St. Piran group.

(ii) The Sailors' Families Society

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £25.00.

(iii) Rotary Club of Mounts Bay - St. Michael's Way Charity Walk 2008

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £100.00.

(b) Major Awards

(i) Mounts Bay School and Community Sports College

Further information had been received from the Project Leader at Mounts Bay School in respect of the proposed 3G pitch and the detailed information had been copied to Councillors Cotton and Clark.

The plans did include an outline of the proposed use of the facility by the wider community but this, in itself, was at least part dependent on grant aid for a coach to generate and oversee such use.

Members were reminded that the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor had written letters of support in respect of the scheme and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would consider making a grant to the scheme at a later stage in the development of the proposals if it became clear that usage by the community would be of a considerable amount and guaranteed.

44. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

There were no items to report under this heading.

9.05 pm

Chairman
28th February 2008