

**MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

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

Councillors MR Cotton  
CA Dennis  
JH Dixon  
M Freeman  
M Lovegrove  
RM Lawrence  
RA Mann  
JF Moreland  
D Nebesnuick  
J Parkin  
KLW Perry  
SJ Reed  
PCH Rendle  
J Ruhmund

**ALSO PRESENT:**

Mr Terry Marks, Penzance Sailing Club to make a presentation regarding the future of Penzance Harbour, and  
Mr John Leach, (Delivery Manager, Penzance Royal Mail Delivery Office) and Mr Neil Hamilton (Royal Mail Cornwall) to address complaints made by members of the public concerning the postal delivery service.

73. **PRAYERS**

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

74. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors DJ Axford, CAC White, TE Williams

Mr John Leach from the Penzance Delivery Office provided members with a brief overview of the postal service in West Cornwall. Mr Leach is responsible for the Penzance, Hayle and St Ives offices and the area also covers St Just, Pendeen and the Isles of Scilly. Royal Mail is currently undergoing a huge period of modernisation which results in some changes to the postal delivery and Mr Leach went on to address the six areas of complaint that had been pinpointed by members of the public:

Late delivery of post – guidelines for postal deliveries are set out by Post Com and stipulate that urban mail should be delivered by 2pm and rural mail by 3pm.

Items wrongly delivered – this problem is recognised by the post office but the fault often lies with wrongly or inadequately addressed items.

Lack of response to complaints made to the local delivery office – Mr Leach assured members that all complaints are taken seriously and every effort is made to respond to individual complaints.

The number of deliveries per day – for economic reasons, Royal Mail reduced the delivery service to one delivery per day.

Direct Marketing (junk mail) – this mail is delivered at the request of customers and is not generated by Royal Mail itself. Postmen receive extra payment for delivering these items and it is an important revenue stream for Royal Mail. The ‘mail preference service’ only applies to items of ‘addressed’ mail and cannot be applied to global leafleting.

‘Door-stepping’ – this is the term applied to the practice of leaving parcels on the doorstep or hidden in outhouses, recycling bins etc. The delivery office is taking measures to stop this practice but it is often requested by customers.

There then followed a short period allowed for members to pose their own questions and for Mr Leach to provide answers.

Mr Leach and Mr Hamilton were thanked for their time and attendance and they then left the meeting.

There then followed a Powerpoint presentation by Mr Terry Marks of the Harbour Users Association setting out proposed plans for the regeneration of the Penzance harbour area. It was felt that the tremendous potential of Penzance harbour and Mount’s Bay is not being realised and that the area is therefore missing out on the revenue that recreational boating and marine sports can generate.

Mr Marks was seeking the support of the Town Council for the proposed plans and it was

**RESOLVED:** that this item should be taken forward for further discussion at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee.

## **75. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Reed declared a prejudicial interest in Finance and Property Committee minute 42(b) – ‘St Piran-in-Penwith’ as a member of the Organising Committee.

Councillor Parkin declared a prejudicial interest in General Purposes Committee minute 70 – ‘Golowan 2008 – Meeting of Management Group’ and Finance and Property Committee minute 41(g) – ‘Golowan 2008’ as a Festival co-ordinator.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in General Purposes Committee minute 64(j) (iii) – ‘Japanese Visitors in Penwith’.

Councillor Moreland declared a prejudicial interest in General Purposes Committee minute 71 'Market & Coastal Towns Initiative – 'Penzance Futures' Report.

In respect of Planning Committee minute 76 'New and amended planning applications' Councillor Reed declared a personal interest due to the proximity of his parents' home to the proposed new site for Penwith College and Councillors Dixon and Ruhrmund declared a personal interest as members of PDC Planning Committee and did not take part in the vote.

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

General Purposes Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008

Councillor Reed declared a prejudicial interest in minute 64(e) – 'St Piran's Day' as a member of the Organising Committee.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in minute 70 – 'Golowan 2008' – Meeting of Management Group, as a volunteer.

Councillor Reed declared a prejudicial interest in minute 72 – 'Report re Montol Event – December 2007' as Chairman of the Organising Committee.

Councillor Lovegrove declared a personal interest in minute 64(k) – 'Morrisons – Request for Financial Assistance re Bus Service for Disabled Customers' as a member of the original discussion group.

Councillor Perry declared a personal interest in minute 64(f) – 'Postal Service – Letters of Complaint Received' as a recipient of a Post Office pension.

Councillors Clark and Rendle declared a personal interest in minute 69 – 'One Cornwall' as members of Mebyon Kernow.

Penlee House and Park Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008

No declarations of interest were received.

Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008

In respect of application number 1453/07 – Mr D Hosking, The Bungalow, Rosemorran Farm, Gulval – Councillor PCH Rendle declared a personal interest as he knew the applicant.

In respect of application number 079/J/07 – Mr K Werrell, The End House, Foster Place, New Street, Penzance – Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest as she knew the applicant and in respect of application number 1444/07 – Dr Armstrong and Partners, 2-3 Morrab Road, Penzance – Councillor F Granger declared a prejudicial interest as a friend of the applicant and Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest as she knew a neighbour of the applicant.

Planning Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008

In respect of application number 1469/07, The Responsible Board, The Lescudjack Centre, Penzance – Councillor T Williams declared a prejudicial interest as a member of the

Management Board and in respect of application number 0033/08 – Truro College, new development at Penwith College – Councillors P Rendle and J Moreland declared a personal interest as representatives of Penzance Civic Society.

**Finance and Property Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

Councillor J Dixon declared a prejudicial interest in minute number 41(i) – ‘Golowan Community Arts’ as former Chairman of this 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.

**76. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 having been circulated prior to the meeting, it was

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

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

**(a) STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS**

- (i) Olivier Simonin, Traditional Market Ltd in the sale of continental food and non-food produce at Penzance Harbour Car Park from 14<sup>th</sup> to 17<sup>th</sup> August 2008 it was

**RESOLVED:** not to object to the application.

- (ii) Mrs S Mitchell, Madron Parochial Church Council in the sale of cakes, jams, preserves, plants, books and homemade produce at the lower end of Causewayhead on 24<sup>th</sup> May and 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2008 it was

**RESOLVED:** not to object to the application.

- (iii) Rotary Club of Penzance for the parking of a St John’s Ambulance at Market Place on Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 to take people’s blood pressure it was

**RESOLVED:** not to object to the application.

**78. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor announced that he was looking forward to attending the Rotary Club of Penzance President’s Night on 5<sup>th</sup> February and ‘Rotary Youth Speaks 2008’ Competition on 6<sup>th</sup> February.

79. **QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24**

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

80. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

It was

**RESOLVED:** to consider all confidential appendices at the end of the meeting.

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008**

- (i) **Confidential Appendix ‘A’ – Name of Council (Minute 64(c))**

Although there was agreement in principle to the proposed change of name it was

**RESOLVED:** that this item should be discussed further during the next cycle of meetings and to include consideration that the title ‘Town Mayor’ should be extended to include the ancient title ‘Portreeve of Newlyn’.

- (ii) **Nomination Process for Honorary Officers and Representatives to Outside Bodies of CALC (Minute 64(h)(ii))**

Councillor Clark was grateful for being nominated to the position of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of CALC but felt that he was not the right person for this role and nominated Councillor Roy Mann to go forward and it was

**RESOLVED:** that Councillor Mann should be put forward as the Town Council’s nominee for the role of Chairman or Vice-Chairman of CALC.

- (iii) **Advertising of Town Council Agendas and Minutes (Minute 64(i))**

It was agreed that a regular column in the Cornishman could be beneficial in raising the profile and making people more aware of the activities of the Town Council and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the Cornishman should be approached in respect of the possibility of having a regular weekly column in the newspaper.

- (iv) **Bendigo/Nevada City Twinning Group – Update (Minute 64(m))**

Councillor Freeman advised members that the decision to invite members of St Just Town Council to join the Twinning Group originated from the strong heritage links that St Just shares with Bendigo through the mining industry and it was

**RESOLVED:** to formally invite the three councillors from St Just who had expressed an interest to join the Twinning Group.

- (v) Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team – Update from Councillor Cotton (Minute 67(a))

Councillor Cotton reported that two meetings of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team had taken place during the last cycle and a public meeting had been organised on 24<sup>th</sup> January by Andrew George MP. It appeared that the future of West Cornwall Hospital as a front-line hospital was still a long way off and the CT scanner that was due to be installed at WCH would now not be put into place until the next financial year and most of the pathology department would be transferred to Royal Cornwall Hospital in Truro. It also appeared doubtful whether a fully functioning A&E Department could be hoped for in the near future due to the lack of out of hours anaesthetic cover and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

- (vi) THI – Minutes of Meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2007 and Notification of Meeting to be held on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (Minute 68(a))

With regard to the water feature at the Humphry Davy Statue in Market Jew Street, it was generally felt that it would be premature to replace it at this stage and a proposal was put forward that Penwith District Council should be asked if engineering works could be conducted to make the feature less high maintenance and the police should be approached with a view to focussing one of the CCTV cameras on the feature in order to deter and/or monitor vandalism and also suggest the possibility of switching the water off on Friday and Saturday evenings when vandalism appeared to be at its worse. The situation could then be monitored and reviewed at a later date.

A recorded vote was conducted the results of which are as follows:

R Clark	Abstained
MR Cotton	Abstained
CA Dennis	Against
JH Dixon	For
M Freeman	Against
F Granger	For
M Lovegrove	For
RM Lawrence	For
RA Mann	Against
JF Moreland	For
D Nebesnuick	Against
J Parkin	For
KLW Perry	Abstained
SJ Reed	For
PCH Rendle	Against
J Ruhrmund	For

and it was

**RESOLVED:** to accept the proposal.

- (vii) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group – Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008 – Verbal Report from Town Clerk plus Penzance Harbour Business Plan (Minute 68(c))

The Town Clerk advised that the Penzance Harbour Business Plan should be cleared for availability in the public domain by 20<sup>th</sup> February and a copy would then be obtained by the Town Clerk's Office and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

- (viii) 'One Cornwall' (Minute 69)

The Town Clerk advised that the following information had been received:

- Invitation to Electoral Commission Meeting on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> February from 3pm to 5pm in the Berlewen Building, Pool, Redruth.
- Notification of a website hosting a forum where members of all Cornish Parish and Town councils can share their views.
- Issue Paper from PDC sent to all who attended the Town and Parish Seminar held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2007 in Queens Hotel.

At this point the Town Clerk also informed members that Martin Eddy, the newly appointed Town and Parish Council Lead, would attend an informal meeting of the Town Council at 7pm on Monday 11<sup>th</sup> February in Committee Room 3, St John's Hall and members were asked to provide any questions in writing beforehand and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

- (ix) Meeting with Penwith District Council Joint Implementation Executive Representative – 21<sup>st</sup> January 2008 (Minute 69(c))

With regard to the proposal to defer elections until 2013, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the recommendation that Penzance Town Council should call upon government to ensure that elections of councillors for the parish of Penzance are next held on the ordinary day of election of councillors in 2009 and every four years thereafter.

In respect of these elections, Penzance Town Council should seek to pilot the single transferable voting system (in accordance with Recommendation 21 of the Report of the Councillors Commission of December 2007).

Councillor Clark further proposed that Penzance Town Council should invite two delegates and the clerk of the councils of Hayle, Marazion, St Ives and St Just to a meeting in Penzance to discuss One Cornwall strategies.

- (x) Report of Councillors Commission (Minute 69(d))

Councillor Clark recommended that all members read this document that should then be discussed at the next meeting of the General Purposes Committee and it was

**RESOLVED:** to note the position.

- (xi) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative – ‘Penzance Futures’ Report – Formal Response to Document to be made at Full Council on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2008 (Minute 69(d))

Given that much of the Penzance Futures report had been subsumed into the Penzance/Newlyn Area Action Plan, it was

**RESOLVED:**

- a) to note receipt of the Penzance Futures document and  
b) that the Council should hold a special meeting to consider its response to the Area Action Plan – proposed date Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February prior to the General Purposes Committee meeting.

Subject to the above, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

- (b) **Penlee House and Park Committee – 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2008**

- (i) Confidential Appendix ‘A’ – Proposed New ‘Eco’ Education Building (Minute 36(c))

It was

**RESOLVED:** to take this item forward to the next cycle of meetings for further consideration.

Subject to the above it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

- (c) **Planning Committee – 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2008**

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

- (d) **Planning Committee – 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2008**

The Town Clerk reported an amendment to minute 76 ‘New and Amended Planning Applications’ that should have included the plans for Penwith College. The plans were then made available for members to review and it was

**RESOLVED:** to support the application overall but to express concern with regard to possible noise from the proposed 45ft. wind turbine.

Additional items to be resolved from the Planning Committee meeting:

- (i) Correspondence from Penwith Housing Association re Felling of Trees (Minute 72(d))

It was noted that the stump of the tree to be felled would remain in place and it was

**RESOLVED:** to support Councillor Moreland's approach to Penwith Housing Association that the stump could be transformed into a sculpture.

- (ii) Tree Preservation order – Emergency Order at Pendarves House, Penzance

It was noted that health and safety should be taken into account when dealing with eucalyptus trees which are prone to crack but, nevertheless, it was

**RESOLVED:** to support the TPO.

- (iii) Bosvenna Way, Heamoor – Safer Routes to School

Cornwall County Council had brought forward plans to provide a raised crossing area in the cul de sac leading to the primary school and it was

**RESOLVED:** to support the proposal.

- (iv) Installation of New Street Lighting – Creeping Lane and Love Lane

It was

**RESOLVED:** to support the proposal.

- (v) Cornwall County Council Proposed Extinguishment of Footpath No. 74 at Mousehole

The Town Clerk advised that he would review the footpath and discuss the proposed closure with the local residents before the consultation deadline of 22<sup>nd</sup> February and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the views of the residents would be supported.

Subject to the above, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee – 24<sup>th</sup> January 2008**

- (i) Confidential Appendix ‘A’ – Golowan 2008 and Golowan Community Arts (Minute 41(g))

Councillor Parkin, having declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 41.(g) Golowan 2008, left the meeting and the Town Clerk advised that he wished the staffing structure item to be revisited and it was

**RESOLVED:** to take this item forward to the next cycle for further consideration.

Councillors Dixon and Ruhmund, having declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 41(i) Golowan Community Arts, left the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the recommendation be accepted.

- (ii) Confidential Appendix ‘C’ – St Piran-in-Penwith Minute 42(b))

It was

**RESOLVED:** To accept the resolution.

Subject to the above, it was

**RESOLVED:** to adopt the report and confidential appendices.

81. **Town and Parish Polls**

The Town Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Councillor Derek Thomas of St Ives Conservatives advocating a poll to be held by town and parish councils on whether or not there should be a referendum on the adoption of the Reform Treaty of the European Union. Carrying out such a poll would entail considerable funding by the Town Council and although members overwhelmingly felt that a poll should not be held, it was

**RESOLVED:** that a ruling from Penwith District Council should be awaited.

The time having reached 10:00pm, it was

**RESOLVED:** to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the business of the meeting to be concluded.

82. **Department for Communities and Local Government – Consultation on Orders and Regulations relating to Conduct of Local Authority Members in England**

The above consultation document had been circulated to members prior to the meeting and it was

**RESOLVED:** that the document should be adopted.

10:02pm

Town Mayor  
10<sup>th</sup> March 2008