

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 25th February 2008 at 8.25 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor C.A. Dennis (Chairman)

Councillors R. Clark
M. Freeman
F. Granger
R.M. Lawrence
M. Lovegrove
K.L.W. Perry
P.C.H. Rendle
H. Worth

73. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors S.J. Reed and C.A.C. White.

74. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillors R. Clark, P. Rendle and R.M. Lawrence declared personal interests in minute 82, Councillors Clark and Rendle as members of Mebyon Kernow and Councillor Lawrence as a member of the Cornish Constitution.

75. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 21ST JANUARY 2008**

Having been circulated, it was

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

76. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Information re. Penwith Community Radio**

Information regarding the launch of Penwith Community Radio had been copied to all members for information and the Project Manager was Gary Palmer who was also Project Leader in respect of the 'Everybody Online' facility at Newlyn Trinity Centre.

The radio station was a volunteer community based initiative operating initially on the internet but soon to be applying for a FM broadcasting licence and it provided the opportunity for volunteers to be involved either as editors or as roving reporters and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) **Copy of Letter to Respondents following Royal Mail Presentation to Full Council**

For the record, the Town Clerk advised that Councillor Freeman had written to all those who had taken the trouble to contact the Town Council with issues concerning the Royal Mail.

John Leach, the Royal Mail representative who had presented at the full Town Council Meeting on the 4th February had impressed on members his wish to establish good links with the Council in order to be able to respond to issues raised by parishioners and it was felt that this was a useful point of contact which should be maintained and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Proposal re. Creation of Archive at The Newlyn Centre

The Town Clerk advised of the above proposal being put forward by the group which had formed to research the Newlyn's Water Project which had resulted in restoration work to a number of physical features in Newlyn and the production of a book of that title.

In the course of the collection of documents, photographs and stories about Newlyn, it had been felt that it would be of benefit to create an archive relating to Newlyn's history which could be housed locally at the Newlyn Centre and to be titled 'The Archive at the Centre'.

Members readily agreed to support this proposal and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write to the group accordingly advising them of the potential for grant aid for appropriate storage containers and to consider digitisation as part of the access process for archive material.

(d) Information re. Picture Penzance Website

The Town Clerk advised of a new website on which there had been a television article and coverage in 'The Cornishman' newspaper on the 23rd January 2008.

The site address was www.picturepenzance.co.uk and the creator of the site was enquiring as to what use the Town Council could make of the site and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should investigate with Councillor Clark the provision of a link to this site from the Town Council's website.

(e) Budget Consultation 2008/09 - Report from Councillors Cotton and Clark

Councillor Clark advised that he had attended the above consultation session and had been advised that the District Council's level of Council Tax increase for the forthcoming year would be limited to 2½ per cent and it was understood that the District Council's budget had now been approved.

Some concern had been expressed with regard to the rate of increase which may be required for the year 2009/2010 and of the amount of work which needed to be carried out during the forthcoming year on the part of the Unitary Authority to arrange for the collection of Council Tax and it was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Clark's verbal report be noted.

(f) Notice of Extraordinary and Annual General Meetings of Penwith Area Crime Prevention Group

Notice had been given of the above meetings to be held on Tuesday 26th February to which

Councillor Lovegrove, the Council's representative, had been invited together with the Town Mayor.

The Extraordinary Meeting related to proposals put forward by DACCWA and the police which would affect the way in which this group and Neighbourhood Watch Groups would operate.

At the AGM, following the Extraordinary Meeting, Mr. John Garrison indicated that he would not be standing as chairman of the group again and nominations were being sought for this position and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter of appreciation be sent to John Garrison for his considerable contribution to crime prevention work in the area.

(g) St. Piran-in-Penwith Celebration - Friday 29th February 2008

Members had been invited to the above celebration, with the day commencing at 10.00 am at St. John's Hall followed by a procession which would form up at the top of Causewayhead and which would progress to the bottom of Market Jew Street, returning to St. John's Hall by 11.00 am for refreshments.

The day would conclude with an evening concert in St. John's Hall and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) Attendance at CALC Conference on 4th February 2008

Councillor Lawrence advised that, together with Councillor Mann, he had attended the above conference but that neither member had been successful in the ballot for the post of Outside Representative and chairman of CALC. It was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillors Lawrence and Mann be thanked for attending the conference and for agreeing to stand for the above mentioned positions.

(i) Correspondence re. Animal Aid's New Compassionate Charter

The Town Clerk advised that he had received a communication from this organisation which was dedicated to campaigning for a Compassionate Charter to ensure a cruelty free world in respect of the animal kingdom.

The letter requested the adoption of an ethical policy on the part of the council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the letter be copied to members for the full Town Council Meeting to allow consideration of this request.

(j) PACT Meeting - 11th March 2008

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Perry had now been confirmed as the council's representative on this group and any member wishing to raise an issue for the meeting should notify Councillor Perry accordingly and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(k) Correspondence from Penwith District Council re. Closure of Public Conveniences

The communication from the District Council dated the 17th January 2008 had been copied to members for information and indicated that because of acts of vandalism, the toilets at Newlyn Mission, Wherrytown and Alexandra Road were now being closed at 4.00 pm each day and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(l) 'Local Works' - The Sustainable Communities Bill Becomes Law

As members were aware from press coverage, the above Bill had now become an Act of Parliament.

This meant that by the Autumn of 2008, the Government must ask every council to submit suggestions of ways that it can help the council to prepare the community to become more sustainable.

The council, in turn, has to ask citizens for their views through the setting up of Citizens Panels and it was confirmed that this would be a requirement on the part of Unitary Authorities and District Councils but would not fall as a requirement to Town and Parish Councils and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(m) Meeting with Representative of Causewayhead Traders on Various Issues including 'Plastic Bag Free Town'

The Town Clerk advised that he had met with Jean Barry, a representative of Causewayhead, with a view to taking forward the specific issue relating to the creation of a plastic bag free town.

Jean Barry had indicated that traders would be prepared to be involved in this project and further detail would be required as to how the scheme would operate and staff would obtain such information in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(n) Correspondence from Recycle for Cornwall - Meetings in the Six District Council Areas - Penwith Meeting - Friday 7th March 2008, Committee Room No. 1, Penwith District Council Office

Members had been invited to attend the above meeting to 'talk rubbish'.

The issues under discussion were:-

- (a) The new strategy to reduce waste in Cornwall;
- (b) The services offered to local communities;
- (c) How you can help

The day would run from 9.30 am to 3.00 pm to include refreshments and lunch and if members wished to register, the form was available from the Town Clerk's Office and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(o) 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.

(p) Reports from Outside Bodies (Opportunity for Members to Report)

The Town Clerk advised that the latest proposed CCTV Meeting had been cancelled because of ongoing work with the CCTV upgrade and the date set for the next meeting was now the 24th April.

Members were interested to learn of progress being made in respect of the upgrade and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk should write to the Project Lead in this matter.

NB - see letter attached re. CCTV received from Penwith District Council.

Councillors Lovegrove and Perry referred to the recent Police Liaison Meeting held in St. Ives (should have been Penzance but Hall not available) and advised that the meeting had been lively and informative and that they would press for a Penzance meeting as soon as possible. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

The Town Clerk advised of additional items for information, or which could be discussed at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting, as follows:-

- (i) Larger Councils Conference in London, Thursday/Friday 24th/25th April;
- (ii) Enjoy England - Celebrate St. George's Day;
- (iii) Alcohol Designated Spaces Order 2008 (letter to be copied to members for information); (**NB** current schedule of designated spaces available in the office)
- (iv) Festival of the Arts in Newlyn (again, letter to be copied to members for Information)

77. STREET TRADING APPLICATIONS

(a) Mr. G. Barratt - Kernow Signs

April to December on Fridays only in Market Jew Street in the sale of bespoke house signs and it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

The Town Clerk advised of one further application which had been received since the setting of the agenda as follows:-

Jean-Francois Lasnon to trade at Market Place on the 24th May 2008 from 9.00 am to 5.00 pm with a continental market and it was

RECOMMENDED: that comment be made at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting.

78. **LICENSING - REPORT OF LICENSING COMMITTEE/POLICE MEETING ON 4TH FEBRUARY 2008**

This matter would be left open for a report by Councillor White at the full Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

Councillor Granger was the Town Council's representative on this group and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Dennis be nominated to serve as his deputy.

79. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its finances to the 31st January 2008 and it was

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

80. **HEALTH MATTERS**

(a) **General Update**

This matter would be left open to enable Councillor Cotton to provide an update at full Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

Councillor Lawrence referred to the Public Meeting convened by Andrew George, MP at which the Chief Executive of the RCH Trust had advised that the CT scanner would be installed at West Cornwall Hospital by the beginning of April (Councillor Worth advised that the CT scanner was actually being installed this week). Councillor Lawrence wished to ensure that staff had received appropriate training by this date and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the RCH Trust Chief Executive accordingly.

(b) **Information re. Pathology Service**

The report relating to changes to the Pathology Service had been copied to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

Concern was expressed that it was not acceptable that specimens taken by GPs and consultants now have to go to Treliske for analysis and it was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED: that this matter be left open to receive the view of Councillor Cotton on behalf of the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team at full Council.

81. **REGENERATION MATTERS**

(a) Report of THI Meeting - 13th February 2008

The Town Clerk advised that this had been a very positive meeting with confirmation received that a number of properties had been brought forward for consideration for grant aid from the THI Project which included the Abbey Warehouse Scheme which was now proceeding with a view to completion some time in July.

It was hoped that all available monies would now be expended within the scheme and the Town Clerk would, in due course, provide details of properties confirmed as proceeding within the scheme or otherwise showing their status in relation to their application and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Report of Penzance Regeneration Management Group Meeting - 21st February 2008

The Town Clerk advised that he would provide a written summary report from this meeting as soon as possible.

With regard to the Harbour Business Plan, the Town Clerk would obtain copies of the report which he had been given to understand could now be in the public domain and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

82. **'ONE CORNWALL'**

(a) Report re. Informal Meeting - 11th February 2008 and General Update

The Town Clerk advised that the notes of the meeting held on the 11th February 2008 would be circulated to members with the papers for the full Town Council Meeting and he further advised that he had not received a response from Martin Eddy to a number of points raised at that meeting.

The Town Clerk went on to advise of the invitation that had been received to a number of engagement events (no event actually being held) with the nearest being at the Berlewen Building, Trevenson Road, Pool on Thursday 30th March 2008 between 9.30 am and 4.00 pm.

The invitation was to the Chairman and Clerk, although the registration form indicated that any two representatives could attend.

Members noted that this number had been increased to four in respect of the meeting held at the Surestart Centre at Lescudjack in 2007 and the Town Clerk would request that this number be repeated in respect of this event and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Public/Third Sector Property Register

The 'One Cornwall' team had written with regard to the production of a Joint Property

Register, with all sites and properties in the ownership of the six District Councils and the County Council now being mapped, which would enable an analysis of the balance for a demand for space to be considered and would include the provision of 'One Stop' shops.

A suggestion had been made that it may be useful to compile a wider register of property which may be available for use to help deliver services and the communication would be copied to all members to allow input at the forthcoming full Town Council Meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

With regard to elections, the Town Clerk advised that representation had been made to the Minister, John Healey, MP, in respect of elections to be held in 2009 at Town and Parish level and he had now been advised that this decision could be referred to the Joint Implementation Executive.

Members felt that the Minister should consult with all Town and Parish Councils on this issue and not leave the decision to the JIE and, that this point should be conveyed to the Minister and, in the meantime, a communication should go to the JIE requesting elections at Town and Parish level in 2009 and siting the instance of Ludgvan and Towednack where it had been agreed that the elections would be held in that year.

83. **NAME OF COUNCIL**

Referring to discussions during the previous cycle of meetings, it was

RECOMMENDED: that members give thought to a revised name for the civic parish area of Penzance and to bring forward suggestions to the meeting of the council during the May cycle.

84. **TOWN AND PARISH POLL RE. EU REFORM TREATY**

The Town Clerk advised that he had yet to clarify advice from the District Council in respect of the above and that he would report to full Council in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

85. **TWINNING WITH CUXHAVEN, GERMANY**

The Town Clerk advised of a letter which had been received from the Secretary of the Twinning organisation advising that following Local Government Re-organisation in 1974, the twinning, which had originally been with the Borough of Penzance, had been taken over by Penwith District Council.

With the demise of the District Council, the group were requesting that the Town Council provide administrative support for the group and the Town Clerk advised that he had discussed this matter with the staff and it was felt that such support could be provided and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the group be advised accordingly.

Councillor Clark referred to the twinning with Concarneau and referred to a set of minutes relating to the 2006 AGM, which had been somewhat harsh on the role of a twinning member

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and also on the role of the Town Council, and it was agreed that the Town Clerk bring this matter to the attention of Councillor Cotton.

9.55 pm

Chairman
19th May 2008