

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 28th February 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor MR Cotton (Chairman)

Councillors R Clark
JH Dixon
M Freeman
F Granger
RA Mann
CAC White

Also present: Councillor RM Lawrence

45. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors D Nebesnuick, SJ Reed, CAC White.

46. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in item 50 (a)(i) – Minor Awards – the Friends of Jubilee Pool, as a member of the Jubilee Pool Committee.

Councillor Clark declared a personal interest in item 50(a)(ix) – Minor Awards – Hammered Steel, as a friend of the Chairman of the band.

Councillor Mann declared a personal interest in item 50(a)(x) – Minor Awards – The John Daniel Centre Appeal, as a member of the board.

47. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 24TH JANUARY 2008**

Having been circulated, it was

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

48. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Update re Heritage Plaque Scheme – meeting 7th February 2008**

A brief written update on the progress of the Heritage Plaque Scheme was provided to members and although the group had discussed concentrating on Penzance town to start off with, the committee agreed that all areas of the parish should be considered equally from the outset and decisions should be based on the nominee not the area and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) Golowan 2008

The Town Clerk provided a brief verbal report on the activities of the Golowan Management Group and was pleased to report that funding of £26,500 would be provided by Penwith District Council.

Handover of the Barbican premises had taken place and a team of volunteers was already at work cleaning and sorting out the area and making it more comfortable. New telephone lines would be installed and a second computer purchased to complement the laptop already owned by the Town Council.

‘A1 Health and Safety’ (John Tremelling) had agreed to cover all aspects of health and safety again this year and a meeting had already taken place with the Town Clerk and the Festival Co-ordinator. Options in relation to the provision of the fairground were under consideration and the protection of the revenue stream had to be balanced against the appropriateness of the attractions provided.

A separate entertainment committee had been formed and there were several new ideas for 2008 including a circus event at the Union Street car park and a buskers competition on Newlyn Green on Quay Fair Day and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Cornwall County Council Pension Scheme – Actuarial Variation Report

The pension scheme report had been received from Cornwall County Council and it confirmed the employer’s contribution at 19.7% which would reduce to 19.6% in the forthcoming year and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(d) Staff Training – Finance, end of year procedure

The Town Clerk informed members that the Assistant Finance Officer (Paul Birch) would be attending a one day training seminar in Coventry on 5th March being held by the providers of the accounting package software and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) Correspondence from Audit Commission re appointment of external auditor and scale of fees

Correspondence had been received from the Audit Commission which advised that the scale of fees would remain unchanged until 2011-2012 (£2,500.00 per annum) and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

The next item, that had not appeared on the agenda, would be taken forward for consideration at full Council on the 10th March.

(f) Penlee Park Playgroup

The lease on the building occupied by Penlee Park Playgroup was due to expire on the 31st March 2008 but, due to the change in circumstances of the playgroup brought about by a lack of attendees, the group was proposing to operate on a volunteer basis and had therefore requested that the lease be extended for one year only to better assess the situation one year hence.

49. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

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

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the month of January and it was

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

50. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) The Friends of Jubilee Pool

The Friends of Jubilee Pool had hoped to make use of some of the brown tourist signage available in and around the town to promote the pool but had been too late for the application this year and it was

RESOLVED: that the Committee would review the possibility of providing financial assistance again next year and would also look into the possibility of providing assistance for the 2008 season.

(ii) WRVS Meals on Wheels Service in Penzance

The WRVS had written to the Town Council requesting assistance with the provision of 'non electric' food boxes that can be heated from a car cigar lighter socket which would ensure that the food remained hot for a longer period and thereby enable the volunteers to spend a little more time with the service users and it was

RESOLVED: to provide a grant of £313.25 for the purchase of five boxes and also that a letter should be sent to Cornwall County Council and central Government (with a copy to the Older People's Forum) objecting to the necessity for volunteer organisations to approach the lower levels of local authority with requests for financial assistance to provide such core services.

(iii) Home-Start West Cornwall

As Home-Start West Cornwall had already received a grant from the Town Council in the current financial year it was

RESOLVED: to carry this request forward to the next financial year.

(iv) West Cornwall 50+ Leisure Weeks

It was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(v) Cornwall County Playing Fields Association

It was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(vi) British Red Cross Appeal

It was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(vii) Building Poppies

It was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(viii) Mousehole Sea, Salts and Sail 2008

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.

The following additional applications for minor grants had been received after publication of the agenda and would be taken forward for consideration at the next full Council meeting on 10th March:

(ix) Hammered Steel

A locally based steel band operating as a community project and registered charity with a request for £105 towards the cost of replacement heads or skins for a drum kit. The Town Clerk was awaiting confirmation that members of the band were residents of Penzance.

(x) The John Daniel Centre Appeal

A request for The Town Council to place an advertisement in the programme for the charity concert taking place on Easter Sunday (23rd March) that was being organised to raise funds towards the cost of a hydrotherapy pool.

51. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

There were no items to report under this heading.

7:45pm

Chairman
22nd May 2008