

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in
Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 22nd May 2008
at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor MR Cotton (Chairman)
JH Dixon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R Clark
M Freeman
RA Mann
CAC White

Also present: Neil Badcock, Chairman, Penzance AFC

See notes of presentation in Confidential Appendix "C".

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors SJ Reed, H Worth.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in item 6.(a)(iv) – Minor Awards – Signage for Jubilee Pool – Friends of the Pool, as a member of the Friends.

Councillors Dixon and White declared a personal interest in the latter discussions that formed part of item 4.(i) – Verbal report re Golowan 2008 and works to the Barbican building, as former members of the Golowan Community Arts organisation.

3. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 28TH FEBRUARY 2008**

Having been circulated it was

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

4. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Resolution to exclude the press and public**

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

(b) **Link into Learning Building – renewal of lease**

See confidential Appendix "A".

(c) **Resolution to re-admit the press and public**

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public

- (d) Jewish Burial Ground – report of works to neighbouring property and railings on boundary wall

The Town Clerk reminded members that a new development taking place on the site adjoining the Jewish Burial Ground had caused some consternation to the custodians of the ground but these matters now appeared to have been resolved and the developer had agreed to re-instate the barbed-wire boundary fence. This fence would eventually be replaced with ornate railings once sufficient funding had been raised and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (e) The Local Government Pension Scheme in England and Wales

- (i) Sustainability of the scheme

The personal interest of staff members in this item was noted.

The Town Clerk informed members of changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme whereby a sliding scale had now been introduced that was linked to the level of remuneration but the employer contribution had remained unchanged at 19.7% and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (ii) Actuarial Valuation at 31st March 2007

The latest report on the Local Government Pension Scheme confirmed that the funds were in good health and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (iii) Abatement of pension in payment

Recent changes to the pension scheme now meant that anyone who left the scheme (whether through re-employment or retirement) and claimed their pension rights, could rejoin the scheme but could not earn a sum greater than their original salary when taking into account their pension entitlement and new salary. The pension in such cases would be reduced on a £1 for £1 basis and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (iv) Employer Bulletin re. contribution rate

This item was to confirm the employer contribution remaining at 19.7% (as reported in item 4.(e)(i) above and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Insurance issues – The Corporate Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter Act 2007

Members were informed that the Corporate Homicide and Corporate Manslaughter Act of 2007 was now on the statute book and if wilful neglect on the part of an individual was proved, that individual could be charged under the Act.

Due to the importance and complexity of this legislation, it was suggested that a member should be elected to review all the Town Council's health and safety risk assessments and method statements and it was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Clark should be elected to carry out this task.

(g) Thank You Letters

The Town Clerk reported that letters of thanks for grants had been received from the following organisations:

- (i) The Rotary Club of Mounts Bay – St Michaels Way Charity Walk
- (ii) Hammered Steel
- (iii) WRVS – Meals on Wheels Service
- (iv) Sea, Salts & Sail
- (v) The John Daniel Centre Appeal

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(l) Resolution to exclude the press and public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

(i) Verbal report re. Golowan 2008 and works to the Barbican building

See confidential Appendix "B".

(j) Resolution to re-admit the press and public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public

(k) Penlee Playgroup – extension to lease

The Town Clerk reported that Penlee Playgroup had been delighted that a one year extension to the lease of the building had been granted and they wished to pass on their thanks to the Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (l) Resolution to exclude the press and public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

- (m) Football Club Proposals – Presentation by Chairman of Penzance AFC

See confidential Appendix “C”.

- (n) Resolution to re-admit the press and public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public

5. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

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

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The Committee also considered payments made in the months of February and March and it was

RESOLVED: to approve such payments (see Appendix “D” for both financial position and payments made).

It was further

RESOLVED: that, due to the unavoidable delays in the renovation and resurfacing of the equipment at Wherrytown Skate Park, a contractor should be engaged to complete this work as a matter of urgency and that the account for the work carried out thus far should be settled.

6. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

- (a) Minor Awards

- (i) Penzance Cage Bird Society

The Penzance Cage Bird Society had written requesting assistance with the staging of their annual show at Mounts Bay School and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £30.

(ii) Penwith Senior Life Skills Exhibition for the Over 60's

This event, organised by Penwith District Council, aimed to introduce the over sixties to the huge variety of goods and services available in the Penwith Area and, the importance of raising the awareness of these services being recognised, it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £50.

(iii) Mounts Bay Harriers – Junior Aquathlon

Mounts Bay Harriers were organising a junior 'aquathlon' (swim/run) aimed at encouraging young people aged 8-16 years to be more active and become more interested in sporting activities and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.

(iv) Signage for Jubilee Pool – Friends of the Pool

The Friends of Jubilee Pool had written to the Town Council requesting financial assistance with establishing 'brown tourist signs' at Mount Misery, top of St Clare and either end of Alexandra Road, to highlight the existence of the pool and also a sign by St Anthony's Gardens opposite the pool so that visitors travelling from the east along the promenade would be more aware of the presence of the pool.

A grant of one third of the cost of the European 'brown signs' would be considered in September but, in the meantime, it was

RESOLVED: to support a temporary sign for the summer season in the sum of £100.

(v) Cornwall Blind Association – Bowling Equipment

The Cornwall Blind Association had written to request financial assistance with the purchase of bowling equipment and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £300.

Further requests for grant funding had been received from Shelter and Home Start after production of the agenda and would be taken forward to the next full Council meeting for consideration.

7. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE – 19TH MAY 2008

(a) St Piran's Day Holiday

The personal interest of those members of staff present at the meeting was noted.

Following a request from the Celtic League, the General Purposes Committee had recommended that a holiday for staff on St Piran's Day should be supported and, further, that

a recommendation should go to full Council that the adoption of St Piran's Day as a public holiday for all Cornwall should be supported and it was

RECOMMENDED: that both recommendations by the General Purposes Committee should be taken forward to the next full Council meeting for consideration.

- (b) Resolution to exclude the press and public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

- (c) Website Management

See confidential Appendix "E".

- (d) Resolution to re-admit the press and public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public

PENLEE HOUSE AND PARK COMMITTEE – 20TH MAY 2008

- (a) Storen Security System

In order to improve security in Penlee Park, the Town Clerk's Office had contacted the Storen Security Company that operated the walkie-talkie system linking local shops and Morrab Gardens with each other and the police force in order to share information concerning potential problems and crimes and to facilitate the speedy intervention of the police when an incident occurred. The cost of joining the system was £1 per day for the hire of the walkie-talkie and would mean the park staff having immediate access to back-up should any incident occur and it was

RESOLVED: to approve signing up to the system.

9:00pm

Chairman
3rd July 2008