

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 29th September 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor R Clark (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors MR Cotton
CA Dennis
JH Dixon
M Freeman
F Granger (left at 10:05pm)
RM Lawrence
M Lovegrove
JF Moreland
J Parkin
KLW Perry
SJ Reed (left at 8:25pm)
PCH Rendle
J Ruhrmund
CAC White
H Worth

ALSO PRESENT: Mr Neil Badcock, Penzance AFC re Development Proposals
Ms Sally Newby, Penwith District Council re Community Area Networks
Mr JEC Cartwright (member of the public)

Penzance AFC

A set of revised plans for the proposed re-development of Penzance football club were displayed for members to have view of them and there was an opportunity for Mr Badcock to answer any queries raised. The Deputy Mayor thanked Mr Badcock for his presence and he then left the meeting.

One Cornwall – Community Networks

Before Ms Newby gave her presentation, the Deputy Mayor reminded members that Ms Newby would be available to respond via email to any queries that were not answered at the meeting.

Ms Newby informed members that this was a preliminary presentation that was being provided for all town and parish councils and that would be followed in the coming months by more detailed discussions as the implementation of the unitary authority progressed.

Following Ms Newby's presentation, there was an opportunity for members to raise questions and concerns were expressed at the plan to 'cluster' Penzance in a Community Network with 14 other town/parish councils, some of which were very small and that operated on a very different basis to Penzance Town Council. Members felt that, on this

basis, allowing one vote per parish was not democratically fair and Ms Newby agreed to relay these concerns to the Implementation Executive.

Further concerns were raised about the future position of the MCTI and a request was made for a small delegation of town councillors to meet with the Implementation Executive to discuss the Community Network plans in detail and Ms Newby confirmed that she would be happy to arrange this.

The Deputy Mayor thanked Ms Newby for her presentation and she left the meeting.

42. **PRAYERS**

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

43. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors RA Mann, D Nebesnuick, TE Williams.

Absent without apologies: Councillor DJ Axford.

44. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest from the four standing committees were noted, in addition to which the following declarations were made:

Councillors Dixon and Ruhmund declared a personal interest in Finance & Property Committee Minute 18.(b) Penzance Football Club, as members of PDC Planning Committee and also as members of the Liberal Democrat Party whose headquarters building was a neighbour to the Football Club premises.

Councillors, Lovegrove, Moreland, White and Worth declared a personal interest in Finance & Property Committee Minute 18.(b) Penzance Football Club, as members of the Liberal Democrat Party for the reason shown above.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in Finance & Property Committee Minute 18.(i) Montol Festival, as Chairman of the group.

Councillor White declared a personal interest in Finance & Property Committee Minute 18.(o) Land at Gwel Lewern, Eastern Green, due to her involvement with the instigation of this matter.

Councillor Lawrence declared a personal interest in General Purposes Committee Minute 33. Health Matters, as a member of the Primary Care Co-ordination team.

It was

RESOLVED: to alter the order of business and take the Minutes of the Finance & Property Committee as the first Committee Minutes to be discussed.

45. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS**

The minutes of the following meetings:-

- (a) Full Council - 14th July 2008
- (b) Special Town Council - 5th August 2008

having been circulated, the following amendments were noted:

Full Council – 14th July 2008

Minute 34.(a) – at the time that Councillor Dixon requested that ways be found to shorten the agenda and minutes of the General Purposes Committee, it was agreed that items for information should be listed separately.

Page 19 – the spelling of the word ‘Stannary’ would be amended in the Minute book.

Special Town Council – 5th August 2008

It was noted that Councillors Parkin and Worth were present at the meeting and not absent and this would be duly amended in the Minute book.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: that, the minutes should be signed as true and correct records.

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

There were no items to be dealt with.

47. **TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Deputy Mayor made reference to the Town Mayor and informed members that he was making good progress following his operation.

Members were reminded of the forthcoming events which they were asked to attend, if possible:

- Paul Feast – Sunday 12th October
- Trafalgar Thanksgiving – Sunday 19th October
- Remembrance Sunday – Sunday 9th November.

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

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

49. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

It was

RESOLVED: to consider all confidential appendices and/or receive such appendices as the final item of business.

(a) **Finance/Property Committee – 18th September 2008**

(i) **Penzance Football Club – presentation by Chairman of the Club (Minute 18(b))**

Councillors Dixon and Ruhmund, having declared a personal interest, did not take part in the vote.

Following Mr Badcock's presentation, the need for clarification of the financial implications of the proposed re-development was expressed and the Town Clerk reminded members that before any formal application could be made for funding, planning consent on the proposal was required. Councillor Moreland raised concerns about the quality of the proposed architecture and whether it would be in keeping with the town in general and it was

RESOLVED: that a small delegation of councillors (to include Councillor Moreland and the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee) should meet with the Sustainable Development & Design Manager at PDC, Mr Badcock and the designer to discuss the plans and that, at the same time, the requirement for adequate disabled parking and access should be stressed and that the outcome of this meeting should be reported back to the Council at the next cycle of meetings.

[Note to members: Before a meeting could be arranged, the drawings were considered by the Design Panel and modifications made which will be brought to the council for consideration prior to a formal planning application being made.]

(ii) **Montol Festival (Minute 18(i))**

Councillor Reed addressed the meeting as the Chairman of the Montol Festival organising committee and informed members that plans were already underway to hold the Montol Festival again this year and that funding was being sought from various sources and he requested that the grant of £500 that had been provided by the Town Council in 2007 be approved again for 2008 and subsequent years and that the Festival again be covered under the Town Council's insurance policy. The Montol organisers were working closely with local businesses and it was hoped that the event would attract more trade to the town and it was

RESOLVED: to approve an annual grant of £500 for the Montol Festival and to include the event on the Town Council's insurance policy.

(iii) **Financial Position (Minute 19)**

It was

RESOLVED: to approve Councillor Freeman's proposal that an annual budget of £400 be set aside for the 'HMS Penzance Affiliation' (to be entered as a sub-heading to 'Official Functions').

(iv) **Business from other Committees – General Purposes (Minute 21(a))**

The Town Clerk informed members of the need to improve the infrastructure for erecting the town Christmas lights and that this could be carried out in stages, street by street, hopefully starting with Market Jew Street this year and he would be discussing the situation with the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance & Property Committee and it was

RESOLVED: to approve any additional expenditure with its source having been identified by the Town Clerk and approved by the above members under delegated powers.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(b) **General Purposes Committee – 15th September 2008**

(i) **Charles Terence Estates / PAS (Minute 29(a))**

The Town Clerk confirmed that a list of the properties included in the housing scheme had been received from Alan Hampshire and was held in confidence in the Town Clerk's Office.

Councillor Freeman informed the meeting that she would be unavailable for any forthcoming meetings over the next few months and asked that another representative be nominated to serve on the Consultative Panel and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillors Parkin and Rendle should represent the Town Council on the Consultative Panel.

(ii) **Amendment of the name of Penzance Town Council (Minute 29(b))**

Further to the discussions at the General Purposes Committee meeting, the Town Clerk suggested that Heamoor should be included in the list of areas that fall under the Town Council and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation that a strap line be added to the Council's letterhead that stated 'encompassing Gulval, Heamoor, Mousehole, Newlyn & Penzance.

(iii) **Bendigo/Nevada City Twinning Association (Minute 29(g))**

The Council took this opportunity to thank Councillor Freeman for her hard work in reviving the twinning association and it was.

RESOLVED: that thanks be recorded.

- (iv) Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association – report re delegation visit to Concarneau (Minute 29(h))

Councillor Cotton provided a verbal report on the visit to Concarneau that had taken place at the time of the ‘Filets Bleus’ celebrations in August and informed members that a change in local government in Concarneau and the election of a new Mayor had caused some difficulties in respect of the twinning arrangement but it was hoped that this would not impact on future relations and the gift of a copper plate designed by Newlyn Copper Works to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the twinning had been well received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

- (v) CCTV System – update report

Councillor Dennis asked if a date for the replacement of the camera that had been removed due to building works at M&Co on Market Jew Street could be procured and Councillor Ruhrmund confirmed that the camera should be back in position by the end of October but that some damage to the camera had occurred when it had been removed and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to PDC to ascertain whether the building company had accepted responsibility for the damage and was paying for the repair work.

- (vi) Post Office “Network Change Programme” (Minute 29(j))

The Town Clerk informed members that the official response from the Post Office regarding the proposed closure of post offices had been received and was available in the Town Clerk’s Office for any member who wished to have sight of this and it was

RESOLVED: that a letter would be sent to County Council supporting the planned judicial review (as per Minute 39 of the Special Town Council meeting of 5th August 2008).

- (vii) Police Matters (Minute 29 (ii) and (iii))

Councillor Moreland raised concerns about members of the public drinking alcohol in Penlee Park and behaving in a threatening manner and asked whether an increased police presence in the park could be requested and Councillor Freeman also mentioned the number of people seen drinking alcohol in the town centre and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Lovegrove would take these concerns to the local police force and would suggest that the problem of alcohol be addressed at the next PACT meeting.

(viii) Street Trading Applications (Minute 31)

The Town Clerk had been informed by the licensing office at PDC that the trading application by Jonathan Holmes actually entailed the sale of ice-cream and, as this was prohibited on the promenade, the application would be turned down and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(ix) Health Matters – Letter from ‘Keep Cancer Care in Cornwall Campaign’ to Editor of Health Service Journal (Minute 33(a))

Councillor Ruhrmund informed members that a public meeting would be taking place on Friday 3rd October in the Acorn Arts Centre which would be attended by Ann James, Chief Executive of Cornwall PCT and which would provide an opportunity for members of the public to ask questions about the future of cancer care in Cornwall.

However, Councillor Clark proposed that, in view of the Council’s recent support for the removal of gastrointestinal cancer surgery from Cornwall on clinical grounds, it would now be opportune to meet with Ann James to discuss the economic and psychological implications for patients and their families. Practical and financial assistance must be provided by central government to support patients who would be travelling considerable distances from their homes for treatment, including those who are not in receipt of the current specific qualifying benefits. It was essential that the PCT plays its part along with local elected representatives in ensuring that these issues are tackled constructively as a matter of urgency and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk would write to Ann James to arrange for a small delegation of Councillors to visit Ms James in her office to discuss these issues.

(x) Mayors Parlour Campaign Team meeting on 7th July 2008 (Minute 33(c))

Councillor Cotton reported that there were ongoing concerns regarding the removal of the pathology department from West Cornwall Hospital and the levels of service being supplied by the A&E department, the HDU and the lack of anaesthetic facilities and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(xi) Defra Consultation – “Our Seas – A Shared Resource”

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that a letter had been received from Defra in response to the request for clarification of the above document which appeared to be mainly a mission statement and did not deal with any issues in depth. A copy of the latest newsletter on the Marine Bill had also been received and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(xii) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group (Minute 34(b))

The Town Clerk confirmed that he had attended the meeting that took place on 18th September but the meeting had been poorly attended and the minutes would be provided in due course and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(xiii) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum (Minute 34(c))

It was reported that the Newlyn Fish Industry Forum was still very active but, due to limited funds being available, was having difficulty advertising and promoting its activities to local residents and the Forum had requested assistance with producing promotional literature that could be distributed to local businesses and residents and it was

RESOLVED: that a grant of £1,000 would be made with the stipulation that a local printing firm be used to produce the literature.

(xiv) Isles of Scilly Link Exhibition & Penzance Harbour Development (Minute 34(e)(i) and (ii))

Members were informed that a further exhibition was taking place in St John's Hall on Tuesday 30th September and a preview for councillors was available from 9:15 to 10:15 prior to the exhibition being opened to the public.

At this point it was

RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow Mr Cartwright to address the meeting.

Mr Cartwright spoke briefly on his alternative proposal to the Isles of Scilly Link project and expressed concerns about the viability of running a combined passenger/ freight ship, especially through the winter months and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should organise a public meeting and invite other stakeholders (Friends of Jubilee Pool, Civic Society, Harbour Users Association etc.) to attend in order to discuss the proposals and the meeting would be arranged on a date that would ensure the participation of the relevant Cornwall County Council officers.

(xv) Correspondence re Morrab Gardens and Pengarth Centre (Minute 35(g))

Members raised concerns about the need to review costings with Penwith District Council before negotiating over the future ownership of Morrab Gardens, however, the Town Clerk made members aware that the current system of managing open spaces would now not change dramatically under the Unitary Authority and it was

RESOLVED: that another meeting of the One Cornwall working party would be convened in the near future, once the Mayor was well enough to attend.

Councillor Rendle took this opportunity to refer to documents from the meeting of the Implementation Executive on 18th September that referred to changes in the planning process that could result in a decrease in the level of consultation involving town and parish councils and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(xvi) **Appointment of Honorary Freemen (Minute 38)**

The Town Clerk confirmed that, with the number of Honorary Freemen having now fallen below the minimum figure of 5 it was necessary to seek further appointments and it was

RESOLVED: that a special single item meeting of the Council would be convened to initiate the appointment process and it was stressed that the names of all candidates would be dealt with in strictest confidence.

(xvii) **Consultation on Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment – Methodology Scoping Report**

It was

RESOLVED: to approve the recommendation with the amendment that the working group would report to full Council.

(xviii) **Pending Resignation of Deputy Mayor (minute 40)**

Councillor Ruhmund took this opportunity to thank Councillor Clark, on behalf of the Council, for all his hard work and dedication to the Council over the past years.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(c) **Penlee House and Park Committee – 16th September 2008**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Confidential Appendices.

(d) **Planning Committee – 4th September 2008**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Planning Committee – 17th September 2008**

(i) **Residents' Parking (Minute 29(c))**

The Town Clerk informed members that consultation was being planned to lift the parking restrictions in the High Street and Belgravia Street area and it was

RESOLVED: that a meeting of Town and District Councillors for that area should be convened with officials from the Highways Department to discuss this issue and to try and resolve the problems it causes to local residents.

(ii) **Wharfside Application – 08-1154 (Minute 29(g))**

Councillor Rendle raised concerns over the large number of planning applications pertaining to the Wharfside Shopping Centre that had been submitted over the year which appeared to indicate a disconnected approach to the overall development of the area and it was

RESOLVED: to invite the Wharfside planners to attend a Planning meeting to discuss their overall plans and long-term vision.

The time having reached 10:00pm, it was

RESOLVED: to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the business of the Agenda to be completed.

(ii) **Wharfside Application cont'd**

Councillor Dennis informed members that there were plans to close the Wharfside Shopping Centre at night-time with security gates which would effectively cut off a popular walk through from the harbour to the town centre and this had been considered on the 4th September by the Planning Committee which had raised an objection and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

50. **Local Transport Plan – Provisional Progress Report Consultation**

The Town Clerk informed members that the consultation document received dealt very broadly with issues throughout Cornwall and the only issue specific to Penzance was the Tesco roundabout / Branwell Lane area. However, it was pointed out that this area held particular significance in relation to the alternative proposals put forward by the Harbour Users Association for the Isles of Scilly Route Partnership and an access road to the harbour area from the roundabout could be incorporated in any changes and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should complete the online consultation on behalf of the Town Council making mention of the proposed redevelopment of the harbour area and stressing the need for improved cycle way provisions.

At this point, Councillor Clark congratulated the Council on their endeavours on behalf of the town over the years, resigned his position as Deputy Mayor and as a Town Councillor and left the meeting.

It was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Rendle, as Civic Deputy, should chair the remainder of the meeting.

51. **Election of Deputy Town Mayor**

Councillor Rendle informed members that there had been only one nomination for the position of Deputy Mayor and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor Ruhmund should be appointed Deputy Mayor.

10:13pm

Town Mayor
17th November 2008