

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 3rd November 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor J. Ruhrmund (Chairman)
Councillor S.J. Reed (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R.M. Lawrence
 M. Lovegrove
 R.A. Mann
 J.F. Moreland
 D.J. Nebesnuick
 P.C.H. Rendle
 H. Worth

41. **POSITION OF CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE**

Councillor Ruhrmund advised that as she was now serving as Deputy Town Mayor, she felt it appropriate to resign as Chairman of the General Purposes Committee and it was unanimously

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor S.J. Reed as Chairman.

The Town Clerk advised that the position of Vice-Chairman would now appear as an agenda item during the December cycle of meetings.

42. **RESOLUTION TO VARY THE ORDER OF BUSINESS**

It was

RESOLVED: to vary the order of business so that the item on "Report re. 'Education' as a standing item" be taken directly after the Town Clerk's Report.

43. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors C.A. Dennis, M. Freeman and K.L.W. Perry

44. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R.M. Lawrence declared a personal interest in all matters pertaining to health.

45. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 15TH SEPTEMBER 2008**

Having been circulated, it was

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

46. REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

(a) Public Notice of Casual Vacancy and Timetable for Election Process

The Town Clerk reminded members that the vacancy had been caused by the resignation of Councillor Clark and had been advertised in the local press on the 16th October 2008.

The closing date by which 10 electors or more of East Ward could require the District Council to call an election was the 5th November 2008 and if no election was called, the co-option process would begin with an advertisement in the local press on the 13th November and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(b) The Making and Enforcement of Byelaws - Consultation

A summary of the proposed changes to the procedure for making and enforcing byelaws had been copied to all members in advance of the meeting.

The Town Clerk had prepared a proposed response but, in the meantime, a more detailed response had been received from the Local Associations Information Service and this too had been copied to members. It was

RECOMMENDED: that the LAIS response be adopted by the council subject to a change at question 7 where the comment would be “yes” instead of the “no comment” shown. The LAIS response paper now appears as Appendix “C” to the minutes.

(c) Appointment of Honorary Freeman

Following the resolution of the Town Council to proceed with the appointment of Honorary Freeman, the criteria had been copied to all members with an indication that a Special Meeting of the council would take place in the New Year with a view to the Appointment Ceremony being held in the Spring 2009.

Members were asked to note that the closing date for nominations was the 31st December 2008 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Police Matters

(i) E-Mail Correspondence re. Tackling Alcohol Abuse

Following comments made by members at the full Town Council Meeting on the 29th September, Councillor Lovegrove had followed up the issue of drinking in public spaces where the practice was prohibited by law.

A copy of the response from Inspector Eccles confirmed that Police Officers and PCSOs were continually confiscating alcohol as early as 10.00 am and there was a proposal to

introduce zero tolerance in respect of this practice. A copy of a response from a PCSO also confirmed the action being taken on the ground in respect of alcohol abuse and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

In terms of the attendance of police at council meetings, it was felt it would be of more benefit if the Inspector was able to attend full Town Council meetings and an invitation would be extended to Mark Eccles to attend the next meeting of the council to introduce himself.

If Inspector Eccles agreed to attend future meetings, the Town Clerk would reintroduce the practice of inviting questions from members in advance, which would be forwarded to the Inspector to enable a response to be made at the meeting, and it was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(e) PACT – Report of Meeting on 11th September 2008

This item would remain open to enable Councillor Perry to report at full council if he had attended the meeting and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Consultation on Changes to the Codes of Conduct for Local Authority Members and Employees

The Town Clerk had ordered a copy of the above document for each member and with a closing date for comment of the 24th December 2008, the consultation document would be dealt with through the December cycle of meetings and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) List of 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 the position be noted.

In addition to the circulars listed, the Town Clerk advised that the papers for the Penwith District Council Resource Committee meeting to be held on the 5th November 2008 and the Fisherman’s Mission’s Network Newsletter had also arrived and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(h) Reports from Outside Bodies

(i) Cornwall Association of Local Councils

Councillor Rendle advised that he had not been able to attend the meeting of this organisation on the 8th October 2008 but the papers, when received, would be made available to members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(ii) CTE/PAS Consultative Group Meeting

Councillor Rendle advised that he had attended the above meeting on the 13th October and advised that an update and overview of the role of PAS had been received from the Managing Director of PAS Limited and information had been provided in respect of the sub-leasing option by a representative of Adult Social Care.

Councillor Ruhrmund had also attended the meeting and advised that it was proposed that a police representative would be present at future meetings of the Consultative Group and, in respect of concerns raised about the grouping together of properties in one area of town, it was noted that it was proposed to change this practice but a query was raised as to how this might be achieved, given that there was a 25 year lease on a number of the properties concerned, and the Town Clerk would raise this issue with the District Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(iii) Minutes of P-TAG Meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on the 18th September 2008 had been received and were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(i) Items for Information

For future meetings, it was felt that items for information could also be listed as an appendix, with members requested to give advance notice of any issue which they would require further information on or discussion on at the meeting. Items for information in respect of this meeting now appear at Appendix "B".

47. **REPORT RE. 'EDUCATION'**

The paper prepared by Councillor Nebesnuick entitled "The Significance of the Provision of Education within the Penzance Parish Area" had been copied to all members for information.

The paper now appears as Appendix "D" and Councillor Nebesnuick spoke to the paper, referring to the fact that healthcare provision appears as a standing item, and he felt that the provision of education was also of such importance that it should appear as a standing item to be discussed by the committee.

Members, having read the detail of the proposals by Councillor Nebesnuick, felt that the most appropriate way forward would be to seek to support schools in the positive aspects of their work and to look at ways in which the Town Council could support schools in their work within the community. It was

RECOMMENDED: that Councillor Nebesnuick move the matter forward in the manner described above as an introduction to education as a standing item and the matter would appear for updates on future agendas.

48. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its financial position to the 30th September 2008 which was represented by nil expenditure and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position (see Appendix “E”).

In respect of the erection of Christmas lights, the Town Clerk advised that it had not been possible to introduce a permanent infrastructure this year due to time and cost but that he would bring forward a proposal, in terms of the financing of this proposal, during the budgetary process.

Having said this, the installation of a temporary infrastructure was being investigated in respect of Market Jew Street and Market Place and, in any event, it had been agreed to hire lights, non LED, on a one year basis in respect of Market Jew Street and Market Place and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

49. **STREET TRADING**

(a) Holly Rothchild

Application to trade in jewellery, clothes, crafts, etc. at the Jubilee Pool on Saturday 23rd May 2009 (opening day) – proceeds to go to the Jubilee Pool. Councillor J. Ruhmund declared a personal interest as a Penwith District Council representative on this Association. It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(b) Antonia Agnew/Sara Eckersley

Application to trade in vegetarian food – Middle Eastern from a mobile trailer on Saturday 13th and Saturday 20th December 2008 at Market Place. It was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

(c) Correspondence re. A ‘Farmers’ Market in Penzance and Report of Meeting on 23rd October 2008

Councillor Ruhmund and the Town Clerk had attended a meeting on the 23rd October organised by Rob Pool, the Rural Economy Officer at Penwith District Council.

A number of interested parties had attended and it had been agreed to invite a representative of the National Farmers' Market Association to make a presentation to the group which, although in its early stages, was looking to formalise its activity and to adopt a constitution.

Further information would be provided for the Town Council in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that at this stage a letter of support be sent to the group.

(d) E-Mail from 'Dibb Events' re. Penzance as a Market Venue

The above organisation had approached the Town Council with regard to larger one-off events such as those held on Bank Holidays at the Wharfside Car Park.

The Town Clerk had referred the market operator to Penwith District Council but, again, it was felt that such events were of value to the commercial sector and residents alike and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter of support be sent to the District Council's Licensing Section.

50. **HEALTH MATTERS**

Councillor R.M. Lawrence declared a personal interest as a member of LINK.

(a) Correspondence re. The Suspension of the Chief Executive of Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust

Members noted that Penwith District Council had become involved in the above issue and, after discussion, it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the Secretary of State and the Chairman of the Strategic Health Authority, pointing out that improvements had been made within the Trust which may be put in jeopardy in the absence of a Chief Executive and requesting that the matter be resolved as a matter of urgency.

(b) Confirmation of Meeting with Ann James, Chief Executive of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT

Following on from the Town Council's support for the transfer of Cancer services, a meeting had been requested with Ann James to look at the ways in which the issues of travel to receive such services, both in financial and psychological terms, be addressed. The letter had requested a meeting with Ann James, to be attended by a small delegation of Town Councillors.

A two hour slot had been offered on the 20th November 2008 and members felt that it was important to be fully prepared for such a meeting which could not stray into issues relating to the running of West Cornwall Hospital which was not within Ann James remit.

The Town Clerk would discuss the matter with Councillor Cotton, the Town Council's representative on the Mayor's Parlour Campaign Team, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be considered further at the full Town Council Meeting.

(c) Health Promotion News – Issue 46, Autumn 2008

A copy of the above newsletter had been received and was available to any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

51. **REGENERATION**

(a) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership – Correspondence following Public Exhibition on 30th September 2008 including Response from Cornwall County Council re. Request for Public Meeting

In discussing this issue, Councillor Ruhmund declared an interest and made it clear that her comments were based on the information currently available and did not commit her to taking the same position when the matter was discussed at the District Planning Committee.

The letter from Tim Wood, the Project Leader of the County Council, had been copied to all members for information and had indicated that it was not felt that a Public Meeting was the best way forward at this stage.

It was also noted that there were continuing problems with access to the feedback form which had been made available on-line by the Project Team and the results from the recent St. John's Hall exhibition were still not to hand.

Members maintained that a Public Meeting would be of use ahead of the planning application and it was, therefore,

RECOMMENDED: as follows:-

That the Town Clerk write to the Project Lead Officer accepting an offer of a private meeting with the Council and that a letter be sent to the Chief Executive of Penwith District Council requesting that Penwith takes a lead in this matter to convene a Public Meeting so that full details of the scheme can be presented which may allay public concerns and correct possible misinformation.

(b) Newlyn Fish Industry Forum – Meeting 24th September 2008

The Town Clerk reminded members that he had provided a brief verbal report on this meeting which had been extremely positive with the final elements of the funding now being sought to enable the scheme to proceed.

The minutes of the meeting would be received in due course and would be sent to all members for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group Meeting – 30th October 2008

Councillor Ruhmund provided a verbal report from the above meeting as follows:-

(i) THI – the Public Realm Works proposals had yet to be finally agreed but, as reported previously, the take-up from the private sector in respect of commercial properties had been excellent and the scheme was now over-subscribed;

(ii) Penzance Promenade – the bid for ‘Sea Change’ funding was being worked on but a question had arisen with regard to the provision of matched-funding which clearly needed to be resolved before the bid could proceed;

(iii) The Area Action Plan – ‘One Cornwall’ had now indicated that the Local Development Framework will only apply to ‘big towns’ and Penzance was not included but would be categorised as a ‘functional area’.

Discussion ensued in respect of an overall plan for the parish and, in particular, the difficulties being caused by a multitude of consents to allow the sub-division of larger properties in the Lannoweth Road area. It was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter be sent to the Planning Authority seeking a change in policy to restrict such divisions.

Councillor Nebesnuick requested that his vote against this recommendation be recorded and it was

FURTHER RECOMMENDED : that the council seek a presentation on the definition of a ‘functional area’ and the consequences for the town of this status.

(iv) Former Vospers Site – on a more positive note, a decision on the preferred developer for this site would be made on the 7th November.

Councillor Ruhmund was thanked for her report which it was

RECOMMENDED: should be received.

(d) Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group – Report of Meeting 14th October 2008

The Town Clerk advised that the meeting of this group concerned itself with an update on a number of issues, many of which overlapped with those described in Councillor Ruhmund's report above.

Notes of the meeting would be circulated to members in due course for information and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

52. **'ONE CORNWALL'**

(a) Family Information Service

Details of the role of the above Co-ordination Group, in terms of Local Government Re-organisation, had been sent for information and were available to any member who wished to have sight of them. It was

RESOLVED: to note receipt of this information.

(b) Correspondence re. New Logo

The Town Council advised of two communications which had been received seeking support for a campaign against the introduction of the new logo by 'One Cornwall' and it was

RECOMMENDED : that the Town Council express the view that the proposed logo should not be supported and that a logo should be commissioned that depicts the distinct character of Cornwall.

(c) Report of Meeting of Sub-Group held on 22nd October 2008

A report of the Sub-Group meeting had been copied to all members for information.

The group had met with Brian Hosken of Penwith District Council in respect of Open Spaces and with Rod Porter in respect of assets held by Penwith District Council.

The papers provided by the Penwith Officers had also been copied to members for information.

The recommendations of the group were discussed and, following amendment, are as follows:-

(i) Organise exploratory discussions with other Town Councils to review priorities such as open spaces that could be too large for one stand alone council to handle and that could therefore benefit from being managed by a partnership of local councils. In conjunction with this process to look at items which could be suitable to be managed independently by Penzance Town Council and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk proceed with this action.

(ii) At the next meeting, review the Penwith District Council sites that could be suitable for use as amenity sites, e.g. allotment fields, noting that the associated costs such as legal fees would need to be taken into account and it was

RESOLVED: to include this in the agenda for the next meeting.

(iii) Liaise with Brian Hosken to examine grounds maintenance and associated works and also liaise with Rod Porter regarding asset management and Steve Hudson regarding financial implications and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this action should proceed in due course.

(iv) Invite Councillor John Pollard of Hayle Town Council, who is also a member of Hayle Area Plan Partnership, to the next meeting of full council to discuss his council's role in the above partnership and how this would relate to the proposed community network areas and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk invite Councillor Pollard to the next full Town Council Meeting.

53. BIDS PROCESS – INFORMATION RE. TRURO CITY SCHEME

In brief, the Town Clerk advised that the above scheme comprised a one per cent levy on Unified Business Rate, the yield from which was being utilised to provide improvements to Truro City Centre. An example of this was a £50,000.00 investment in new Christmas lights.

Members expressed interest in the scheme but felt that, within the present climate, any increase in UBR would not be welcomed by the commercial sector and it was felt that a presentation by the Bids Project Manager should be arranged in 2009 and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

54. REQUEST FROM JUBILEE POOL ASSOCIATION FOR FORMAL REPRESENTATION OF THE TOWN COUNCIL ON THE ASSOCIATION

At the present time, two members of Penwith District Council were represented on the Jubilee Pool Association and with Penwith District Council ceasing on the 31st March 2009, the JPA sought closer links with Penzance Town Council through formal representation and it was

RECOMMENDED: that two representatives of the Town Council be nominated to this Association at the annual Informal Meeting.

9.40 pm
Chairman
1st December 2008