

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 17th November 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor RA Mann (Mayor)
Councillor J Ruhrmund (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors DJ Axford
MR Cotton
CA Dennis
JH Dixon
F Granger
RM Lawrence
M Lovegrove
JF Moreland
SJ Reed
PCH Rendle
H Worth

ALSO PRESENT: Mr John Pollard, Chairman of Hayle Area Plan Partnership

Hayle Area Plan Partnership

The Mayor welcomed Mr John Pollard who provided members with a brief background to the formation of the Hayle Area Plan Partnership (HAPP) and distributed a document showing the outline structure of the partnership that included the role of Hayle Town Council.

During recent years a lot of regeneration work had taken place in Hayle and it was hoped that the proposed regeneration of the harbour area would go ahead and Mr Pollard pointed out that the HAPP brought together a variety of stakeholders and facilitated groups working together and moving forward with a common aim. It was also stressed that an important factor of the HAPP was that it reflected the views of local residents.

The structure of the partnership provided for open access to all the teams involved and therefore enabled the free flow and exchange of information. It had also been responsible for facilitating public involvement with and access to the proposed harbour development plans.

It was perceived that the HAPP would continue to operate after 1st April 2009 when the unitary authority took over, with existing District councillors being replaced by County members.

The Mayor thanked Mr Pollard for his presentation and he left the meeting.

52. **PRAYERS**

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

53. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors M Freeman, D Nebesnuick, J Parkin, CAC White, TE Williams.
Absent without apologies: Councillor K LW Perry.

54. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Declarations of interest from the four standing committees were noted and no further declarations were made.

55. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 29th September 2008 having been circulated, it was

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

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

Street Trading Application – Mrs Jean Howes

An application had been submitted to operate a Craft Fair in a marquee at the Harbour Car Park on 2nd, 3rd and 4th May (a bank holiday weekend) from 9am to 6pm and it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

57. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Town Mayor extended thanks to all members who attended the recent Remembrance Day services and thanked Councillor Jan Ruhrmund for deputising for him at these events.

The Mayor also thanked Councillors Ruhrmund and Rendle for deputising for him at various functions and events over the past few months which he had been unable to attend due to ill health.

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

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

59. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 3rd November 2008**

(i) **Public Notice of Casual Vacancy and Timetable for Election Process (Minute 46(a))**

The Town Clerk informed members that an election had been called and the deadline for submission of applications was noon on Friday 21st November with the election date (if required) having been set for the 18th December and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(ii) Police Matters (Minute 46(d))

With reference to Inspector Mark Eccles being invited to attend full Council meetings rather than meetings of the General Purposes Committee and the request that questions for the Inspector be submitted in writing beforehand, it was suggested that questions on the night should also be permitted. However, the Town Clerk pointed out that often the Inspector would be unable to answer these questions and would need to research the information required and it was

RESOLVED: that questions should be submitted in writing before the meeting unless an emergency situation had arisen shortly prior to the meeting taking place.

(iii) Confirmation of Meeting with Ann James, Chief Executive of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT (Minute 50(b))

Councillor Cotton felt that, as the meeting arranged with Ms James had been requested in light of the proposed removal of UGI cancer care from Cornwall, this would preclude any opportunity to discuss further matters such as the future of West Cornwall Hospital. Members were informed that a meeting between Ms James and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee of Penwith District Council had recently taken place and that information from this meeting could prove more informative and it was

RESOLVED: that a copy of the notes from the above mentioned meeting should be requested from PDC and the scheduled meeting with Ms James be cancelled.

(iv) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership – Correspondence following Public Exhibition on 30th September 2008 including response from Cornwall County Council re request for Public Meeting (Minute 51(a))

Members were disappointed by the lack of response from officers at Cornwall County Council and the disinclination to hold a public meeting and it was

RESOLVED: that the offer of a private meeting for the Town Council with the Project Lead Officer should be accepted and organised as a matter of urgency and that the Officer should be asked to include members of his project team and that an invitation to attend should also be extended to the Conservation Officer and the Head of Sustainable Development at Penwith District Council. The Town Clerk would also contact the Chief Executive of Penwith District Council requesting that he take the lead in organising a Public Meeting.

It was further

RESOLVED: that the meeting should commence with a presentation by the Route Partnership team followed by a question and answer session.

- (v) Penzance and Newlyn Regeneration Management Group Meeting – 30th October 2008 (Minute 51(c)(iii))

Members were unhappy with Penzance being classed as a ‘functional area’ by ‘One Cornwall’ rather than a ‘big town’ in the context of the ‘Area Action Plan’ and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk would write to the One Cornwall Implementation team requesting clarification of this terminology and an outline of what future plans will be drawn up.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

- (b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 4th November 2008**

The Town Clerk pointed out that a mistake had occurred in Minute 22(a) on page 17, second line from the bottom of the page, where the first ‘income’ should read ‘expenditure’ and this had now been corrected in the Minute book.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

- (c) **Planning Committee – 16th October 2008**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

- (d) **Planning Committee – 10th November 2008**

- (i) Wharfside Shopping Centre – Note of Presentation to Meeting (Minute 44(f))

Councillor Rendle informed members that at the forthcoming Penwith District Council Planning Committee meeting on 18th November, a recommendation to refuse the application to close the Wharfside Centre between midnight and 7am would be put forward on the grounds that insufficient evidence had been provided to justify the removal of the condition that permitted 24 hour pedestrian access through the Centre in order to maintain the link between the town centre and the harbour area and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

- (ii) Parking Issues – East Ward – Representation re St. Michael’s Street Order (Minute 44(g))

With reference to the proposed new waiting restrictions in St Michael’s Street it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would support the petition against the new restrictions put forward by local residents.

Councillor Dennis informed members that in some areas of London cars parking partially on the pavement is allowed and it was suggested that this could be a potential way of alleviating parking problems in Penzance and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk's Office would investigate the regulations in place in London that permitted this type of parking and that the suggestion would be taken forward to Cornwall County Council for further investigation.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee – 10th November 2008**

(i) **Update re Skate Park Ramp, Wherrytown (Minute 25(f))**

The Town Clerk informed members that the refurbishment of the skate ramp was now almost finished and the only work still required was the removal of the access stair (in compliance with the recommendation from RoSPA) which was currently fenced off. It had been noted that the facility had been well used over the previous weekend and members wished to record their thanks to the Town Clerk's Office for the perseverance and efforts that had been required to ensure the work was completed and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(ii) **Staff Matters (Minute 25(h))**

In referring to the proposed interview panel for the position of Town Clerk, it was pointed out that the gender ratio was not balanced and that it may be necessary to increase the panel by one female member and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

60. **Renaissance – Private Sector Housing Renewal and Affordability Assistance Policy – Draft for Consultation**

The above draft consultation paper had been distributed prior to the meeting and members expressed support in general for this initiative. However, it was

RESOLVED: that clarification should be sought on how many grants of £75,000 would be available and that the term for affordable letting on receipt of a loan should be extended

beyond the stated minimum of 5 years. The document should also include provision for permanent affordability letting.

8:18pm

Town Mayor
11th December 2008