

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 4th December 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor MR Cotton (Chairman)

Councillors DJ Axford
RA Mann (left at 8pm)
SJ Reed (left at 8pm)
J Ruhmund
CAC White
H Worth

Also present: Councillor D Nebesnuick
Mr Martin Nixon, Chairman, The Friends of Jubilee Pool

The Chairman welcomed Mr Nixon who addressed the committee briefly on the current situation with regard to the future of the Jubilee Pool. Members were informed that there are currently 150 members of the Friends of Jubilee Pool Association, comprised mainly of local members but also with some members based nationwide. The pool is one of the last remaining lidos in the UK and the only remaining sea-filled lido.

The pool is supported by Penwith District Council but, with the demise of the District Council on the 31st March 2009, the Friends of Jubilee Pool had decided to form a charitable trust in order to play a more active role in ensuring the future of the facility. The association also wished to request that Penzance Town Council submit a bid to take over the management of the pool under the One Cornwall guidelines governing the devolvement of assets as it was felt that this would then ensure the safe ownership and future of the lido.

The Town Clerk informed Mr Nixon that, although the management of assets would be considered over a five year period, One Cornwall was running an initial pilot scheme for town and parish councils to adopt the management of a service or asset at a particular level of involvement on a trial basis but there were only 20-25 schemes available that would run for an initial 18 month period and the list of services to be considered did not include provision for undertaking the management of a facility such as the Jubilee Pool.

The Chairman thanked Mr Nixon for his brief presentation and explained that the Council would require further detail before a decision could be made and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Friends of Jubilee Pool should put together a presentation that could be taken before the full Council for discussion at a meeting early in 2009 in order that the matter could be considered in further detail.

Mr Nixon left the meeting.

29. APOLOGIES

Councillors JH Dixon, M Freeman.

Due to the requirement of two members to leave the meeting at 8pm, it was

RESOLVED: to alter the order of business and to take the presentation by Councillor Nebesnuick on the Heritage Plaque scheme and Minute 33. Financial Position, as the first two items and then to revert to the standard order of business.

30. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in the section of Minute 31. Financial Position that pertained to the future structure of the Golowan Festival due to his close association with the Festival.

Councillor Worth declared a personal interest in Minute 33.(a) The Mayors Parlour Campaign Team as her husband is an employee of West Cornwall Hospital.

Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 33.(c) The Friends of Jubilee Pool owing to her position as a member of Penwith District Council and in Minute 33.(e) Newlyn Archive through her connection as photographic archive curator at Morrab Library.

Councillor White declared a personal interest in Minute 34.(a)(ii) YMCA Cornwall, due to her association with the organisation.

Heritage Plaques

Councillor Nebesnuick, having first declared a prejudicial interest in 4 Wellington Terrace (the previous home of the Garstin family) as his own residence (and also a number of other personal interests which did not preclude his involvement in the Heritage Plaque Scheme), addressed members on the report that had already been distributed concerning the activities of the Heritage Plaque sub-committee and highlighting the actions that were considered necessary to take the scheme forward. Councillor White offered some assistance with tracing records through an internet-based census facility and Councillor Ruhrmund put forward the suggestion that nominations under consideration should be those people who had a very strong link with the town and not those who had only lived in the parish for a short period.

Councillor Nebesnuick left the meeting.

31. FINANCIAL POSITION INCLUDING REVISED ESTIMATES 2008/09 AND PROPOSED BUDGET 2009/10 TOGETHER WITH SUPPORTING NOTES

The Committee considered its finances to the 31st October 2008 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Council Office Staff – Salaries Review

The Committee Clerk declared a personal interest in this item and left the meeting while the matter was under discussion. The members considered the proposal as outlined in the notes accompanying the budget papers and it was

RESOLVED: that the proposed adjustments to staff salaries be approved. (See confidential Appendix ‘B’).

Golowan Festival – review of the operation of the festival by Penzance Town Council in association with the community partners for the years 2007 and 2008 and proposals for a revised delivery structure for the future

This review document, having been distributed to all members prior to the meeting, it was

RESOLVED: to approve and adopt the proposals outlined in the document with the added clarification that the sum of £20,000 that had previously been earmarked as a contribution for the Leisure Centre, should be moved into the general contingency fund only insofar as it may be required and thereafter as funding for the Golowan Festival.

The thanks of the Committee to the Town Clerk and staff for their work and commitment to the Festival was recorded.

The Town Clerk advised that the three standing committees of General Purposes, Penlee House and Park and Planning had recommended the acceptance of their budgets without further amendment and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the budgets for the three other standing committees be supported and that the revised estimates for the Finance/Property Committee be approved and that the proposed budget for the Finance/Property Committee for 2009/10 also be approved, giving rise to the precept requirement in the sum of £446,778, representing a 2.901% rise over the current year. (See Appendix ‘A’).

32. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 6TH NOVEMBER 2008**

Having been circulated it was

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

33. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **The Mayors Parlour Campaign Team**

Members were reminded that The Mayors Parlour Campaign Team would be losing the administrative support of Penwith District Council as of the 1st April 2009 and a request had been put forward that the Town Council provide clerical support in the future and also provide a venue for the meetings to take place. Approximately six meetings per year took place and the Town Clerk felt that there was capacity within the office to take on this function and it was therefore

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk's office should take on the administrative support of this group.

(b) Future structure of Golowan

This item had been dealt with under Minute 31. Financial Position above.

(c) Friends of Jubilee Pool – signage and future management of the Pool

This item had been dealt with directly following Mr Nixon's presentation at the start of the meeting.

(d) St Piran in Penwith celebrations 2009

Notification had been received from the Chairman of the St Piran in Penwith committee that the annual St Piran's Day procession would take place on the 27th February next year and not on the actual Saint's day of the 5th March due to problems associated with procuring a booking at St John's Hall. Members raised concerns that the celebration day would be so far in advance of the actual day and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter be sent to the Committee, confirming the Town Council's financial support of £500 for the event but requesting that the celebration be moved to the 5th March and an alternative venue be sought, if necessary.

(e) Newlyn Archive

The Town Clerk informed members that the Newlyn Archive was a newly formed group that was moving forward with plans to establish an archive in Newlyn that would require a base and a request for financial support from the Town Council had been received and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Clerk write to the group confirming the general support of the Town Council and requesting that, should monies for the rental of accommodation be required, details be submitted to the Finance/Property Committee for further consideration.

(f) Heritage Plaques

Following on from Councillor Nebesnuick's presentation at the beginning of the meeting, it was

RECOMMENDED: that

- five nominations be taken forward and that these should be John Blight, Lemon Hart, Thomas Holloway, Edward Pellew and an artist (Norman Garstin, Harold Harvey or Walter Langley) and that advice should be sought from the Director of Penlee House as to which artist would be most appropriate; [Norman Garstin subsequently confirmed]
- a timetable for moving the project forward would be compiled by the Town Clerk;

- more research into the most appropriate building for each nomination should be undertaken by Councillor Nebesnuick;
- the plaques should have a black background with gold lettering and that the Planning Committee should be asked to contribute towards the funding of the plaques;
- the owners of the chosen premises could be asked to provide a voluntary contribution but this would not preclude the erection of a plaque;
- appropriate future funding would be included in the budget review in November 2009.

(g) **Barclays Bank Account**

There was no further information concerning the bank account at this time and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(h) **Recruitment of Town Clerk**

The Town Clerk informed members that the advertisement for the recruitment of a new Town Clerk had now been placed with a deadline of the 19th January 2009 for the submission of completed application forms. The Committee Clerk would be handling the administration of the recruitment process and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) **Penwith Community Radio**

This item had been received after the issuing of the agenda and was a request from the Penwith Community Radio group for administrative assistance with the servicing of the PAYE requirements of their sole employee and it was

RESOLVED: that the request be granted and that the Assistant Finance Officer would provide this administrative support each month.

34. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) **Minor Awards**

(i) **Four Lanes District Projects Group**

A general appeal letter had been received from this group that specialised in raising funding for a variety of charity groups. The chosen charity appeal for 2009 would be the Cornwall Animal Ambulance Hospital and it was

RESOLVED: to approve a grant of £25.

(ii) **YMCA Cornwall**

The YMCA had written requesting financial assistance with organising a variety of activities aimed at increasing the self-esteem of young people who had a difficult start in life and in opening up new avenues to them and it was

RESOLVED: to support the initiative with a grant of £250.

(iii) Chapel Street Methodist Church

A request had been received for financial assistance towards the cost of the new heating system from the heating committee of the Methodist Church in Chapel Street and it was

RESOLVED: to provide a grant of £250.

35. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

General Purposes Committee

A proposal had been put forward for the Town Council to bid for the managerial responsibility of St John's Hall as a devolved asset under the pilot scheme put forward by One Cornwall subject to sufficient funding being offered and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the matter be considered at full Council.

Penlee House and Park Committee

The Penlee House and Park Committee had given support to the proposed amendments to the salaries of administrative staff in Penlee House and the staff of Penlee Park and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

8:48pm

Chairman
22nd January 2009