

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Thursday 11th December 2008 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor RA Mann (Mayor)

Councillors DJ Axford
MR Cotton
CA Dennis
F Granger
RM Lawrence
M Lovegrove
JF Moreland
J Parkin
SJ Reed
PCH Rendle
CAC White

61. **PRAYERS**

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

62. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors JH Dixon, M Freeman, D Nebesnuick, KLW Perry, J Ruhmund, TE Williams, H Worth.

63. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

In addition to the declarations of interest from the four standing committees, the following declarations were noted:

Councillor Moreland declared a personal interest in Minute 62. New and amended planning applications – 08-1493-P Former Gas Works Site, Wharf Road, Penzance (Planning Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2008), as a member of the Design Group and of the Civic Society.

Councillor Parkin declared a personal interest in Minute 62. New and amended planning applications – 08-1493-P Former Gas Works Site, Wharf Road, Penzance (Planning Committee Meeting held on 3rd December 2008), as a member of the Civic Society.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in Minute 33.(d) St Piran in Penwith celebrations 2009 (Finance/Property Committee Meeting held on 4th December 2008), as the former Chariman of the St Piran Group.

64. **ELECTION OF CIVIC DEPUTY**

The election of Councillor Ruhrmund to the position of Deputy Mayor having left the position of Civic Deputy open, members were asked for nominations to this post and it was

RESOLVED: that Councillor White should be appointed as the new Civic Deputy.

65. **MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

The minutes of the meeting held on 17th November 2008 having been circulated, it was

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

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

The Town Clerk advised that there was no business to be dealt with under this heading.

67. **TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

The Mayor reminded members of the following forthcoming events:

Montol Procession and Carol Service, Sunday 14th December

Mayor's Christmas Drinks, Monday 15th December at 7.30pm in the Bath Inn

Montol Eve Lantern Procession, Saturday 20th December at 5.45pm from St John's Hall

The Mayor also took the opportunity to wish all present a Merry Christmas.

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

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

69. **REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 1st December 2008**

(i) **CTE/PAS – Sub-lease of properties to people with learning disabilities – meeting of 17th November 2008 (Minute 59.(d)(i))**

Councillor White reported that the meeting had been very optimistic and that those present had felt positive about reporting any problems that may arise and that matters were being dealt with in a constructive manner and it was

RESOLVED: that the position be noted.

(ii) CALC – Larger Councils meeting with the new Chief Executive of One Cornwall (Minute 59.(e)(i))

The meeting had been attended by the Town Clerk and Councillor Rendle and the Mayor had also been present for part of the meeting. (CALC had, at short notice, cancelled the meeting but Truro City Council had felt that it was very important for it to proceed and had therefore reissued invitations and provided a venue.) The Town Clerk reported that the purpose of the meeting had been to facilitate the larger councils becoming more involved in the setting up of the Unitary Authority and to resurrect the Larger Councils Group that had become dormant over the past few years and Penzance Town Council's nominated representative was Councillor Rendle. It was agreed at the meeting that the Clerk to Truro City Council would organise a meeting for the larger councils' representatives with the new Chief Executive of Cornwall Council early in the new year which would provide an opportunity for the councils to put their views and to open more extensive dialogue with town and parish councils and it was

RESOLVED: that Penzance Town Council would support the re-formation of the Larger Councils Committee that would complement the efforts of CALC which has the daunting task of serving over 200 local councils in Cornwall of varying sizes.

Another meeting of Larger Council representatives was proposed in the new year and further information would be provided for members during the next cycle of meetings.

(iii) Penwith Town and Parish Forum – change of meeting date (Minute 59.(f))

In respect of the Electoral Boundary Review event that would coincide with the Penwith Town and Parish Forum meeting on 18th December, members were informed that more than one delegate was welcome to attend the event that would now be held in The Guildhall (not in the Penwith District Council offices as had been previously stated) and members were asked to register their interest in attending the event with the Committee Clerk at the end of the meeting and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iv) Report of meeting of Mayors Parlour Campaign Team (Minute 63.(a))

Councillor Cotton reported that, at a recent meeting of the Campaign Team, the Chairman had stood down and a new Chairman had been elected (Mrs Sheena Cox). The Town Council was still waiting for a copy of the notes taken during the recent meeting of Ann James, Chief Executive of Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT with the District Council's Overview and Scrutiny Committee and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(v) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership – public exhibition (Minute 64.(a))

The Town Clerk informed members that, as many members had been unable to attend the Special Town Council meeting that had been arranged with a presentation by the Project Lead Officer of the Isles of Scilly Route Partnership, the meeting had been convened as an informal event and the notes of the meeting would be presented during the next cycle of meetings. Members were also informed that a week-long public exhibition would take place in the former Vospers building from 19th to 23rd January and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vi) Penzance & Newlyn Regeneration Management Group Meeting (Minute 64.(d))

The Town Clerk provided a verbal report of the meeting that took place on the 2nd December and informed members that Penwith District Council officers were hoping that all the regeneration plans that had been worked on by PDC would be fed into the one regeneration plan that was being compiled by One Cornwall. The officers had apologised for the delay in announcing the successful bidder for developing the Vospers site but it was hoped that this would be made public very soon.

In respect of proposals relating to Penzance Promenade, the £60,000 allocated from the Liveability Fund would now be part used to cover the cost of the preparation of a bid for capital funding from the ‘Sea Change Fund’ for more substantial works. The remaining £30,000 would be utilized to carry out physical improvements at the western end of the promenade, final details of which were still awaited and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vii) Localism Charter (Minute 65.(c))

The Town Clerk had spoken to representatives of other town councils about the Localism Charter and concerns had been expressed that this document had been drawn up without input with any of the town and parish councils. Bodmin Council had already begun compiling a response to the document and had offered to email their response to other councils to review and it was

RESOLVED: that responsibility for formulating a response should be delegated to the Mayor and the Town Clerk who would review the response forwarded from Bodmin Council and then compile a response from Penzance Town Council accordingly.

(viii) Consultation on changes to the codes of conduct for local authority members and employees (Minute 66.)

Councillor Dennis raised a concern that complaints could be acted upon and investigated up to seven years after the event and it was

RESOLVED: that the response compiled by Penwith District Council's Standards Committee be adopted as the Town Council's response with the amendment that a 'statute of limitations' period of a maximum of two years in which a complaint can be investigated and acted upon be introduced.

Subject to the above it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 2nd December 2008**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(c) **Planning Committee – 20th November 2008**

(i) **New and amended planning applications (Minute 55.)**

The plans in support of application number 08-1462-LBC – conversion of existing store to provide extension to hotel for conference/meeting room and hotel accommodation at The Union Hotel, Chapel Street were available for all members to review and it was

RESOLVED: to object to the application on the basis of concerns expressed about the important status of the historic theatre and the fireplace contained therein.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

(d) **Planning Committee – 3rd December 2008**

(i) **New and amended planning applications (Minute 62.)**

The plans in respect of application number 08-1493-P – demolition of existing buildings and construction of mixed use development comprising of three retail units, restaurant, café, 53 self-contained residential units and associated access and landscaping works at the former gas works site, Wharf Road, were available for all members to review and it was

RESOLVED: to object to the plans on the basis of over-intensification of building, a disproportionate ratio of commercial/residential buildings, the lack of provision for affordable housing, the lack of parking and the general design of the buildings not being in keeping with the conservation area.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee – 4th December 2008**

The Town Clerk advised that there was an amendment to the declarations of interest whereby Councillor Ruhmund's declaration of interest in Minute 33.(e) Newly Archive should read: 'through her connection as photographic archive curator of Morrab Library', and the Minute book had been amended accordingly.

- (i) Financial position including revised estimates 2008/09 and proposed budget 2009/10 together with supporting notes (Minute 31.)

Due to her personal interest in this minute, the Committee Clerk left the meeting during discussion of this item.

Councillor Cotton provided members with a brief summary of the financial position and it was

RESOLVED: to approve the revised estimates 2008/09 and the proposed budget 2009/10 giving rise to a precept requirement of £446,778.00. In respect of backdating the revisions of salary scales for Penlee front of house staff, it was further

RESOLVED: that this matter be delegated to the Chairman of the Finance Committee and the Town Clerk.

- (ii) St Piran in Penwith celebrations 2009 (Minute 33.(d))

Councillor Reed raised concerns over the lack of a road closure being in place during the 2008 event which it was felt was an important health and safety issue, especially in view of the large number of children that took part in the parade and it was

RESOLVED: to amend the recommendation to include the necessity of introducing a road closure, should the procession follow the current prescribed route.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

70. **Choice Based Lettings New Allocations Policy for the Unitary Authority**

The Town Clerk reported that he had read through the policy document and that, without the benefit of specialist advice from Penwith District Council, it appeared to be acceptable and Councillor White confirmed that this was the general opinion at Penwith District Council. However, concerns had been raised about the general movement of people throughout the county that suggested a 'parochial' attitude and it was pointed out that the term 'local' would henceforth mean 'Cornwall' rather than 'Penwith' and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

8:16pm
Town Mayor
2nd February 2009