

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Thursday 22nd January 2009 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor M.R. Cotton (Chairman)
Councillor J.H. Dixon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M. Freeman
R. Lewarne
R.A. Mann
J. Ruhrmund
H. Worth (left meeting 7.50 pm)

36. **APOLOGIES**

Councillors S.J. Reed and C.A.C. White.

Absent without apologies: D.J. Axford

37. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest to be received.

38. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 4TH DECEMBER 2008**

Having been circulated, it was

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

39. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) **Thank You Letters**

The Town Clerk advised that 'thank you' letters had been received from the following organisations:-

- (i) Tom Bawcock's Eve Committee;
- (ii) YMCA Cornwall;
- (iii) Four Lanes District Projects Group;
- (iv) Newlyn Memorial to Fishermen Lost at Sea

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Appointment of Mace Bearer

The Town Clerk reminded members that Mr. Trevor Walker, who had served in the above position for many years, had decided to retire but had stayed in post pending the appointment of a replacement.

The Town Clerk was pleased to report that Mr. Peter May, a former leading Fireman at Penzance Fire Station had agreed to take on the role and it was proposed that there should be a formal hand-over of the mace and ceremonial gown at the Mayor Choosing Ceremony in May and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Penlee Park Playgroup

The Town Clerk advised that due to financial difficulties and numbers currently attending, the former Penlee Park Playgroup, now operating as a Mother and Toddler Group, was likely to cease at Easter.

In the meantime, the Town Clerk had received an approach from the Principal of the Link into Learning Centre who had advised that this organisation required further space.

The Principal and staff from the Adult Education department at County Hall had visited the premises and the initial impression was that the playgroup building would be suitable for their needs, subject to a number of improvements.

The Town Clerk was now awaiting a formal approach from Adult Education and a report would be provided for the Finance/Property Committee in due course and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(d) Magpies Football Club – Roof Repairs

The Town Clerk reminded members that the roof of this building had been ‘giving notice’ over a number of years and there was now a need to provide a temporary water-proof coating whilst proposals continued to be developed in respect of the building of a new Social Club and associated changing accommodation.

Two quotes had been received in respect of the work required and it was

RESOLVED: that an order should be placed with Sowden Brothers in the sum of £2,291.00.

With regard to the aforementioned proposals to build a new clubhouse, the Town Clerk advised of a letter which had been received from the Chairman of the Football Club with a further set of plans showing that on the site of the current Social Club (to be demolished), the land would be made available for the building of ten town houses with parking at the rear.

The Social Club would be constructed behind the houses and cut into the bank to provide some parking and the proposal for apartments to the west of the houses had now been removed from the scheme.

The Design Panel, working in conjunction with the Planning Department, had suggested that changing facilities should now be provided in a separate building cut into the western bank below the Redinnick entrance to the football pitch with some parking.

Members felt that whilst two or three parking spaces for disabled supporters to view the game was desirable, the proposed number adjacent to the new Clubhouse would cause difficulties in terms of access through Penlee View Terrace and such parking should, therefore, be removed from the scheme.

With regard to finances, it was clear that the value of the site had now decreased because of the recession and 'credit crunch' and was likely to yield approximately £350,000.00 if sold freehold.

The Football Club would require £250,000.00 towards its new buildings which it was hoped would attract a grant in a similar sum from the Football Association, with the residual monies coming to the Town Council.

Members noted the above financial apportionment of the proceeds and also noted that if the project was not moved forward by the Football Club, there would be the need within the current lease on the Clubhouse for the Town Council to provide considerable funds to provide a new roof on the existing building.

For this reason and to assist the club in providing enhanced facilities, it was

RECOMMENDED: that support be provided for the revised proposals (subject to the removal of a number of parking spaces associated with the new changing accommodation) and that the financial apportionment of monies be approved, subject to the Town Clerk taking appropriate advice from the National Association of Local Councils.

(e) Golowan – Recruitment of Festival Director and General Update

The Town Clerk advised members that the closing date for the recruitment of a part-time year round Festival Director for Golowan was the 26th January 2009 and that interviews would be carried out shortly thereafter, given that there was a need to press on with the organisation of the Festival for June 2009, and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(f) Recruitment of Town Clerk – Update and Timetable

The Town Clerk advised that 25 applications had been received for the above post and that the long-listing had taken place on Tuesday 20th January 2009.

The Appointment Panel would reconvene on Monday 26th January 2009 to arrive at a final short-list and to finalise dates and the actual format for interviews.

It was proposed that the Panel should be supported in their efforts by all councillors being involved in an informal get-together, either with a presentation or a semi-social event, following which there would be the opportunity for councillors to feed back to members of the Appointment Panel and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(g) Resolution to Exclude the Press and Public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item to be discussed, it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public from the next part of the meeting.

(h) Penlee House – Front of House Staff

See Confidential Appendix “A”.

40. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its finances to the 31st December 2008 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

The committee also considered payments made in the months of October, November and December 2008 and it was

RESOLVED: to approve such payments (see Appendix ‘B’ for both financial position and payments made).

41. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) The Rotary Club of Mounts Bay – St. Michael’s Way Charity Walk

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant in the sum of £100.00.

(ii) Penzance Gymnastics Club – Purchase of New Vaulting Horses

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant in the sum of £250.00.

The Town Clerk advised of two applications for financial support which had been received after the preparation of the agenda which would be considered at the full Town Council Meeting from the following organisations:-

- (a) The Board of Deputies in respect of the Jewish Cemetery, Penzance;
- (b) Hutchens Charity Trust – 300th Anniversary Celebrations

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that these applications be considered on the 2nd February 2009.

42. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 19th January 2009**

(i) **Introduction of Loyalty Card Scheme Penzance (Minute 70(b))**

The Town Clerk advised that as part of the launch and promotion of the Loyalty Card Scheme Penzance, the District Council was making car parks free of charge on the Launch Day on the 24th January 2009 and on two other Saturdays before the 31st March 2009.

The impact on car park income in respect of the Town Council would be within reasonable bounds and it was

RESOLVED: therefore, to approve the waiving of car park charges on three Saturdays before the end of March.

The Town Clerk apologised for omission of this proposal to the Penlee House and Park Committee on the 22nd January 2009.

8.45 pm

Chairman
5th March 2009