

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 9th February 2009 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors MR Cotton
JH Dixon
M Freeman
F Granger
RM Lawrence
R Lewarne
M Lovegrove
JF Moreland
SJ Reed
PCH Rendle
H Worth

Also present: One member of the public.

71. **PRAYERS**

The Council's Chaplain, Reverend Julyan Drew had offered his apologies for being unable to attend the meeting and the Mayor led the Council in reciting The Lord's Prayer.

72. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillors CA Dennis, D Nebesnuick, J Parkin, CAC White, TE Williams.

Absent without apologies: Councillors DJ Axford, K LW Perry.

73. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

In respect of Minute 75, To deal with business expressly required by statute to be done – Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest as a founding member of the Penzance Farmers' Market Group.

In respect of General Purposes Committee minute 75(a) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership, Councillors Dixon, Mann and Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in their capacity as Penwith District Councillors and advised that they would take part in the discussions but would not vote on any related issues. Councillor Lewarne also declared a personal interest in this item as a Penwith District Councillor but declared that she would vote on any proposal put forward.

In respect of Minute 71, declarations of interest - the requirement for application number 08-1504-P to be discussed at full Council due to the Planning Committee meeting being inquorate (Planning Committee meeting of 21st January 2009), Councillors Dixon and Ruhrmund declared a personal interest and did not take part in the review of the plans or in the voting. Councillor Worth also declared a personal interest in this item due to the political sensitivity of the application and her position as an employee of a political party.

In respect of Minute 41 (a)(b) Minor Awards – Hutchens Charity Trust – 300th Anniversary Celebrations, Councillors Cotton and Dixon declared a personal interest in respect of their positions on the board of trustees.

74. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th December 2008 having been circulated, it was

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

75. TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE

The Clerk advised that a street trading application had been received from the Penzance Farmers' Market Group to hold a Farmers' Market every Friday from 8am to 4pm on the site of the former cattle market at the top of Causewayhead and it was

RESOLVED: to offer no objection.

76. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Ruth Lewarne as a returning Town Councillor.

Members were informed that the Mayor had met and had lunch with Kevin Lavery, the new Chief Executive of Cornwall Council on his recent visit to Penzance and Newlyn.

77. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24

The Clerk advised that no such questions had been received.

78. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) General Purposes Committee – 19th January 2009

(i) Penzance Heliport (Minute 70(a))

Councillor Granger informed members that had received numerous expressions of concern from local residents over the proposed removal of the

heliport from Penzance to the Lands End aerodrome and that these concerns included environmental issues such as the pollution of an area of outstanding natural beauty and the negative impact this would have on the tourist industry. Councillor Lewarne felt that the future may lie with the provision of a faster sea route to the Isles of Scilly rather than the helicopter and it was

RESOLVED: that a letter should be sent to British International expressing the Town Council's opposition to the proposed move on the grounds of loss of revenue for Penzance with the removal of yet another business, the extra travelling time involved for passengers driving out to St Just along a road that is often dangerous because of foggy weather conditions, the negative impact on the environment and the tourism industry and the extra journey time for patients from the Isles of Scilly travelling to West Cornwall Hospital. It should also be pointed out that the proposed move is contrary to all sustainable travel issues.

(ii) Penzance Town Centre Loyalty Scheme (Minute 70(b))

Councillor Lewarne expressed concerns about the monitoring of the effectiveness of the loyalty card scheme and was informed that the Chamber of Commerce would be collecting data on an ongoing basis and providing feedback to the Town Council and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iii) Farmers' Market (Minute 70(b))

Members were advised that the Town Clerk had attended a meeting of the Penzance Farmers' Group on 30th January 2009 when it had been confirmed that the Group's constitution included the stipulation that no livestock should be sold at the farmers' market and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iv) CALC AGM on 7th February 2009 (Minute 70(d)(ii))

Councillor Rendle had attended the CALC AGM and reported that, in view of the changes to the local government structure, CALC would be reviewing its constitution. There had been various speakers taking part in the meeting that included discussions regarding planning and living and working in rural areas and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(v) Royal Geological Society, St John's Hall (Minute 70(h))

Councillor Moreland reported that he had recently met with one of the trustees of the Royal Geological Society and suggested that it may be beneficial for the Town Council to meet with the Board of Trustees to discuss

the future of the rooms currently owned by the Society in St John's Hall, especially in relation to the Town Council's recent bid to take over the management of the other areas of St John's Hall and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(vi) Isles of Scilly Route Partnership (Minute 75(a))

Councillor Reed informed members that discussions of the Route Partnership plans during the General Purposes Committee meeting had fallen into three categories and it was agreed that these areas should be discussed and voted on individually:

The general principle of maintaining and modernising the link – it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council supports the general principle of maintaining and modernising the link with the Isles of Scilly.

The environmental impact of the land-based plans – it was

RESOLVED: to oppose the location and design of the proposal, before the planning application is submitted, on the grounds that it is unsympathetic to the design of the town, it will have a detrimental effect on the quay which is the oldest historical structure in the town and the overall impact of the plans on the historical and natural environment. It was further felt that the design would not be able to cope with the very real threat of over-topping by waves several times a year and that the proposal to have lorries loading and off-loading freight from the south pier would cause greater traffic congestion.

Members were advised that the priorities for freight and passengers were different and that, historically, the Town Council had been informed that a combined freight/ passenger vessel had not been considered viable. The demise of Penwith District Council on 1st April 2009 would remove a vital member of the Route Partnership and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should write to the Route Partnership seeking ways in which it could become fully involved in the plans and reinforcing the position of the Town Council as the local partner in the initiative.

The business case – in view of the decline in the ferry trade with the Isles of Scilly, it was felt that a combined vessel was not the best option and it would not be economical to run a passenger ship to the Isles of Scilly through the winter months and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council should inform the Route Partnership that it was not persuaded by the elements of the business case that had been presented so far.

- (vii) Larger Councils meetings of 10th December 2008 and 8th January 2009 (Minute 75(d))

Councillor Rendle had attended a meeting on 5th February together with representatives of Helston, Truro, Saltash and Bodmin Town Councils at which there had been an opportunity to meet with Kevin Lavery (new Chief Executive of Cornwall Council), David Whalley (Council Leader) and Mary Cooper (Head of Localism). Mary Cooper had agreed to meet with representatives of the larger councils on a monthly basis and it was

RESOLVED; to note the position.

- (viii) Consultation on code of recommended practice on local authority publicity (Minute 77)

The deadline for receipt of responses on this consultation being 12th March 2009, it was

RESOLVED: to take the item forward to the next cycle of meetings.

Subject to the above it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

It was

RESOLVED: to consider all confidential appendices as the final item of business.

- (b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 20th January 2009**

It was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the confidential Appendix.

- (c) **Planning Committee – 8th January 2009**

The Chairman of the Planning Committee advised members that the following two items that had not appeared on the agenda had been discussed and had been omitted from the minutes. As the items were of a non-contentious nature and to save correction to the minutes, it was agreed the items be dealt with as follows:

- (i) Traffic on Market Jew Street

Councillor Dennis had raised concerns about the increase in private traffic going down Market Jew Street the wrong way as a result of the closure of Ross Bridge and it was

RESOLVED: that a letter should be sent to the Highways Department requesting more explicit temporary signage for motorists at the top of Market Jew Street.

(ii) **Advertising Sign-boards**

Councillor Rendle had been approached by a member of the public concerning the large number of advertising boards in Mousehole and it was

RESOLVED: that Cornwall County Council should be consulted on this issue.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(d) **Planning Committee – 21st January 2009**

(i) **Application number 08-1504-P, Sian Limited – construction of dwelling and associated works at Hawkins Road, Penzance (Minute 71)**

Members had the opportunity to review the plans for this application and it was

RESOLVED: to object to the application on the grounds of the design not being suitable for the area.

(ii) **Penzance Conservation Area Appraisal (Minute 72(a))**

Councillors Moreland and Ruhmund had reviewed this document which Councillor Moreland deemed to be 'not fit for purpose' and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Concerns were raised that the Planning Committee meetings are often inquorate and it was suggested that the number of members on the Planning Committee could be increased.

Councillor Lewarne suggested that comments provided on planning applications by the Planning Committee should be distributed to all members with the meeting minutes. However, members were advised that the comments are available from the Town Clerk's Office for anyone who wished to have sight of them and it was

RESOLVED: that any member who wished to have sight of the Planning Committee comments could obtain a copy from the Town Clerk's Office.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report including the Appendices.

(e) **Finance/Property Committee – 22nd January 2009**

(i) Golowan – recruitment of Festival Director (Minute 39(e))

Members were informed that Michael Sagar-Fenton had been recently appointed as the Festival Director and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(ii) Recruitment of Town Clerk – update and timetable (Minute 39(f))

The Clerk advised that a shortlist of six candidates had been drawn up and the interview process would consist of each candidate giving a presentation to the full Council on Tuesday 24th February followed by a formal interview in front of a panel of seven elected members (Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Chairmen of the four standing committees and one Civic Deputy) on Wednesday 25th February and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

(iii) Minor Awards (Minute 41(a))

(a) The Board of Deputies in respect of the Jewish Cemetery, Penzance

The Board of Deputies of British Jews had submitted a grant application requesting financial assistance in respect of the purchase of new metal fencing around the perimeter of the Jewish Cemetery and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.00

(b) Hutchens Charity Trust – 300th Anniversary Celebrations

Hutchens Charity Trust would be marking the three hundredth anniversary of the death of Captain Stephen Hutchens with a variety of celebrations in 2009 and had approached the Town Council with a request for a grant to assist with the planned events and it was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £200.00.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the report.

79. **Town Council representative on Treneere Together Partnership**

As the presentation by the Project Manager of the Treneere Together Partnership had not taken place, this item was not discussed.

9:00pm

Town Mayor
16th March 2009