

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2009 at 7.00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillor SJ Reed (Chairman)  
Councillor H Worth (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors CA Dennis  
M Freeman (left the meeting at 8:30pm)  
RM Lawrence (from 8:30pm)  
M Lovegrove  
RA Mann  
JF Moreland  
D Nebesnuick  
PCH. Rendle  
J Ruhrmund

79. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor K LW Perry.

80. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor Nebesnuick declared a personal interest in Minute 82(a) Penzance County Court: Proposed Amendments to Counter Services, due to the close association of a relative with the County Court and Councillor Rendle declared a personal interest in this Minute as a government employee.

Councillor Freeman declared a personal interest in Minute 82(h) Penzance, St Just, Bendigo and Nevada City Twinning Association as Chairman of the Group.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in Minute 82(i) Montol Festival Group as Chairman of the Group.

Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 84(a) Update re Penzance Farmers' Market as one of the founding organisers.

Councillor Nebesnuick declared a personal interest in Minute 85(a) and (b) Humphry Davy School – Community Governor vacancy, as a Governor of the school.

Councillor Reed declared a personal interest in Minute 85(b) Any other education issues, following his recent presentation to Mounts Bay School.

Councillors Mann and Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 85(b) Any other education issues – the proposal from Mounts Bay School to open a sixth form, as this matter had already been discussed at Penwith District Council.

Councillor Worth declared a personal interest in Minute 86(a) PDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee Report – 'West Cornwall, Your Hospital, Your Local Health Service' as a family member is an employee of the hospital.

81. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 19<sup>TH</sup> JANUARY 2009

Having been circulated, it was

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

82. REPORT OF TOWN CLERK

(a) Penzance County Court: Proposed Amendments to Counter Services – Response to Consultation Document

The consultation document having been distributed prior to the meeting it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that its receipt be noted.

(b) CALC – Statutory Guidance on the ‘Power of Well-Being’

Councillor Ruhmund advised the meeting that obtaining the ‘Power of Well-Being’ status would give the council more powers in a variety of areas and members expressed interest in obtaining more information about the training available to councillors as mentioned in the document and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the council should move towards obtaining this status and that the outline for a defined programme of action should be discussed at the next full council meeting with a suggested timetable of two years for completion.

It was further

**RECOMMENDED**: that the council should also look at obtaining Quality Council status and that Helston and Falmouth Town Councils, that had recently obtained this qualification, could be approached for some advice and guidance.

(c) A30 Action Group

A short questionnaire had been sent to the council from the A30 Action Group requesting the council’s views on the activities of the Group and, as the deadline for the submission of this questionnaire was the 6<sup>th</sup> March, it was

**RESOLVED**: that the questionnaire should be completed during the meeting and that Councillor Granger, as the council’s representative for the A30 Action Group, should be contacted for his views on the questionnaire. [*Councillor Granger was contacted the following day and he concurred with the responses of the committee*].

Councillor Ruhmund wished it to be placed on record that she did not support the committee’s view that the A30 Action Group should continue.

Councillor Nebesnick felt it would be beneficial to have more information about the actions and goals of the group and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that a letter be sent to the Chairman of the Group requesting further information.

(d) West Cornwall Sanctuary Project 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Review

This document having been distributed prior to the meeting it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

(e) Community Safety Partnership – request for comments on new structure

Members did not have any comments to offer on the new structure of the Partnership and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(f) Post Office – temporary closure of Mousehole Branch

Notification had been received that the Post Office in Mousehole would be closed temporarily from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2009 following the resignation of the current postmaster and Councillor Worth reported that it was looking hopeful that a new postmaster may have been found and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(g) Appointment of Honorary Freeman

Councillor Nebesnuick put forward the suggestion that appointment of Honorary Freeman should be opened out to the public via a notice in the press and members of the public should be asked to put forward nominations and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this course of action be taken forward to full Council for further consideration.

(h) Penzance, St Just, Bendigo & Nevada City Twinning Association – bush fires in Australia

An email had been issued by the Chairman of Cornwall County Council to raise people's awareness of the bush fires raging through Victoria, Australia, an area that has strong historical links with Cornwall through the mining communities and informing the public of an appeal that had been launched to offer support to the victims of the bush fires. A newspaper article accompanied by a photograph of the Chairman of the Bendigo Twinning Association, Mr Peter Mundy, had also recently appeared in the local press.

Councillor Freeman, Chairman of the Penzance, St Just, Bendigo and Nevada City Twinning Association, read out to members an email from Peter Mundy in which he expressed thanks for all the messages of sympathy and support that he had received.

Members discussed the most effective ways in which the Town Council could offer support to Penzance's twin city of Bendigo and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the appeal (being organised by the British Red Cross in Truro) be publicised via a letter from the Mayor in the Cornishman and that a gesture of support from the Town Council to Bendigo be made in the form of a commemorative gift to the community.

(i) Montol Festival Group – the way forward

The Chairman asked members for appropriate ideas for a 'home' for the Montol Group and it was suggested that one of the shops currently standing empty could be utilised in the interim and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this matter be taken forward to full Council for further consideration.

(j) Tourism - PTAG

Notification had been received that the PTAG meeting scheduled for 12<sup>th</sup> February had been cancelled and a new date had not yet been set and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(k) St Piran's Day Events – diary of dates for forthcoming years

A list of proposed dates for the St Piran's Day Parade over coming years up until 2025 had been received from the St Piran's Day organising group. Many of the proposed dates fell several days before St Piran's Day itself (5<sup>th</sup> March) and members felt that the event should be celebrated either on the date itself or on a weekday as near to the 5<sup>th</sup> March as possible, thus avoiding any confusion to the public and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this matter be taken forward to the Finance Committee for consideration with the recommendation that a letter be sent to the organisers expressing the sentiment that the Town Council would hope to continue to support the event but it should be held on, or as near as possible, to the 5<sup>th</sup> March and that it was hoped that the organisers would share this view.

Concerns were also expressed about the lack of publicity for the event this year and Councillor Nebesnick objected to the 'loan' of the Penlee Park gardeners to act as marshalls for the event and pointed out that, as council staff had been given a holiday on St Piran's Day, if the parade was held on this day the gardeners could act as marshalls in their free time. However, Councillor Ruhrmund pointed out that this was a very useful and practical way in which the Town Council could offer support to a community event

(l) Dudley Savage RIP – consideration of ‘honour’

It was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this matter be taken forward for consideration at full Council.

(m) Ancient Water Shute, Heamoor - update

The Clerk provided a brief update on the progress that had been made in ascertaining the status and ownership of the water shute and reported that the Madron Old Cornwall Society had considered carrying out repairs to the shute a few years ago but had abandoned this idea due to the dangerous position of the feature directly on the roadside it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the matter be passed on to the Old Cornwall Society for its consideration with a copy of the correspondence being sent to the Historical Environment Society of Cornwall County Council.

(n) List of Circulars Received (Appendix ‘A’)

The circulars, as listed in Appendix ‘A’, were available to any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(o) Reports from Outside Bodies

There were no reports from outside bodies and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the item be left open for full Council.

(p) Items for Information (Appendix ‘B’)

Items for information, as listed in Appendix ‘B’, were available to any member who wished to have further detail and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

83. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee then considered its financial position to the 31<sup>st</sup> January 2009 and it was

**RESOLVED**: to note the position.

The committee also considered payments made in the month of January 2009 and it was

**RESOLVED**: to approve such payments (see Appendix 'C' for both financial position and payments made).

84. **STREET TRADING**

(a) Update re Penzance Farmers' Market

The Farmers' Market would be launched on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> March in the car park at the top of Causewayhead and would consist of approximately 16 stalls, details of which were still in the process of being finalised. There had been a lot of support for the market throughout the town and it was hoped that the market would take place on a weekly basis every Friday and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(b) Rotary Club of Penzance – parking of ambulance at Market Place, Penzance

The Rotary Club had applied for permission to park an ambulance at Market Place on Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> April for the purpose of providing blood pressure checks and, due to the deadline for this application, this item had been dealt with by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman under delegated powers and, with no objection being offered, it was

**RESOLVED**: to note the position.

(c) Public Consultation (Licensing) – Cumulative Impact Policy for Penzance

Members felt that this was a very positive and useful document and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this item be taken forward to full Council for further consideration with the recommendation that the Council write to the Licensing Officer at Penwith District Council giving full support for the document.

85. **EDUCATION**

(a) Humphry Davy School – Community Governor vacancy

Notification had been received from the Clerk to the Governors of Humphry Davy School regarding a vacancy for a Community Governor and members had been advised to contact the Town Clerk's Office if they were interested in applying for the post and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(b) Any other education issues

- (i) The Chairman reported that he had recently visited Mounts Bay School to give a talk on local historical issues in connection with a school project that also involved the students preparing a 'town guide'.

The school would like an opportunity to present the project to a small number of councillors and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the council support this initiative.

- (ii) Councillor Nebesnuick made reference to the recent proposal from Mounts Bay School to set up a sixth form but felt that the current tertiary system worked very well and Councillor Freeman pointed out that this proposal could be detrimental to Humphry Davy School and would upset the level playing field and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the matter be taken forward to full Council for consideration with the recommendation that the proposal not be supported.

- (iii) Concerns were raised by Councillor Dennis about the congestion caused by lorries delivering to the new Penwith College site and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this matter be taken forward to full Council for consideration.

86. **HEALTH MATTERS**

- (a) PDC Overview & Scrutiny Committee Report – ‘West Cornwall, Your Hospital, Your Local Health Service’

The above draft report having been distributed to all members it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

- (b) The Mayors Parlour Campaign Team – provision of support to group by Town Council

A letter of thanks for the Town Council’s offer of administrative support had been received from the Mayors Parlour Campaign Team and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

- (c) West Cornwall Health Watch

Notification of the Annual General Meeting of West Cornwall Health Watch on Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2009 had been received and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

87. **REGENERATION**

- (a) Defra – Consultation on Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority District Boundaries

The above consultation was available from the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of it and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(b) Penzance Townscape Heritage Initiative

- (i) Agenda for meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> February 2009 and minutes of meeting held on 31<sup>st</sup> December 2009 and verbal report from Town Clerk

Due to the absence of the Town Clerk a verbal report was not possible and members expressed great concern at the lack of member involvement in the Public Realm Works, both at District and Town level, and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this matter be taken forward to full Council for further consideration with the recommendation that a letter be sent expressing the council's disappointment at the lack of consultation and stressing the wish to be fully involved in any future public realm/built environment schemes.

(c) Verbal report from Town Clerk – Penzance Regeneration Consultation Group Meetings

In the absence of the Town Clerk a verbal report was not received and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this item be taken forward to full Council.

(d) Verbal report from Town Clerk – Penzance Regeneration Management Group Meeting – 26.2.09

In the absence of the Town Clerk a verbal report was not received and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this item be taken forward to full Council.

(e) Newlyn Environment Group – Minutes of Meetings 13.1.09 and 10.2.09

The minutes of the recent meetings of the Newlyn Environment Group were available from the Town Clerk's Office for any member who wished to have sight of them and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

(f) Market and Coastal Towns Initiative – “Penzance Futures” – the way forward

Councillor Moreland expressed a wish to liaise with the MCTi group on organising a joint meeting to be held in the Queen's Hotel and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this action be supported.

88. **ONE CORNWALL**

Councillor Rendle reminded members that at previous meetings a possible revision of the Council's constitution (in light of the move to a unitary authority) had been discussed and he suggested that members be invited to put forward their views to the One Cornwall Working Group and Councillor Rendle offered to collate this information. Councillor Nebesnuick suggested contacting other town councils to find out how they were structured and Councillor Moreland reported that he and the Assistant Finance Officer had already had a very informative meeting with Bodmin Town Council and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that this item be taken forward to full Council for consideration.

(a) Letter from The Architectural Heritage Fund re The Royal Geological Society

A copy of a letter from the Architectural Heritage Fund to the Royal Geological Society had been received which outlined funding that could be available to the Society for the restoration and utilisation of the west wing of St John's Hall and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt of the letter be noted and that a meeting between all interested parties be convened mid March.

(b) Larger Councils Committee:

(i) Minutes of meetings held on 8<sup>th</sup> January and 5<sup>th</sup> February 2009

Minutes of the above meetings had been received in the Town Clerk's Office and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

(ii) Meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2009

Notification of this meeting had been received in the Town Clerk's Office and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

(iii) Letter from Gill Steward, Corporate Director Communities

The Chairman read out a letter that had been received outlining the action points agreed at a meeting of the Larger Town Councils on 5<sup>th</sup> February and confirming the importance of regular meetings between Cornwall Council and the larger town councils and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

- (iv) Meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> March 2009 – to discuss the Economic Development agenda

Notification of this meeting of the Larger Town Councils had been received and Councillor Rendle would attend and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

- (v) Meeting on 6<sup>th</sup> April 2009 – to present views and proposals on the Localism Model

Notification of this meeting of the Larger Town Councils had been received and Councillor Rendle would attend and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

- (c) PDC Report – Operation of the Transitional Planning and Licensing Committees

Councillor Lawrence raised an objection to the proposed transitional planning and licensing committees on the basis that the elected members would no longer be in place from the 1<sup>st</sup> April and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that the position be noted.

- (d) One Cornwall Town & Parish Council Newsletter – December 2008/January 2009

The above newsletter having been distributed to all members prior to the meeting it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

89. Consultation on code of recommended practice on local authority publicity

Having reviewed the document that carried a consultation deadline of the 12<sup>th</sup> March it was

**RESOLVED**; to adopt the code.

90. Public Consultation – Street Collections

Cornwall Council had issued a new set of regulations governing street collections that was aimed at standardising the regulations across the county and the Clerk informed members that there were very few changes to the regulations currently set by Penwith District Council and it was

**RECOMMENDED**: that receipt be noted.

91. Appointment of Honorary Freeman

This item had already been discussed under the Town Clerk's Report (Minute 82(g)).

9:15pm

Chairman  
18<sup>th</sup> May 2009