

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE/PROPERTY COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 9th March 2009 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillor MR Cotton (Chairman)
Councillor JH Dixon (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors M Freeman
 RA Mann
 J Ruhrmund
 CAC White
 H Worth

43. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor R Lewarne

Absent without apologies: Councillors DJ Axford, SJ Reed

44. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor White declared a personal interest in Minute 46(d) Golowan 2009 – general update, as a member of the board of The Exchange;
Councillor Ruhrmund declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 48(a)(i) Promenade Flags, as a member of the flag group and a member of the Regeneration Management Group;
Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 48(a)(iv) Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Church having had discussions with the applicant;
Councillor Ruhrmund declared a prejudicial interest in Minute 48(a)(viii) Shelter, Cornwall, as a member of the Board of the charity;
Councillor Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 48(a)(ix) Penwith Community Radio Station and Penwith Older People's Forum as a member of Penwith District Council;
Councillor Worth declared a personal interest in Minute 48(a)(v) Cornwall International Male Voice Choir, as a close relative is a member of one of the local male voice choirs;
Councillor Dixon declared a personal interest in Minute 49 St Piran's Day, as a member of the board of the organising group.

45. **MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 22ND JANUARY 2009**

Having been circulated, it was

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

46. **REPORT OF TOWN CLERK**

(a) Thank You Letters

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

- (i) Hutchens Charity Trust
- (ii) Penzance Gymnastics Club
- (iii) Rotary Club of Mounts Bay – St Michael's Way Walk

and it was

RECOMMENDED: that receipt be noted.

(b) Heritage Plaque Scheme

The Town Clerk reported that letters had been sent to the owners of the five prospective premises in respect of a plaque for Lemon Hart, Thomas Holloway, Viscount Edward Pellew, Norman Garstin and John Blight and that once agreement to a plaque had been received from the owners the next step would be to approach the planning department and the conservation officer regarding planning consent and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(c) Resolution to exclude the press and public

Due to the confidential nature of the next item it was

RESOLVED: to exclude the press and public.

(d) Golowan 2009 – general update

See confidential Appendix 'A'.

(e) Resolution to re-admit the press and public

It was

RESOLVED: to re-admit the press and public.

(f) Wherrytown Skatepark update

It was reported that the renovation of the ramp at the Wherrytown skatepark had now been completed, along with repair work to the grinding bar and other pieces of equipment. The work had been carried out by a team of volunteers but, due to the deterioration of the underlying structure of the ramp, the work had required a lot of replacement materials and an invoice for £2,600 had been submitted which

was more than originally agreed. Taking into account the large number of volunteer hours that had been given to the project it was

RESOLVED: to agree to payment of the invoice.

Councillor Ruhmund suggested that a graffiti wall could be installed on the skatepark site where graffiti artists could come along to practice their art and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this suggestion should be discussed with the volunteers who maintain the site and that Councillor White would take this forward to the next PACT meeting for discussion with the local police.

(g) Correspondence from CALC re Unitary Authority matters

(i) Precept

Correspondence had been received from CALC concerning proposals under consideration by the Unitary Authority for the rescheduling of payment of precepts and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter should be sent to CALC stressing that any delay in the payment of the precept would result in cashflow problems for the Town Council.

(ii) Asset transfers and pilot projects relating to the transfer of assets

CALC had also written to inform the Council that the Localism Group had decided that the pilot project for the transfer of assets to town and parish councils should be widened out to community/voluntary sector organisations. Councillor Ruhmund was aware that at least one community organisation had expressed an interest in the use of St John's Hall but it was not known whether this group had submitted a formal application to One Cornwall and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk should write to CALC to express the view that, as a general principle, the Town Council feels that the management of St John's Hall would be best served by a democratically elected body such as the Town Council that would make every effort to assist the efforts of community organisations. The organisation that had expressed an interest in St John's Hall should also be contacted to ascertain whether they had made a formal application for use of the building and to be advised that the Town Council would be pleased to work in tandem to achieve mutual aims.

(h) Pay and pensions update

Notification of the final pay increase for the year 2008/09 had now been received and a further 0.3% would be made in addition to the employers' final offer of 2.45% that was implemented last October and this payment would be backdated

to 1st April 2008. Some minor changes to pension payments would also take place and the relevant information would be copied out to all members of staff and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the position be noted.

(i) Teacher Centre Lease update

The Town Clerk reported that the update to the lease on the Link into Learning building in Penlee Park had now been finalised and included the payment of three years' rent in arrears (including the current year). The signing of the documents by Cornwall County Council and the exchange of lease documents would take place within the next few days and it was

RECOMMENDED; that the position be noted.

(j) Correspondence from Penzance Silver Band re Remembrance Day

A request had been received from Penzance Silver Band asking if the sheet music that was destroyed during the torrential rain at the Remembrance Day service in November 2008 could be replaced by the Town Council and

RESOLVED: that a payment of £50 should be made to Penzance Silver Band.

47. **FINANCIAL POSITION**

The committee considered its finances to the 31st January 2009 and it was

RESOLVED: to note the position.

Whilst considering the financial position, the Town Clerk informed members that the Playgroup in Penlee Park would cease to operate with effect from 31st March 2009 due to funding difficulties and there were two alternative groups that had expressed an interest in leasing the building and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk, the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Finance and Property Committee, together with the Town Mayor and Deputy, would meet with the two groups to discuss their proposals and requirements and would report back to the Committee during the next cycle.

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

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

48. **APPLICATIONS FOR GRANT**

(a) Minor Awards

(i) Promenade Flag Group

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250 with further support to be provided from the Golowan budget to erect flags advertising the festival, if the revised budget allows.

(ii) Cornwall County Playing Fields Association

It was

RESOLVED: not to make a grant.

(iii) The Sailors Families Society

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £30.

(iv) Parochial Church Council, St Mary's Church, Penzance

It was

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk would investigate the legal position of the Town Council if a grant was made to a religious institution.

(v) Cornwall International Male Voice Choir

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £150.

(vi) Penzance & Newlyn RFC Youth Section

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.

(vii) Newlyn Trinity Methodist Church

It was

RESOLVED: to make a grant of £250.

(viii) Shelter, Cornwall

As this organisation had already received a grant in the current year it was

RESOLVED: that this request would be taken forward to the next committee meeting.

- (ix) Penwith Community Radio Station and Penwith Older People's Forum

It was

RESOLVED: that the Community Network Area Manager should be asked to convene a meeting of representatives from all the town and parish councils in Penwith to discuss how a joint effort could best support these two groups.

49. **BUSINESS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES**

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 2nd March 2009**

- (i) St. Piran's Day Events – Diary of dates for forthcoming years
(Minute 82(k))

A recommendation had come forward from the General Purposes Committee that a letter be sent to the St Piran's Day 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 5th March and it was

RECOMMENDED: that the organisers should be informed that if the Town Council is to continue to provide support for the St Piran's Day parade in Penzance, it should take place on the 5th March or the nearest weekday thereto.

It was further

RESOLVED: that thanks should be expressed to the Penlee Park gardening staff for their support in marshalling the parade alongside the local PCSO's and that the Town Council would support their continuing assistance with such community events in the future.

8:55pm

Chairman
21st May 2009