

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 18 May 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor R A Mann (Town Mayor) (until 7.14 p.m.)

Councillors C A Dennis
F Granger
R M Lawrence
M Lovegrove
J F Moreland
D Nebesnuick
S J Reed
P C H. Rendle
J Ruhrmund

Also present: David Sullivan (Neighbourhood Manager) and Cllr Caroline White (Chairman) of the Treneere Together Partnership.

1. **APOLOGIES**

Councillor R Lewarne, H Worth.

2. **TO APPOINT A CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2009/2010 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

As the Committee had been unable to appoint a Chairman during the Informal Council Meeting on 22 April, the item had been deferred to this meeting. Following a show of hands, it was

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Rendle as Chairman of the Committee for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

3. **TO APPOINT A VICE-CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE FOR THE 2009/2010 MUNICIPAL YEAR**

The Committee was then requested to appoint a Vice-Chairman and, following a show of hands, it was

RESOLVED: to appoint Councillor Dennis as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the 2009/2010 municipal year.

At this point, Councillor Mann left the meeting and Councillor Rendle took the chair.

4. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Lawrence declared:

- A Personal Interest in Minute 6. Presentation on the Treneere Together Partnership, as a member of the Credit Union that has financial connections with the Partnership;
- A Personal Interest in Minute 7(a) Penwith Older People's Forum, as a member of the Forum;
- A Personal Interest in Minute 8(c) Fly a Flag for our Armed Forces Day, as a member of the Royal British Legion.
- A Personal Interest in Minute 8(d) Update on Royal Geological Society, as a donor to the Society's collection.

Councillor Nebesnuick declared a Personal Interest in Minute 7(a) Penwith Older People's Forum, as a member of the Forum.

Councillor Reed declared a Personal Interest in Minute 8(b) St Piran in Penwith, as a member of the organising committee.

5. MINUTES OF MEETING HELD ON 2 MARCH 2009

Having been circulated, it was

RESOLVED: that the Chairman sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

6. PRESENTATION ON THE TRENEERE TOGETHER PARTNERSHIP

The Chairman welcomed Mr David Sullivan, the Neighbourhood Manager of the Treneere Together Partnership, who provided a written and verbal report on the background and activities of the Partnership.

Since the Partnership's inception in April 2006, the members had worked towards improving the quality of life for residents living in Treneere and a recent survey already showed significant achievements. The main aim of the Partnership now was to develop a forward strategy to roll the initiative out to other neighbourhoods within the Penzance parish (Gwavas, Roscadghill and Eastern Green). However, members noted that funding from Central Government would only be available until 31 March 2010.

It was

RECOMMENDED: that the Town Council should support the Treneere Together Partnership wherever possible and the briefing paper provided by Mr Sullivan would be copied out to all Councillors (see Appendix 'A').

7. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Penwith Older People's Forum – Supporting Wardens

The Town Clerk reported that the Council had been approached by the Penwith Older People's Forum requesting assistance in identifying and training community responders.

The support workers would enable people to maintain their independence and continue to live in their own homes by assessing the support needs of service users and drawing up support plans which would be implemented, monitored and reviewed on behalf of service users.

Taking into consideration the importance of the role support workers play in the lives of the older generation of the Parish, it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would support the principle of Support Wardens and would work with the Older People's Forum to help in identifying and training community responders.

8. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cornwall & Isles of Scilly Shoreline Management Plan Review

Cornwall Council, as the lead authority for the Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) Review, had organised a series of stakeholder events to encourage the participation of local stakeholders in the review. One such event had taken place on 6 May in St John's Hall and had been attended by Councillor Ruhrmund who emphasised the importance of this review, especially in view of the potential Convergence and Sea Change Funding to enhance the Promenade.

Members noted that off-shore sea defence works were unlikely to be achieved, given the low priority placed upon them by the Environment Agency who had adopted a position of 'hold the line', which would only achieve reactive repair works to the structure.

In view of the importance of the shoreline to Penzance, and of the Promenade in particular, it was

RECOMMENDED: that completed questionnaire forms (already distributed to all Councillors with the Agenda) should be returned to the Town Clerk's Office by 26 May for forwarding to the relevant officer at Cornwall Council.

It was further

RECOMMENDED: that all Councillors should be encouraged to write individually to Cornwall Council expressing concerns over the poor state of

the Promenade and that dialogue between the Town Council and Cornwall Council should be opened up after the forthcoming elections in June 2009.

(b) St Piran in Penwith

In response to the Town Council's objections to the proposed dates for future St Piran's Day celebrations, a letter had been received from the Chairman of the organising committee stating that the dates had been revised and that, from 2010, the St Piran in Penwith procession through the streets of Penzance would take place on St Piran's Day itself (5 March) unless this was a Saturday or Sunday, in which case the procession would be held on the preceding Friday or the following Monday and it was

RECOMMENDED: that this proposal be accepted.

(c) Fly a Flag for Our Armed Forces Day – 22 June 2009

The Town Clerk had been contacted by the Cornwall Lieutenancy regarding a new national initiative "Fly the Flag for our Armed Forces" that would take place on 22 June. The organisers of this event were offering 7 special flags to be flown in Cornwall and Penzance had been chosen as one of the designated areas. The Town Clerk had responded positively to flying the flag (outside St John's Hall), however, due to this event taking place in Golowan week, the Town Clerk's Office was not in a position to organise a larger event around the raising of the flag and it was

RECOMMENDED: that a letter be sent to the Royal British Legion informing them of the event and offering the support of the Town Council to any wider event involving other service organisations that the Legion was able to organise.

(d) Update on Royal Geological Society

In April 2009, a meeting had taken place between trustees of the Cornwall Royal Geological Society (RGS) and Councillors Moreland and Ruhrmund and the Town Clerk, to discuss the possible options for the future use of the west wing of St John's Hall, currently owned by the RGS. The trustees were aware that extensive repair work to the roof of the building was urgently needed, for which the RGS did not have the funds.

The Town Clerk had offered to put the trustees in contact with the Penzance Community Network Manager of Cornwall Council who would be able to provide the RGS with an outline of the 'Penzance Futures' project which could possibly facilitate the disposal and/or use of the building.

(e) Mousehole Post Office – re-opening

The Town Clerk reported that notification had been received that a new sub-postmaster had been found for the Mousehole Post Office and therefore this branch would be re-opening.

9. FINANCIAL POSITION

The committee then considered its financial position to 31 March 2009 and also payments made in the months of February and March 2009 and it was

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

The meeting closed at 8:25 p.m.

Chairman
29 June 2009