

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 13 July 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillor R A Mann (Mayor)
Councillor J Ruhrmund (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors M R Cotton (left at 9.00 p.m.)
CA Dennis
J H Dixon
M Freeman
F Granger
R M Lawrence
R Lewarne
M Lovegrove
P C H Rendle

12. PRAYERS

In the absence of the Council's Chaplain, the Mayor led those present in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

13. APOLOGIES

Councillors J Moreland, D Nebesnuick, J Parkin, CAC White, TE Williams, H Worth.

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

14. PRESENTATIONS:

The Ritz Building (Mike Sagar-Fenton)

Mr Sagar-Fenton addressed the meeting with regard to the future of the former Ritz Bingo Hall in Queen Street. The building was currently for sale and was officially listed as a derelict building with planning permission for private residences on the site. The building had been taken over temporarily for the Golowan Festival and had proved to be a big success as a musical venue both in terms of size and capacity and acoustics. During the Festival, visitors had been asked to complete a questionnaire about whether they felt the building was worth preserving and this had produced over 400 positive responses with representatives of 64 local organisations expressing an interest in using the building if it was available.

In response to concerns that the building was in a poor state of repair, Mr Sagar-Fenton confirmed that the only essential repairs were to a leak in the roof and an upgrade of the electrical system.

Mr Sagar-Fenton was looking for support from the Town Council for an initiative to save the building for community use and it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would support in principle the move to save the Ritz for community use in Penzance and that ways in which the Town Council could offer further support would be explored and reported back to the General Purposes and Finance/Property Committees in due course.

The Bellair Health Park (Charlie James, Blue Sky Architects and Rod Hume, Community First Cornwall)

Mr James provided those present with a Powerpoint presentation of proposals to build a new Health Park on the site of the existing Bellair Clinic and incorporating the four neighbouring GP practices. Members were reminded that discussions and investigations into a Health Park had been ongoing for several years and funding had been earmarked by the Primary Care Trust.

The plans would incorporate 30 parking spaces but members raised concerns that this would not be adequate for the number of staff on the site and visiting patients. There would also be provision for disabled parking.

Concerns were also raised that the Town Council had previously not supported 'super surgeries' and it was

RESOLVED – that a letter would be sent to the Primary Care Trust asking whether the proposed Health Park would still meet the health requirements of West Cornwall and to ascertain the source of the funding.

15. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Other than the declarations of interest from the four standing committees, Councillors Rendle and Ruhmund declared a personal interest in Minute 18. Town Mayor's Announcements – 'Stadium for Cornwall' as members of the working party.

Councillors Mann and Ruhmund declared a personal interest in Minute 18. Town Mayor's Announcements – Farmers' Market, as members of the organising body.

16. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Councillor Lewarne made reference to the presentation by Inspector Mark Eccles and expressed concerns about the level of anti-social behaviour in the town centre, particularly along Market Jew Street and it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would write to the Chief Constable for Devon and Cornwall pointing out the requirement for a 24 hour police station and a custody suite to avoid the necessity of the local police having to transport people to Camborne.

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 June 2009 having been circulated, it was

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

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

Street Trading Applications

- (a) Application by Mrs Jean Howes for a renewal to sell children's wear for able-bodied and physically handicapped children between the hours of 9.00 a.m. and 5.30 p.m., Monday to Friday at Market Place, Penzance. It was

RESOLVED – to offer no objection.

- (b) Application by Mr Simon Taylor for consent to sell pancakes in Market Jew Street or at the entrance to the Harbour Car Park on behalf of 'Children in Need' from 10.00 a.m. to 8.00 p.m. on Sunday 29 November 2009, and on 4, 11 and 18 December 2009. It was

RESOLVED - to offer no objection.

- (c) Application by Mr Steffan Barnes to trade in cosmetics at Market Place on Fridays and Saturdays, June to September. It was

RESOLVED – to object on the grounds of competition with local shops selling items.

18. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor made the following announcements:

- The Golowan Festival had once again been a huge success and the Mayor thanked the staff of the Town Clerk's Office for their hard work and commitment to assisting with the organisation of the Festival.
- A party of children from Concarneau had recently visited Penzance and the Mayor had conducted a tour of the Mayor's Parlour and he thanked Doreen and Mike Cotton for their assistance with translating.
- Information had been received concerning a proposal to build a 'Stadium for Cornwall' and it was agreed that a letter of support in principle would be sent to the organisers from the Town Council.
- The Mayor announced that he would shortly be visiting Penzance's sister town, Nevada City in California and would be travelling with the Marazion Apollo Choir.

- NALC would be holding their annual conference in London on 2 December and it was agreed that the Town Clerk could represent the Town Council.
- A request for support of the Farmers' Market had been received and it was agreed that the Town Council would offer support in principle for the initiative.
- The Mayor asked members to note the date of the Battle of Britain Commemorative Service in their diaries – Sunday 20 September 2009.

19. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24

The Town Clerk advised that there were no matters to be considered.

20. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 29 June 2009**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the General Purposes Committee on 29 June 2009 was proposed and seconded.

(b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 30 June 2009**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Penlee House & Park Committee on 30 June 2009 was proposed and seconded with the Vice-Chairman drawing particular attention to the recommendation at Minute 10(c).

Minute 11(e) – Gardeners' Bonus Scheme

The Town Clerk reported that the terms of the monthly bonus scheme would be approved and signed off by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

(c) **Planning Committee – 11 June and 1 July 2009**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Planning Committee on 11 June and 1 July 2009 was proposed and seconded.

(d) **Finance/Property Committee – 2 July 2009**

Acceptance of the Minutes of the Finance/Property Committee on 2 July 2009 was proposed and seconded with the Chairman drawing particular attention to:

(i) **Minute 13 – Heritage Plaque Scheme**

The Committee Clerk reported that a response had been received from the Property Services Department of Specsavers with regard to the proposed Heritage Plaque to Lemon Hart. Further information had been requested and a licence fee of £150 would be required and it was

RESOLVED – that a letter should be sent to Specsavers expressing disappointment at the proposed charge of £150 and suggesting that this charge could be absorbed by Specsavers.

Subject to the above, it was

RESOLVED: to adopt the reports and Appendices of all the Committee meetings.

21. Reports for Decision

(a) Personnel Policies

The Town Clerk reported that the Personnel Policies had been reviewed in line with good practice and it was

RESOLVED – to adopt the revised policies.

(b) Revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations

The Town Clerk reported that a review of the Standing Orders and Financial Regulations had been conducted and the Mayor wished item 77 of the Standing Orders to be amended to include the prohibition of mobile phones during committee meetings or meetings of the Town Council and it was

RESOLVED – to adopt the revised Standing Orders and Financial Regulations.

(c) Working party to consider a Constitution for the Council

The Town Clerk put forward a proposal for a small working party to take on the role of compiling a constitution for the Council to provide a clear understanding of the business and role of the Town Council and to set out the responsibilities and functions of the Council and how it conducts business, and it was

RESOLVED – that a working party comprised of Councillors Mann, Ruhrmund, Rendle, Dixon, Lovegrove and Cotton would meet on an informal basis to start compiling a constitution.

(d) The Humphry Davy Prize Fund

It was

RESOLVED – to accept the proposal that the cost of cleaning and maintaining the Humphry Davy Statue should be met from the general buildings maintenance budget and that the Humphry Davy Prize should be increased to £50.00 per year, with the Town Council contributing the difference between this amount and the current amount.

(e) Appointment of Honorary Freemen

Members were reminded that at a meeting of the Town Council on 29 September 2008, it had been resolved that further Honorary Freemen should be appointed and it was

RESOLVED – that a single item meeting of the Town Council should be scheduled in late August to review the nominations for Honorary Freemen.

(f) Attendance of Cornwall Councillors at Town Council meetings

It was

RESOLVED – that Cornwall Councillors with responsibility for Penzance should be invited to attend Town Council meetings and that an item would be included on the agenda providing them an opportunity to speak and/or answer questions from Town Councillors.

(g) Approval of audited accounts 2008/09

It was

RESOLVED – that the audited accounts for the financial year 2008/09 should be approved.

22. Exclusion of Press & Public

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

RESOLVED – to exclude the press from the next part of the meeting.

23. Reports for decision containing exempt information

(a) Town Council website

See confidential Appendix 'A'.

24. Reports for information

(a) Resignation

Following the resignation of Councillor S J Reed from the Town Council, the Town Clerk had contacted the Election Service at Cornwall Council and an election timetable would be set in motion in the near future.

(b) West Cornwall CCTV

The Town Clerk reported that a CCTV camera covering Queen Square and the area at the top of Queen Street would be replaced but would not be sited on the former Meek's building. Members were also informed that the cost of installing and maintaining any additional cameras would need to be met by the Town

Council unless the requirement for additional cameras could be substantiated by sufficient evidence and could satisfy an operational issue raised by the police.

(c) Regeneration matters

(i) Penzance Promenade

Proposals for the regeneration of Penzance Promenade were ongoing and further information would be presented to the Town Council when available.

(ii) Regeneration - general

The Town Clerk confirmed that updates on all regeneration matters would be presented to the Town Council at future meetings.

The meeting closed at 9.42 p.m.

Town Mayor
28 September 2009