

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 14 September 2009 at 7.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors P C H Rendle (Chairman)
C A Dennis (Vice-Chairman)

Councillors R M Lawrence
R Lewarne (from 7.20pm)
M Lovegrove
R A Mann
JF Moreland
D Nebesnuick

16. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from

Councillors F Granger and J Ruhrmund.

Absent without apologies: Councillor H Worth

17. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None received.

18. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2009

Having been circulated, it was

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

19. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Older People's Champions

The Town Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from Cornwall Council outlining the activities of the Penwith 50+ Forum (formally known as the Penwith Older People's Forum). The organisers of the Forum were looking for a member or members of the Town Council to act as 'Older People's Champions' to act as a local first point of contact for older people if they have any issues or concerns and to assist people in contacting the appropriate agency or organisation. The Committee recognised the importance of the work carried out by the Forum and it was

RESOLVED: to support the Forum in principle and to take the proposal forward to full Council for consideration with the recommendation that at least two members be appointed as 'Older People's Champions' and that one of these should be Councillor Mike Lovegrove.

(b) Twining with Cuxhaven

Members were reminded that the Council had previously resolved to take over the role of twinning partner with Cuxhaven from the former Penwith District Council. To formalise this arrangement, a Twining Charter would be signed by the Town Mayor and the Oberbürgermeister of Cuxhaven and the Twining Association had proposed that the Oberbürgermeister and a guest be invited to visit Penzance during the forthcoming annual 'week of sport' to sign the document.

The Town Clerk explained that this would probably be the last year that a civic delegation would be combined with the week of sport and that the twinning association was keen to re-establish links between the young people of the two towns.

The civic visitors would travel by coach with the twinning delegation from Cuxhaven and the twinning association hoped that the Town Council would agree to cover the cost of accommodation for two days and it was

RESOLVED: that the Committee would support the proposal for the Town Council to meet the cost of accommodation for the Oberbürgermeister and his guest and that this should be taken forward to the Finance & Property Committee for consideration. (Councillor Lewarne did not take part in the vote).

(c) Cumulative Impact Zone

A Cumulative Impact Policy allows a licensing authority to consider, following a representation by an interested party or responsible authority, whether a new licence or variation of an existing licence should be refused on the grounds of the cumulative impact of the proposed licence taken together with other premises trading in the area.

A draft policy had been sent out for consultation by the former Penwith District Council and the Town Clerk had been informed by officers of Cornwall Council that a report, based on responses to the draft policy document, was currently being prepared.

Councillor Dennis stressed the urgent need for the implementation of a Cumulative Impact Zone in view of the increasing levels of alcohol-induced crime in the town centre and also raised the question of introducing an 'Alcohol Disorder Zone'. Councillor Nebesnuick also supported this suggestion, however, any proposal to the police and licensing authority for the introduction of this policy would need to be accompanied by specific evidence showing the requirement for such measures.

The Committee recognised that the levels of alcohol-fuelled anti-social and crime have now reached an unacceptable level and it was

RESOLVED: that the Town Council would welcome the speedy introduction and implementation of a Cumulative Impact Zone and that the local police should be

asked to liaise with Cornwall Council about the possibility of introducing an Alcohol Disorder Zone.

20. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Correspondence from Devon & Cornwall Constabulary re Penzance Police Station

Inspector Pete Simms of Penzance Police Station had responded to the letter written by the Town Clerk on behalf of the Town Council requesting a 24 hour service at Penzance Police Station and the introduction of a custody suite. It was pointed out that local residents can access the local police force on a 24 hour basis but it would not be feasible to operate a custody suite in Penzance. However, it was felt that the Town Council should urgently pursue this issue and it was

RESOLVED: that Inspector Simms should be invited to attend the next full Council meeting on 28 September to discuss the above and other issues and that Councillors could submit specific questions via the Town Clerk's Office before the meeting.

(b) Invitation to 'Guldize 2009'

Members were advised of the forthcoming 'Guldize 2009' (Cornish Harvest Festival) that would take place on Tuesday 22 September from 8pm in The Yacht Inn. This event was being organised by former Councillor, Simon Reed, and everyone was invited to take part.

21. FINANCIAL POSITION

The Committee considered its financial position to 30 June 2009 (see Appendix 'A') and the Town Clerk outlined the steps being taken to overhaul and upgrade the town centre Christmas lights.

22. ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR NEXT MEETING

(a) Councillor Nebesnuick proposed the inclusion of regular reports from the Cornwall Councillors that cover the Penzance area and the Town Clerk informed the Committee that Cornwall Councillors will be invited to attend and speak at Town Council meetings, starting with 28 September.

(b) Concerns were raised over the future of St John's Hall and an update on the status of the Town Council's bid to be included in the Cornwall Council pilot project with regard to the management of St John's Hall was requested. It was evident that the roof of the Hall was leaking and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to the Property Officer (with a copy to the Conservation Officer) to express these concerns about the maintenance of the Hall. It was also suggested that a similar letter should be sent to all the Cornwall Councillors in the West Cornwall Community Area Network

requesting their support in ensuring that St John's Hall is properly maintained.

- (c) Inspector Simms would be invited to attend future General Purposes Committee meetings or to send a representative or a written report.

The meeting closed at 9:10 pm

The Chairman
2 November 2009