

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 16 November 2009 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

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

Councillors M R Cotton
J H Dixon
M Freeman
F Granger
R M Lawrence
J Moreland
D J Nebesnuick
P C H Rendle
H Worth (left at 8.00pm)

Also present: Councillor R Harding, Cornwall Council.

45. PRAYERS

The Council's Chaplain led those present in reciting the Lord's Prayer.

46. PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

47. APOLOGIES

Councillors C A Dennis, M Lovegrove, J Parkin, C A C White, T E Williams.

Absent without apologies: Councillors D J Axford, R Lewarne, K L W Perry.

48. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Other than the declarations of interest from the four standing committees, the following declarations of interest were received:

Councillors Rendle and Ruhrmund declared a personal interest in Minute 46 of the Planning Committee meeting of 4 November, Planning Applications – Cornwall Council, South Pier, Penzance Harbour, as members of the Old Cornwall Society where the planning application had already been discussed, and Councillor Rendle also declared a personal interest as a member of the Civic Society for the same reason.

49. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Mayor signed as true and correct records the minutes of the full Council meeting held on 28 September 2009 and the minutes of the Special Council meeting held on 21 October 2009.

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

There were no items to be dealt with.

51. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor thanked those Members who had attended the Armistice Day Service on 8 November and reported that there had been a very good representation from the Town Council and the weather had been fairly kind.

Those present were asked to note that Minute 46 of the Planning Meeting of 4 November 2009 would be debated when considering the minutes of Committees and that the Town Clerk would provide an update beforehand.

The Christmas lights switch on would take place on Saturday 28 November with the Cornwall Hospice Care service taking place at 4.30pm by the Humphry Davy Statue.

The Mayor's Christmas drinks party would be held on Monday 14 December 2009 at 7.30 in the Bath Inn and all members were cordially invited to attend with their partners and loved ones.

52. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24

There was no business to be dealt with.

53. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 2 November 2009**

Acceptance of the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 2 November 2009 was proposed and seconded.

(i) **Christmas Lights – Minute 27(c)**

Councillor Freeman expressed concerns that there would be no Christmas lights in the town centre this year due to the difficulties encountered with the proposed installation of a permanent electrical infrastructure. However, the Town Clerk assured members that the lights would still go up, albeit using the existing system of relying on the goodwill of businesses and residents to provide the electricity supply.

(b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 3 November 2009**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Penlee House & Park Committee meeting held on 3 November 2009 was proposed and seconded and it was

RESOLVED – that the confidential appendix 'A' would be considered during private session.

(c) **Planning Committee – 15 October 2009 and 4 November 2009**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 15 October 2009 and 4 November 2009 was proposed and seconded.

Councillor Dixon expressed disappointment over the poor attendance of Councillors at the Planning Committee meetings.

(i) **Bellair Project – Minute 34**

Councillor Dixon raised the issue of the inadequate parking provision in the original plans and asked what new arrangements had been put in place. However, the Town Clerk explained that the approval of planning applications is not subject to the provision of adequate parking spaces.

Councillor Cotton expressed concern at the impact the proposed medical centre could have on the Penlee House car park and expressed the wish that tight control be maintained over the use of the car park.

(ii) **Bus Shelters – Minute 35**

Councillor Moreland raised the problem of the bus shelters at the main bus terminus that do not provide adequate cover from the elements and Councillor Ruhrmund informed the meeting that Penwith District Council had carried out some alterations but that they had not alleviated the problem. Enclosed shelters, e.g. a 'waiting room' would provide much better facilities and it was agreed that the Town Clerk would write to Cornwall Council to ascertain whether any improvements were being planned.

(iii) **Correspondence re maintenance of finger-posts at Gulval**

Members were disappointed that the Highways Department had still not provided funding for the renovation of the finger-posts that were seen as an important part of the heritage of local villages and it was noted that similar posts are well maintained in other areas of the county. The Town Clerk confirmed that, for health and safety reasons, it was not possible for the Town Council's maintenance person to carry out the work in situ and that the Cornwall Historic Environment Service would be contacted, via the Community Network Panel, for advice and/or financial assistance with this issue.

(iv) **Planning applications – 09/1118/P and 09/1119/LBC – Cornwall Council, South Pier, Penzance Harbour**

The Town Clerk informed members that notification had been received that the above two planning applications would be considered by the Strategic Planning Committee rather than the West Sub-Area Planning Committee due to the strategic importance of the Route Partnership to the wider community of Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly. Councillor Harding, as Chairman of the Penzance, Marazion and St Just Community Network Town and Parish Forum, had drafted a letter to Kevin Lavery, Chief Executive of Cornwall

Council on behalf of Cornwall Councillors within the Network and Penzance Town Council expressing deep concern over this decision and asking that it be reconsidered, bearing in mind Cornwall Council's commitment to localism. It was

RESOLVED – to fully support Councillor Harding's letter.

Members went on to express concerns that the Town Council will have no input on what is to be built at the harbour and it was felt that the commitment from the Route Partnership to submit full details in a planning application had not been met. Although this was a major development for the town, the Town Council had been misinformed and still had no idea what would be going ahead.

Councillor Lawrence wished to point out that, although there had been a lot of adverse comments in the press, Councillor Graeme Hicks had inherited responsibility for the Route Partnership as an ongoing project.

Councillor Rendle felt that enough had been done to separate the new developments from the listed building structures and Councillor Nebesnuick expressed the opinion that some progress was inevitable and the town could not remain in the past and supported Councillor Rendle's statement that the Town Council "must be part of the solution and not the problem".

Councillor Ruhrmund proposed that, although the Town Council is committed to supporting the link and a working harbour, this should not be at the expense of the historic environment and it was

RESOLVED - that the Town Council objects to both planning applications on the grounds of the harmful impact on the South Pier, the use of concrete and the overall detrimental effect of the proposals on the historic environment of the harbour area.

Councillor Harding had not taken part in the discussions but informed the meeting that alternative options were being considered.

(d) **Finance/Property Committee – 5 November 2009**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Finance/Property Committee meeting held on 5 November 2009 was proposed and seconded.

It was

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the above committee meetings be approved and adopted.

54. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) **BBC 'Blast'**

Information had been received about 'Blast', the BBC's youth creativity service aimed at inspiring and supporting the creative journeys of 13-19 year olds. The BBC was proposing to hold one of the 3-5 day events in 2010 (exact dates to be confirmed) in Penzance and it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council supports the proposed BBC 'Blast' event in Penzance that could be aided by the input of the Director of Penlee House and the Town Clerk would provide regular progress updates.

(b) **Appointment of Honorary Freemen**

The Town Clerk reminded members that a date needed to be confirmed for the 'Appointment of Honorary Freemen' ceremony and it was

RESOLVED – that the ceremony should take place in the week commencing 22 March 2010.

55. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) **Verbal report on the THI Scheme in Penzance**

The Town Clerk had attended a 'walkabout' in the Town Centre to view the buildings that had received THI funding. A full detailed report would be forthcoming and this would be made available to all Councillors, when received.

56. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – to exclude the press and public from the meeting to discuss matters of a confidential and sensitive nature in accordance with Section 12(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

PENLEE HOUSE & PARK COMMITTEE, 3 NOVEMBER 2009 – CONFIDENTIAL APPENDIX 'A'

The content of the confidential appendix was considered and noted.

The meeting closed at 8.49pm

Town Mayor
10 December 2009