

MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 1 March 2010 at 8.00pm.

PRESENT

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

Councillors M Lovegrove
R A Mann
J Moreland
D Nebesnuick
J Ruhmund

Also present: Councillor P Peters and Sergeant Marc Sayers.

45. REPORT FROM PENZANCE POLICE

Sergeant Sayers had prepared some statistics of the notifiable crimes within the Penzance sector for the period 1 January to 22 February 2010 and these were distributed to members for information. A comparison of these figures with figures for the same period in 2009 showed that overall crime had dropped by 20% but it was difficult to tell whether the unusually cold weather in January had impacted on these figures.

Sergeant Sayers assured members that the 'weekend street safe' strategy was still in place and patrols of uniformed and non-uniformed officers were ongoing. Concerns were raised over the menacing appearance of large groups of people on the streets late at night over the weekend, especially Friday nights after 10pm and it was felt that this was having a detrimental effect on local businesses and a more visual police presence would be reassuring.

Sergeant Sayers offered to provide further statistics at the next meeting, including a breakdown by postcode, e.g. the Town Centre, and an indication of whether reported incidents of crime were drug/alcohol related.

The Chairman thanked Sergeant Sayers for his report and he left the meeting.

46. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from

Councillors R M Lawrence, R Lewarne.

Absent without apologies: Councillor H Worth.

This being the last Committee meeting of the Council's year, the Chairman thanked members for their attendance and support over the year.

47. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Moreland declared a personal interest in Minute 49(b) Penzance Conservation Area Appraisal, as Chairman of the Civic Society.

Councillor Ruhmund declared a personal interest in Minute 49(b) Penzance Conservation Area Appraisal, due to her previous involvement with the document as a former Penwith District Councillor.

48. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 18 JANUARY 2010

Having been circulated, it was

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

49. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Cornwall Council Orders regarding dog fouling and dogs on leads

Notification had been received of Cornwall Council's proposed 'The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Cornwall) Order 01/201' and 'The Dogs on Leads by Direction (Cornwall) Order 01/2010' and these documents had been circulated to all members for comment.

The Town Clerk reminded members that considerable difficulties are experienced in Penlee Park with regard to dog fouling and dogs off the lead and these proposed new byelaws could greatly assist the Town Council in enforcing appropriate regulations within the Park.

It was recognised that new signage at all entrances to the Park would be required and The Chairman suggested that a notice should be posted in the local press in the 'Cornwall Matters' column to advise people that these steps were being undertaken. The Town Clerk had already spoken to the gardening staff with regard to them being trained as enforcement officers with the power to issue fixed penalty notices.

It was further suggested that a 'dog zone' could be set up within the park where owners could exercise their dogs off the lead and it was agreed that this would be taken forward to the Penlee House and Park Committee for further discussion.

It was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would support the implementation of both proposed Orders.

(b) Penzance Conservation Area Appraisal

The Town Clerk reminded members that the Conservation Area Appraisal document had been considered and commented on in 2009 and that it was subsequently adopted by the former Penwith District Council in March 2009 although it had not yet been adopted by Cornwall Council and the Town Council's support was now being sought by the Conservation Officer.

Although the Town Clerk had suggested that two members of the General Purposes Committee could work with the Town Clerk to formulate a response, members felt that it would be more appropriate for all Councillors to have the opportunity to comment on the document and it was

RECOMMENDED – that any member wishing to comment on the document should prepare a response for discussion at the next Town Council meeting on 15 March in time for a formal Council response to the Conservation Officer on 16 March.

(c) **Application for Street Trading Consent**

Application for grant of a street trading consent by Mrs Pauline Schofield, Mr Ernest Schofield and Miss Emma Schofield trading as the 'Cornish Ice Cream Company' – to sell 'Cornish' scooped ice cream from a tricycle either at Market Place, Penzance or outside the railway station or TIC, Penzance from 1 April to 1 October 2010.

Members considered the application and it was

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would support trading at Market Place only as the locations outside the railway station or TIC would conflict with other, established ice cream sellers.

50. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) **Licensing Act 2003**

Correspondence had been received from Cornwall Council in response to the Town Council's letter requesting clarification on various points of the Licensing Act 2003.

The response pointed out that the term 'vicinity' is not defined in the Licensing Act 2003 and every case is determined on its own merits.

With regard to the complaint that the pathway to licensing applications on Cornwall Council's website is very obscure, this difficulty was recognised and would be reviewed.

The third point that had been raised was the publication of an objector's personal details on the Council's website. However, the response stated that, under the rules of disclosure, the Council is required to provide details of representations and that these representations form part of the public domain.

Members felt that the publication of such details as contact telephone numbers, date of birth and Mother's maiden name constituted a breach of the Data Protection Act and could facilitate identity theft and it was recommended that the Town Clerk write to the Data Commissioner seeking clarification of this position.

(b) West Cornwall CCTV

In response to the Town Clerk's request that the CCTV camera at the bottom of Adelaide Street be re-sited, members were informed that funding available did not allow for this work although Councillor Nebesnuick pointed out that, at the meeting of the CCTV Group he attended in September 2009, the operators were already discussing the potential to move the camera for their own purposes and it was therefore recommended that the Town Clerk again write to the CCTV operators with the request that the camera be re-sited to provide better coverage of a problem area and to request detailed reasons why the camera cannot be moved.

(c) BBC Blast

The Town Clerk reported that the BBC 'Blast' event was now set to take place from 22 to 24 July 2010.

(d) Penzance Railway Station

Councillor Peters reported that he had spoken with the Penzance Station Manager (Sarah Rogers) who had confirmed that £500,000 had been earmarked for renovations to the station including rotating the booking hall, lowering the ceiling, improving ventilation, renovating the toilets and installing glass doors. The existing gates would be moved to the end of platform 4 in an attempt to stop people accessing the station when closed.

Councillor Ruhrmund raised concerns over the poor state of the stonework of the building and the blocked guttering and Councillor Moreland suggested that some of the Kurt Jackson artwork inside the building could be moved to the outside and it was

RESOLVED – to write to Sarah Rogers enquiring what proportion of the funding would be allocated to re-pointing the stonework and improving the guttering.

51. ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR NEXT MEETING

- Christmas lights and proposed permanent infrastructure
- Seating and street furniture
- Penzance Promenade

The meeting closed at 9.50pm

Chairman
17 May 2010