

**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in Committee Room No. 3, St. John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 17 May 2010 at 7.00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors D J Axford (Chairman)

Councillors M Freeman  
R Lewarne  
M Lovegrove

Also present: Sergeant Mark Sayers, Penzance Police Station.

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from

Councillors C A Dennis, R A Mann, D Nebesnuick, J Ruhmund.

2. **TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None received.

3. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 1 MARCH 2010**

Having been circulated, it was

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

4. **REPORT FROM PENZANCE POLICE**

Sergeant Sayers provided a breakdown of crime figures for Penzance Town Centre over the period 5 April to 9 May 2010 that included drug-related and alcohol-related crimes. Sergeant Sayers reported that these figures gave a good representation of crime levels and the most predominant types of crime in the town centre and it was acknowledged that the 'fear of crime' was disproportionately greater than the likelihood of being an actual victim of crime.

Members raised concerns over the increase in incidents of dog-fouling and aggressive dog attacks (from dogs not restrained by a leash), especially in open areas such as Penlee Park and the boating lake. Dog attacks had been reported to the local police force on numerous occasions but the regulations were very difficult to enforce.

Members felt that the provision of crime figures was very useful and would welcome reports on other areas, if available. Sergeant Sayers agreed to provide a report on the incidents of reported anti-social behaviour at the next committee meeting.

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

5. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Licensing of taxis in Cornwall – consultation on numerical limit policy

Cornwall Council had distributed a consultation paper on the number of licensed taxis allowed in the Penwith area. The current policy was to restrict the number of taxis and the consultation was being conducted to ascertain popular views on whether this policy should remain or whether the restriction should be lifted.

The Chairman explained that licensed taxis could be hailed by customers on the street and were allowed to operate from the railway and bus stations, which was prohibited to private hire cars which could only be ordered in advance (normally by telephone).

Concerns were raised that the lifting of the restriction could result in an initial surge in the number of taxis available followed by a sudden decrease in the number. However, it was not clear that this would be the case and it was

**RESOLVED** – that the Town Council would not object to the lifting of the numerical limit policy, provided all drivers were CRB checked. The Chairman agreed to complete and submit the questionnaire on behalf of the Council.

(b) Christmas Lights – proposed infrastructure and disposal of old lights

The Clerk explained that, since the Town Council had moved to rented Christmas lights for the town centre, the old lights were now out of use and remained in the basement of St John's Hall.

Gulval village had expressed an interest in taking over the lights and the Clerk had already contacted the Mousehole Lights Association to see if they would like to take any of the lights – especially those belonging to Hazel Trembath who had erected four lights in the memory of her husband, Roger Trembath, who was born and raised in Mousehole.

It was

**RESOLVED** – to agree to the disposal of the lights as outlined above.

(c) Application for Street Trading Consent

(i) The Shady Candle Company Ltd

The Shady Candle Company had applied for consent to trade in craft souvenirs (made in Cornwall and the South West) beside the Jubilee Bathing Pool on Saturdays and Sundays from May to September. Members considered the application and it was

**RESOLVED** – to object to the application due to the proximity of local shops trading in similar goods.

A further Street Trading Application had been received after the agenda was set and, due to the consultation deadline, it was agreed that the application should be dealt with at this time.

(ii) Mr S Kent

Mr Kent wished to sell framed oil paintings, water colours and pen/ink sketches (primarily of West Cornwall), every day all year round, on Penzance Promenade opposite the bottom of Alexandra Road. Members considered the application and it was

**RESOLVED** – to offer no objection to the application.

(d) Penzance Police Station opening hours

Penzance Police Station was in the process of conducting a consultation concerning the opening hours of the Police Station, with a proposal to reduce the hours to 40 per week and it was

**RECOMMENDED** – that further information about the proposal should be obtained and the matter taken forward to the next Town Council meeting for consideration.

**6. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

(a) Licensing Act 2003 – conditions of licences

Notification from Cornwall Council concerning changes to the Licensing Act 2003 had been received and circulated to all Town Councillors and the content was noted.

(b) West Cornwall CCTV – response from Cornwall Council

In response to a request from the Town Council, Cornwall Council had written to explain that there was no budget available for any further CCTV cameras or the removal of a camera to a different position and this response was noted.

**7. ITEMS RAISED BY COUNCILLORS FOR NEXT MEETING**

No items were raised.

The meeting closed at 7.50pm

Chairman  
28 June 2010