

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 7 June 2010 at 6.30pm

PRESENT

Councillor J Ruhrmund (Town Mayor)

Councillors D J Axford
M R Cotton
C A Dennis
J H Dixon
M Freeman
M Lovegrove
J Moreland
D Nebesnuick
K L W Perry
P Peters
P C H Rendle

Also present: Councillor R Harding, Cornwall Council

17. PRAYERS

In the absence of the Council's Chaplain, the Mayor offered prayers.

18. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Town Mayor advised that she had been approached by representatives of the Acorn Theatre to address the Council which she had agreed they could do preceding discussion later in the agenda.

19. PRESENTATION

Humphry Davy School

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Bill Marshall, Head Teacher of Humphry Davy School along with Chris Miles, Deputy Head Teacher, and Cath Uren the Chair of the Governors of the school who gave a presentation on "The Schools for the Future" project which Humphry Davy School was hoping to be included within the first tranche of monies available. Members noted that it was the school's intention to share information with them to highlight issues within education and to explore ways of strengthening links with the community.

Following the presentation, members asked a number of questions, at the conclusion of which the Town Mayor thanked those members of staff from Humphry Davy School for their attendance.

20. APOLOGIES

Councillors R M Lawrence, R Lewarne, R A Mann, J Parkin, C A C White and T E Williams.

21. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

The Town Mayor declared a personal interest in the agenda item relating to the future of the Acorn Theatre as a relative occasionally received complimentary tickets to performances.

22. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETINGS

The Town Mayor signed, as true and correct records, the minutes of the Town Council Meetings held on 15 March and 10 May 2010.

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

None.

24. TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Visit to Penzance Fire Station – Tuesday 15 June, 6:45pm – Following the recent correspondence sent to you, would all Members wishing to visit, please reply to the office as soon as possible please.

Powerboats in Penzance – “I’m sure that you are all aware of the recent event held in the Town which appears to have been a success. It was very encouraging to see so many people on the promenade and with the weather being kind to us, I’m sure that the international coverage showed Penzance in a very good light.”

Golowan Feast Service – Sunday 20 June / Mazey Day Civic Parade and lunch – Saturday 26 June – Some dates for your diaries and it would be good to see as many there as possible.

Re-enactment of visit of Free French – To celebrate the 75th Anniversary of the Free French visit to Penzance and Newlyn, a flotilla will be visiting Penzance and Newlyn during the week immediately following Golowan. Arriving in Newlyn on 28 June and visiting Penzance on 30 June, I will be hosting a formal reception for them in the Bath Inn on Wednesday lunchtime to which you are warmly invited.

Date of by-election – Following the recent resignations of Frank Granger and Heidi Worth, we have been notified by Cornwall Council that the date of any election would be 26 August 2010. The notices of election will appear in this week’s Cornishman.

Finally a reminder to all Councillors to return their updated Register of Interest Forms to the Town Clerk’s Office as soon as possible please.

25. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24

None.

26. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) **General Purposes Committee – 17 May 2010**

Acceptance of the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 17 May 2010 was proposed and seconded.

(b) **Penlee House & Park Committee – 18 May 2010**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Penlee House & Park Committee meeting held on 18 May 2010 was proposed and seconded.

(c) **Planning Committee – 22 April 2010 and 19 May 2010**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 22 April 2010 and 19 May 2010 was proposed and seconded.

(d) **Finance/Property Committee – 20 May 2010**

Acceptance of the minutes of the Finance/Property Committee meeting held on 20 May 2010 was proposed and seconded.

It was agreed to consider the Confidential Appendices at the end of the meeting.

Subject to the above, it was

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

27. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) **Future of the Acorn Arts Centre**

The Town Mayor welcomed several members of the public and from the administration of the Acorn to the meeting where they were able to raise a number of issues and concerns regarding the future of the theatre and, further to considerable debate, it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council writes to the Arts Council of Great Britain, urging them to grant the Acorn Theatre regularly funded organisation status to preserve a much loved and valuable community asset for the town.

(b) **Shoreline Management Plan**

Members noted that they were invited to a presentation by the Environment Agency on the Shoreline Management Plan affecting the area, with the Town Clerk advising that he was looking for members to be nominated to attend that meeting and also for a delegated Authority to allow a response to be made by those members attending by the consultation expiry date.

Further to discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillors Dennis, Peters, Rendle and Ruhrmund would attend the meeting on behalf of the Town Council and it was

FURTHER RESOLVED - that the Town Clerk, in consultation with these Councillors, would compile a response to the Shoreline Management Plan.

(c) **Penlee Car Park - Health and Safety Report**

The Town Clerk advised that, arising from a previous Town Council meeting, a request had been made by members to seek professional Health and Safety advice in respect of the car park.

Having employed the services of A1 Health and Safety, the report highlighted certain issues within the car park that would need to be addressed within a given timescale and, further to discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the content be noted and the recommendations contained therein be adopted.

(d) **Request from Penzance and District Tourism Association to use Town Council's Crest on Correspondence**

The Town Clerk reported that an approach had been made by the Penzance and District Tourism Association to use the crest but, as far as he was aware, the only organisation permitted to do so was currently the Penzance Football Club.

Councillor Cotton confirmed this to be true and, following consideration, it was

RESOLVED – that the PDTA not be allowed to use the Penzance crest but offered a representation of the recently purchased Town Flag.

(e) **Request for Presentation by Tesco Limited**

Councillor Perry took no part in the discussion or voting on this matter given that he had relatives who worked for the company.

The Town Clerk advised he had been approached by a public relations company on behalf of Tesco Stores Limited to make a presentation to the Council on their plans to expand their Eastern Green store.

Further to consideration, it was

RESOLVED - that the Town Council wished to have this presentation which the Town Clerk would arrange and advise members accordingly.

(f) 2009/10 Year End Audit

The Town Clerk circulated the end of year Audit figures and further to consideration, it was

RESOLVED - that the end of year Audit figures be approved and adopted for submission to the Audit Commission.

28. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

(a) Golowan Festival

The Town Clerk reported on the latest developments towards the organisation of this year's Golowan Festival, advising that the Fair contract had been let, the ice-cream franchise was currently out to tender and that the programme had recently been produced and received in the Town Clerk's Office and, therefore, any member wishing to have copies to distribute were requested to contact the office.

(b) Resignation of Councillor

The Town Clerk advised that as mentioned by the Town Mayor in her announcements, Councillor Heidi Worth had offered her resignation to the Council as she found she was unable to continue given her current working patterns.

The Town Mayor, on behalf of the Town Council, requested that the Town Clerk write to the former Councillor Worth thanking her for her time on the Town Council.

(c) Public Contact and Accessibility to Police Services Community Survey

The Town Clerk advised that this survey had been distributed to members for their comments on the Police's plans to further limit the opening times of Penzance Police Station.

Members expressed their dismay at this move, given that the Police Station currently operated limited opening hours, and it was felt that to further limit these hours would not only increase fear of crime amongst the town's growing elderly population but would also damage the reputation of the local police further.

The Town Clerk encouraged members to express their feelings within the document and return them as soon as possible.

29. 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.

- (a) Penlee House & Park Committee - 18 May 2010 – Confidential Appendix 'A'

The content of Confidential Appendix 'A' was considered and noted.

- (b) Finance & Property Committee - 20 May 2010 – Confidential Appendix 'A'

The content of Confidential Appendix 'A' was considered and noted.

The meeting closed at 9.38 pm

Town Mayor
12 July 2010