MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Guildhall, St. John’s Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 5 November 2012 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor P C H Rendle (Town Mayor)

D Nebesnuick (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors D J Axford
M R Cotton
C A Dennis (from 7.10pm)
J H Dixon
R M Lawrence
R Lewarne
M Lovegrove
R A Mann
J Moreland
J Parkin
J Pender
J Ruhrmund
F C Thomas-Lambourn
T E Williams (left at 8.15pm)

Also present: Cllr B Biscoe CC, Cllr R Harding CC, Tony Woodhams

The Mayor informed members that Cllr Biscoe would provide an update on the redevelopment of Penzance Harbour and in order to facilitate this, it was proposed that Agenda item 6(b) Urgent item arising since agenda production, be combined with item 10(b) Penzance Harbour, and it was

RESOLVED – to alter the agenda as outlined above.

56. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There were no members of the public wishing to speak.

57. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillors K L W Perry, P Peters, C A C White

58. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Ruhrmund declared a non-pecuniary interest in Minute 55, Penzance Harbour, due to her position as an employee of Andrew George MP.

59. PENZANCE HARBOUR

Cllr Biscoe addressed the meeting and thanked Penzance Town Council for having taking the lead in drawing together a strong and durable consensus in the town regarding the harbour development. He summarised the background to the project so far and members were informed that a letter had recently been sent to Norman Baker MP (Department for Transport) from the newly elected Leader of Cornwall Council outlining the current position (a copy of this letter had been distributed to members). A response to this letter was outstanding and it was hoped that the Town Council’s scheme would form the basis for the project going forward and that the two
councils could work in partnership to maintain the sealink to the Isles of Scilly going forward.

Members then had the opportunity to put questions to Cllr Biscoe and were informed that:

- A maintenance dredging programme would be put in place to follow the capital dredging.
- In 2013, Penzance Harbour would become part of the Cornwall Harbours Board and would have a local representative on that board.
- The project had now missed the deadline for the current European Convergence funding but would be eligible for the next round in 2014.

Cllr Biscoe recommended that the Town Council invite Andy Brigden, Cornwall Council’s Maritime Manager, to speak with the Town Council regarding any issues regarding the future of the harbour.

The Mayor thanked Cllr Biscoe for attending the meeting.

60. TO CONFIRM MINUTES OF THE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 24 SEPTEMBER AND THE SPECIAL TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 10 OCTOBER 2012

It was

RESOLVED – that the Town Mayor should sign the Minutes as a true and correct record.

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

(a) Street Trading Applications

Cllr Axford drew members’ attention to Minute 23(a)(i) of the General Purposes Committee meeting of 22 October where the situation regarding the granting of trading consents for the 7 pitches at Market Square was discussed. Applicants must be more specific about the precise days on which they wished to trade and renewals must state how many days they had traded in the previous year.

(i) Mrs Sharon Holmes, Madfish Textiles

Application for the renewal of a street trading consent to sell textiles for the home at Market Place. It was

RESOLVED – to offer no objection.

(ii) Miss Clare Chambers, Message in a Bottle

Miss Chambers had previously traded in recycled glassware from 2002 to 2010 and had been granted a consent in 2011 but had not made use of it. This was therefore a new application to trade at Market Place,
Mondays to Saturdays, 9.00am to 6.00pm for the remainder of 2012 and 2013 and it was

RESOLVED – to offer no objection, subject to Cornwall Council stipulating that the consent must be actively used.

(iii) Mr Nicholas Lennon, t/a Little Tea Caravan

Mr Lennon wished to take over the business from the current owners and sell hot/cold drinks, homemade cakes and snacks, handmade woollen goods, cards and decorative items from a caravan on Penzance Promenade, Mondays to Saturdays from 10.00am to 11.00pm, and it was

RESOLVED – to offer no objection

62. TOWN MAYOR’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

• The Mayor thanked those Councillors who had attended the recent Trafalgar Day Service in Madron.

• Congratulations were given to the Penzance Community Flora Group and the Friends of Morrab Gardens for their recent successes at the Cornwall in Bloom awards.

• Cllrs Nebesnuick and Moreland would be representing the Town Council at the Awards Ceremony being held by the Academy of Urbanism in London on Friday 9 November. Chapel Street was one of 3 streets shortlisted for an award.

• Members were reminded that the Remembrance Day Service would take place on Sunday 11 November and that wreaths would be laid on behalf of the Town Council in Newlyn, Mousehole, Heamoor and Gulval in addition to the wreath traditionally laid at the cenotaph in Penzance.

• The switching on of Penzance Christmas lights would take place on Saturday 1 December.

• An election for the vacant seat in Promenade Ward had not been called for so the co-option process would be implemented and the vacancy would be advertised.

63. QUESTIONS IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 24

Cllr Dennis requested an update on the application submitted to Cornwall Council for Tree Preservation Orders to be placed on the cypress trees at the Harbour Car Park. The Town Clerk informed members that the request had been submitted on 28 August and chased up on 12 October when it became apparent that the paperwork had been lost and it had subsequently been re-submitted and was being processed.

Cllr Thomas-Lambourn asked why the Town Council had not been informed of the Town and Parish Summit meeting that had been held on 3 November in Bodmin.
Notification had been received but it had been assumed that the invitation was intended for the Mayor only.

64. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES

(a) General Purposes – 22 October 2012

Acceptance of the minutes of the General Purposes Committee meeting held on 22 October 2012 was proposed and seconded.

(b) Penlee House & Park Committee – 23 October 2012

Acceptance of the minutes of the Penlee House and Park Committee meeting held on 23 October 2012 was proposed and seconded.

(c) Planning Committee – 4 and 24 October 2012

Acceptance of the minutes of the Planning Committee meetings held on 4 and 24 October 2012 was proposed and seconded.

(d) Finance/Property Committee – 25 October 2012

Acceptance of the minutes of the Finance/Property Committee meeting held on 25 October 2012 was proposed and seconded.

Subject to the above, it was

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

65. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Code of Conduct

The newly adopted final Code of Conduct along with a guide for members compiled by Cornwall Association of Local Councils had been circulated before the meeting and the Mayor drew members’ attention to p.6, paragraph 2.6 of the Code that dealt with the issue of gifts and hospitality. The Council had a choice of options to choose from and it was

RESOLVED – to adopt the Code of Conduct with paragraph 2.6, option (ii) – ‘You must record in a register of interests maintained by the Proper Officer any gifts or hospitality that you are offered or receive in connection with your official duties as a member and the source of the gift or hospitality that could be seen by the public as likely to influence your judgement in these matters’.

It was further

RESOLVED – to send a letter of thanks to Sarah Mason at CALC for her hard work on the Code, particularly in the area of declaring interests.
(b) **Standing Orders review**

Members were asked to submit any views on the Standing Orders to the Town Clerk before the next Town Council meeting on 17 December and it was

**RESOLVED** – that the Mayor and the Town Clerk would produce a final version of the Standing Orders for adoption at the next Town Council meeting on 17 December 2012.

66. **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

(a) **Notice of completion of audit**

The Town Clerk informed the meeting that a letter had been received from the Audit Commission confirming completion of the audit for the financial year 2011/12.

(b) **Public conveniences review**

The Town Council’s proposal for 3 modern and sustainable toilet blocks at the Harbour, Wherrytown and Penalverne car parks to replace some of the existing, outdated facilities in the town centre had been reviewed by Cornwall Council but the plans drawn up had followed a very expensive model. Cornwall Council had now been challenged to produce more cost-effective plans and a response was awaited. The facilities would need to be at a sustainable level that would enable the Town Council to realistically afford to operate them.

(c) **Road closure notifications**

The following forthcoming road closures were notified:

(i) Trythogga Road – 15th to 29th November 2012
(ii) Hea Road, Heamoor – 7th to 28th January 2013
(iii) Wharf Road, Penzance – 12th to 15th November 2012
(iv) Mousehole Christmas lights – 15th December 2012

67. **REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

The following reports had been received and circulated:

(a) Penzance Town Team, Cllr D J Axford
(b) St Piran’s Day, Cllr J H Dixon
(c) Newlyn Fish Festival, Cllr J Parkin

The meeting closed at 8.47pm

Town Mayor
17 December 2012