

**MINUTES OF EXTRAORDINARY PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING** held in  
The Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Penzance on Wednesday 13 March 2019 at  
7.00pm

**PRESENT**

Councillor R B Cliffe (Town Mayor)  
N C Broadhurst (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors D J Axford  
K M Baker  
A L Bates  
S J Bosworth  
N A Davis  
J H Dixon  
W Elliott  
J S Lambourn  
N G Pengelly  
N N Waller  
C A C White  
P Young

Also present: Hester Hunt (Town Clerk), Teresa Fogarty (Senior Administration Officer); representatives of Hypatia Trust and Friends of Morrab Gardens; Cornwall Councillors Cornelius Olivier and Jim McKenna; John Moreland (Penzance Civic Society)

**107. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Councillor S M Cordel, T L Halliday, J M How, B Jackson, R A Mann

Absent without apologies: Councillor S J Reed

**108. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

None.

It was agreed to alter the order of the agenda and take 'Public Participation' directly before 'Reports for Decision'.

**109. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

To agree any items to be dealt with after the public (including the press) have been excluded as publicity would prejudice the public interest by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted **Public Bodies [Admission to Meetings] Act 1960**

There were no confidential items to be considered.

**110. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests had been submitted.

**111. TO DEAL WITH BUSINESS EXPRESSLY REQUIRED BY STATUTE TO BE DONE**

There were no matters to be dealt with.

**112. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH SO NO. 15**

No questions had been submitted.

**113. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

Presentation by Hypatia Trust

Representatives of Hypatia Trust provided a film presentation about the proposed Gardeners' Building Project in Morrab Gardens, followed by a verbal explanation of the bid process. Following the presentation, there was an opportunity for members to put questions to the representatives.

Cllr Cornelius Olivier (Cornwall Council)

Cllr Olivier spoke in support of the project and praised the inclusivity of the proposal.

Cllr Jim McKenna (Cornwall Council)

Cllr McKenna also spoke in support of the project and it was noted that Cornwall Council had pledged £150,000 to help facilitate the funding bid. Cllr McKenna also felt that the project would transform that area of Morrab Gardens and should result in there being less expense for the Town Council when they eventually took over management of the facility.

**114. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

(a) Grant towards Hypatia Trust Gardeners' House Project in Morrab Gardens

The Hypatia Trust had been developing a project to create a horticulturally focussed study centre in Morrab Gardens over a number years. Early plans envisaged a large (£3 million+) scheme embracing Pengarth Day Centre (with new café), the Gardeners' Building (current project) and Morrab Gardens themselves.

In 2016, the Town Council supported a reduced scheme focussed on restoring the dilapidated Gardeners' Building and turning it into a horticultural study centre. The Town Council provided financial support for this scheme with a grant of £5,000 towards the cost of developing a Phase 1 HLF bid which subsequently led to the award of £70,000 in development funding for the Stage 2 bid.

The stage 2 HLF bid was for a grant of £720,000 towards total project costs of £1.3 million and involved the entire renovation of the current Gardeners' Building. If the bid was successful, the Hypatia Trust would have 6 months to finalise match funding.

The organisation was seeking financial support for the bid from the Town Council and it was noted that the deadline for submitting the Stage 2 bid was 19 March 2019.

The following recommendation was proposed by Cllr Pengelly and seconded by Cllr Davis:

That Penzance Town Council agree a grant of £25,000 towards the cost of the £1.3 million Gardeners' House project in Morrab Gardens. The funds to be paid from the Devolution Reserve fund. The payment of the grant to be conditional upon:

- a. The project receiving Heritage Lottery Fund grant support and being able to proceed to the implementation phase.
- b. Hypatia Trust agreeing to sub-lease the Gardeners' Accommodation to Penzance Town Council for occupation by Morrab Gardens gardeners as and when Morrab Gardens and staff were devolved to the Town Council by Cornwall Council.

Cllr Broadhurst proposed and Cllr Dixon seconded the following amendment to part b. of the above recommendation:

- b. Hypatia Trust agreeing to sub-lease the Gardeners' Accommodation to Penzance Town Council at an agreed reduced rate to reflect the Town Council's commitment to the project ...

The amendment was put to the vote, the result of which was 5 for; 8 against; 1 abstention. The motion thereby fell.

The original recommendation was put to the vote and it was unanimously **RESOLVED** to approve and adopt the recommendation as written above.

**115. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT ONLY**

None.

The meeting closed at 7.41pm

Town Mayor  
8 April 2019