

MINUTES OF PENZANCE TOWN COUNCIL MEETING held in The Main Hall,
St John's Hall, Penzance on Tuesday, 12 June 2018 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

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

Councillors D J Axford (left at 10.20pm)
K M Baker
A Bates
S J Bosworth
S M Cordel
N A Davis
J H Dixon
W Elliott
T L Halliday
J M How
B Jackson
J S Lambourn
R A Mann
N G Pengelly
S J Reed
N C Roach
N N Waller

Also present: Ben Brosgall (Leisure & Amenities Manager), Teresa Fogarty (Senior Administration Officer), Inspector Nick Clarke (Penzance Police Station), the press, approx. 260 members of the public.

The Mayor opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and explaining the purpose and aims of the meeting. It was stressed that the meeting was not about homeless people or rough sleepers but about looking at ways in which the rise in anti-social behaviour could be addressed.

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor P Young.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

27. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

The Mayor proposed that members of the public who had registered their names as wishing to speak on any of the agenda items would be invited to do so immediately prior to the relevant agenda item being addressed. This proposal was seconded by Councillor Elliott and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – to accept the proposal.

28. 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.

29. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests had been submitted.

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

There were no matters to be dealt with.

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

There were no questions.

32. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Measures to deal with anti-social behaviour

27 members of the public spoke on various issues concerning anti-social behaviour in the town and their comments can be seen at Appendix A to these minutes.

Following this, Inspector Nick Clarke stood up and explained that plans for new policing methods and patrols to tackle the issues were being put in place.

Inspector Clarke took questions from the public and acknowledged that the issues raised were currently more visible due to the improvement in the weather and that there were deep-rooted social problems in the area. He was trying to employ his resources in the most effective way and there were six PCSOs in Penzance.

The 101 telephone line was a national problem and the local lines connected to either Plymouth or Exeter. The Police Force was making the best possible use of ASB legislation but the 'Alcohol free zone' signage was not enforceable. If someone was seen publicly drinking they could be asked to stop; - if they refused the alcohol could be poured away but PSPOs had not been implemented as well as they could have been.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Clarke and the members of the public for their input and announced that he would try to organise a separate public meeting in the near future and would invite the Police & Crime Commissioner for the Southwest, the Police Inspector, Cornwall Council Community Safety Team and local Cornwall Councillors to attend.

The meeting was then adjourned for a 10 minute break, after which the agenda items were considered by the Town Council.

- (i) To consider a proposal for the appointment of a Town Warden to assist with Town Centre security

The Town Council reviewed proposals that had been put forward for measures that could be put in place to tackle the rise of anti-social behaviour in the town centre. Members considered the issues at length and reviewed the recommendations that had been put forward in the report accompanying the agenda.

At this stage in the proceedings, and the time having reached 10.00pm, it was

RESOLVED – to suspend Standing Orders in order to allow the meeting to proceed.

(Proposed: Cllr Dixon; seconded: Cllr Reed.) 18 for; 1 against.

The following recommendations were put to the vote:-

- A. Trial for 3 months Community Safety Patrols to improve the reporting of ASB to the Police and Cornwall Council (Community Safety). Resources for patrols to be created by a temporary extension of the existing security contract for Penlee Park or a new short term contract. Patrols to be vehicular and equipped with Penzance ShopWatch radio. Funding of up to £10,500 to be vired from Devolution Reserve. The voting was 6 for; 12 against; 1 abstention. Motion fell.
- B. Explore with Cornwall Council and Penzance BID the potential to collocate the BID Manager and Cornwall Council ASB staff in a prominent, easily accessible, Town Centre location with a future Town Manager. Costed proposals and job description/person specification for a Town Manager post to be prepared for consideration at a future Town Council meeting. (Proposed: Cllr Cliffe; seconded: Cllr Davis.) 17 for; 2 against. Motion carried.
- C. Seek details of Devon & Cornwall Police training scheme for 'specials' and explore with the Police ways in which the Town Council could support recruitment and retention of specials for the benefit of Penzance. (Proposed: Cllr Reed; seconded: Cllr Davis.) Unanimous. Motion carried.
- D. Work with Penzance BID to create a campaign to promote the reporting of ASB offences not sufficiently urgent or serious to justify a 999 call. (Proposed: Cllr Davis; seconded: Cllr How.) Unanimous. Motion carried.

E. Consult members of the West Cornwall CCTV Group (other town councils) over funding additional daytime active monitoring of Town Centre cameras.

(Proposed: Cllr Cliffe; seconded: Cllr Elliott.) 18 for; 1 abstention.
Motion carried.

- (ii) To seek the establishment of a Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) banning the consumption of alcohol on the streets and in parks, except for during approved events

Research had revealed that a PSPO would allow Penzance Police officers to require street drinkers to cease drinking if causing trouble and surrender their open container of alcohol if requested to do so. However, it was revealed that para 63 (4) of the legislations stated:

(4) Consuming alcohol in breach of a public spaces protection order is not an offence under this section (but see section 63).

The statutory guidance for using ASB powers also specifically excluded bans on drinking in public open spaces.

The proposal considered by the Council was to work with partner organisations to update the current Penzance PSPO to make it as effective as possible, whilst seeking the support of the MP in lobbying the Home Office to change legislation to remove the exception that prevents the banning of street drinking.

Members considered the recommendation and the proposed amendment to the legislation and statutory guidance and it was unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would conduct a review of the existing Penzance Public Space Protection Order (PSPO) in conjunction with the Police and Cornwall Council Community Safety Team, with a view to improving measures to control street drinking and other forms of anti-social behaviour.

(Proposed: Cllr Davis; seconded: Cllr Elliott.)

It was further unanimously

RESOLVED – that the Town Council would write to the local MP and seek his support in lobbying the Home Office to withdraw the exemption that prevented Public Space Protection Orders from banning street drinking in alcohol control zones. The letter would include the proposed revision to legislation and statutory guidance as noted in Appendix B to these Minutes.

(Proposed: Cllr Cliffe; seconded: Cllr Davis.)

- (b) Sponsorship of the Penzance Regeneration Partnership 'planters' scheme

Councillors considered the recommendation that the Town Council would sponsor the planter scheme that was funded by the Penzance Regeneration Partnership

and Penzance BID. The 24 new planters would be placed on the Promenade, Causewayhead and Market Jew Street.

The proposal being put forward included a recommendation that the existing granite planter/seat at the bottom of Causewayhead would be retained and a new planter placed in the near vicinity.

It was estimated that the cost of maintaining the planters would be approx. £1,000 - £1,500 per annum.

[10.20pm – Councillor Axford left the meeting]

Members of the public wishing to speak on this item were invited to do so. Three people spoke (including the BID Manager who explained the background to the scheme) and a petition containing 1,111 signatures asking that the existing granite planter/seat at the bottom of Causewayhead be retained and not replaced with one of the new ones. The BID Manager explained that a recommendation to replace this particular planter/seat had been put forward due to safety concerns arising from the number of hypodermic needles that were found within the soil of the planter.

Councillor Pengelly proposed that the recommendation should be amended to include the removal of the granite planter/seat at the bottom of Causewayhead. Councillor Elliott seconded this proposal and it was put to the vote as follows:

5 for; 13 against. The Motion duly fell.

It was then unanimously

RESOLVED – that Penzance Town Council would:

- (i) Sponsor the planter scheme funded by Penzance Regeneration Partnership (from Sainsburys S106 funds) and Penzance BID. This would have no impact on the existing granite planter situated at the bottom of Causewayhead.
 - (ii) Make budgetary provision in the 2019/20 budget and future budgets for the cost of deploying planters to the Promenade in the Spring and recovering them in the Autumn plus plant maintenance for all 24 planters. (Proposed: Councillor Cliffe; seconded: Councillor Bates.)
- (c) The Town Council's views and policy on public seating in the Town Centre

Due to the late hour, it was unanimously agreed to defer consideration of this item to the next Town Council meeting that would take place on Monday 9 July 2018.

The meeting closed at 22.39pm

Town Mayor
9 July 2018