

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of Falmouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth on Monday 8th January 2007 at 7.30 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Councillors: R.J. Bonney (Town Mayor), Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, G W Chin-Quee, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans (to point mentioned), S D Eva, L J Lloyd, DR D A Steratt, Mrs L A Trenchard, M A Varney and Mrs M H Wengradt.

In attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
S J Polglase (Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer)
Messrs J Winskill and S Bennett (Carrick District Council)
Councillors Mrs C J Ager, F Greenslade and
Mrs G Wilson (Carrick District Council)
Mr R Andrew and Mrs M Cooper (Cornwall County Council)
Councillor O K Cramp (Cornwall County Councillor)

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C3277 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Mrs Coles (family bereavement), Hobbins (work) and Mrs Ryan (ill).

Apologies were also received from Councillor Paynter, Deputy Leader of Cornwall County Council and Councillor Biscoe.

C3278 INTERESTS

None received.

C3279 REORGANISATION OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN CORNWALL

The Town Clerk apprised Members of his attendance at the information event on 13th December 2006 and correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils identifying the four salient points raised by delegates at that event:

- That the County and District Councils work together to ensure only one bid is submitted for Cornwall.
- That where services are devolved to the first tier, full funding must always be devolved with the service.
- In any future structure, local boundaries should not affect a flexible approach to better service delivery.
- Any future structure should seek to achieve maximum local representation and preserve the democratic process.

Further he referred to a reorganisation proposal advocated by Councillor Biscoe who was unable to attend the meeting.

Councillor Greenslade advised that the two tier pathfinder bid had evolved into a unified bid for Cornwall that was still distinct from the County Council model, but did not now require County Council endorsement. He explained it was crucial that bids were financially robust as the changes could not be financed from additional taxation and that

in view of the likely number of national bids to be submitted then only the strongest bids would be considered.

Mr Bennett then presented the detail of the bid and answered questions with Mr Winskill and Councillor Greenslade. It was established that boundary lines could not be altered as part of the process and the fundamental difference in the bids was the proposed number of ward Councillors in the County (82v289). The Districts bid would see shadow elections in 2008 with over-lapping to 2009 the County bid did not allow over-lapping. Both bids would enable first tier Councils to take control of assets where they could be better managed locally. The status quo could not remain.

The Chairman called a brief adjournment for refreshments and Councillor Evans and Mr Bennett left the meeting.

Mrs Cooper updated Mr Andrew's previous presentation to the Council in respect of the County Council bid, which focussed upon strong strategic leadership, local flexibility and value for money.

Mr Andrew reported upon the likely composition of the Falmouth / Penryn community network and answered questions with Mrs Cooper. It was established that projected savings were £15.4million and that where best practice currently existed this would be preserved and incorporated.

A full debate then ensued and it was proposed by Councillor Varney, seconded by Councillor Sterratt and

RESOLVED that the Council advises the Department of Communities and Local Government that if more than one bid is submitted then it supports the District Council advocated unified reorganisation bid for Cornwall, as it feels this proposal better achieves local representation and preserves the democratic process. The Council is keen to see service delivery and asset management devolved to the first tier but wishes to see assurances that capacity and resource accompanies the devolution. It also regrets that the reorganisation process did not include a rationalisation of boundaries by the Boundary Commission.

C3280 CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS ANNUAL CONFERENCE AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED that

- (i) Councillors Eva, Varney and Chin-Quee (to confirm) accompanies the Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk / Finance Officer to the Annual Conference; and
- (ii) The Council does not nominate any Officers to serve the Association.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the Meeting closed at 9.20 p.m.

Signed: Date: