

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 24th January 2011 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors Dr D A Sterratt (Chairman), A K Ayres (Vice Chairman), Mrs A J Biggins, Mrs J A Booth, C H Choak, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, Mrs S Hrydziuszka, A J Jewell, D M O'Brien and D W Saunby.

In Attendance: Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)
Mr S Mansell (Cornwall Council Monitoring Officer)

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F3932 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Body (council business), Chin-Quee(ill), Evans (ill) and Mrs Ryan (holiday).

F3933 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Biggins declared an interest in the grant application by Bray Theatre Company as a member of the organisation is a colleague and spoke to the item but did not vote thereon.

F3934 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Ayres, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 22nd November 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED to suspend standing orders whilst the Committee received a presentation from Mr Mansell in respect of the Code of Conduct.

F3935 **CODE OF CONDUCT**

Members received a training presentation on the current Code of Conduct and the proposed revisions.

F3936 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Biggins, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hrydziuszka and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Gyllyngvase Surf Life Savings Club be granted £250 to assist with the cost of training coaches.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Mrs Booth and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972, Bray Theatre Company be granted £500 towards the hire of a rehearsal venue.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Ayres and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Royal Cornwall Polytechnic Society Ltd be granted £2500 towards the cost of relocating and digitalising its historical collection.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hrydziuska and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 31 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provision) Act 1976, Falmouth Street Pastors be granted £500 towards the cost of ongoing training.

The update report on the current grant expenditure to date was duly noted as was the letter of thanks for grant award from Cornwall Blind Association.

The Council considered the addition of an annual award to Falmouth Street Pastors.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and

RESOLVED that the Council does not make an annual award to Falmouth Street Pastors.

F3937 FINANCIAL FORECASTING

The Finance Officer reported upon the current forecasting position which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

F3938 FALMOUTH COASTGUARD

The Council received a consultation report from the Maritime and Coastal Agency regarding changes to the Coastguard Service. The Committee discussed the matter but felt that more time was needed to collate views.

It was proposed by Councillor Cramp, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk collate the views of the Council to formulate a consolidated response for approval at the next scheduled Council.

F3939 LOCALISM BILL

The Committee considered the proposed Localism Bill and representations made to date thereon.

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk in consultation with then Chairman and Vice-Chairman responds to representations on behalf of the Council.

F3940 **TOWN GUIDE**

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED to approve the reprint of 4000 copies of the bi-annually produced guide at a cost to the Council of £2549.

F3941 **CCTV**

The Committee considered the current status of the provision of CCTV infrastructure and monitoring by Cornwall Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Hrydziuszka and

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be instructed to seek the views of Cornwall Association of Local Councils and the Local Stakeholders Group in regard to the continued provision of this service.

F3942 **350TH ANNIVERSARY CHARTER**

(1) CHARTER

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED that the Council agree to fund the full cost of the restoration work need to the Charter should the organising committees grant application be unsuccessful.

(2) COMMEMORATIVE ITEM

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Jewell and

RESOLVED that the Officers of the Council collate ideas for commemorative items and further present the suggestions to the next meeting of this Committee.

F3943 **SALARY AWARDS – REFERRAL FROM STAFFING COMMITTEE**

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee outlined the decision of the Staffing Committee (Minute S 463) and this was duly noted.

F3944 **SECTION 137 LIMIT**

The Finance Officer reported that the limit of expenditure under Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972 had increased to £6.44 per elector for the 2011/12 financial year and that current expenditure to date was £3012.

F3945 **SWANVALE ALLOTMENT LEASE**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Ayres and

RESOLVED that consideration of this matter be deferred until a later meeting as the textual changes were not available for consideration.

F3946 **VAT**

The Chairman reported the statutory rise in VAT to 20% as from the 4th January 2010 and this was duly noted.

F3947 **HUBS SOCIAL CARE**

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED that in light of the time frame allowed the Finance Officer be delegated to make an appropriate response to the HUBS consultation.

F3948 **CAR PARKING CHARGES**

Councillor Cramp reported the referral from the Planning Committee (Minute P4105) and commented further in regard to the proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor Hrydziuszka, seconded by Councillor Biggins and

RESOLVED that the Officers of the Council collate the views of the Councillors and liaise further with Councillor Cramp prior to formal submission of the recommendations to Cornwall Council.

F3949 **PRECEPTING POWERS**

The Finance Officer reported on the recently announced proposed Council Tax freeze for 2011/12 confirming that Town and Parish Councils had been exempted from the proposal and this was duly noted.

F3950 **AUDIT COMMISSION**

(1) Temporary Change of Auditor

The temporary change of auditor from Mr Budge to Mr Rickard was duly noted.

(2) Fees and Charges Consultation

The Finance Officer advised the Committee that a recent consultation had resulted in a small reduction in the Council's auditing costs for 2011/12 and this was duly noted.

(3) 2009/10 Report

The Audit Commissions Auditing the Accounts 2009/10 report was published on the 16th December 2010 and this was duly noted.

F3951 **PENSION CONTRIBUTIONS**

The Finance Officer reported the changes to the Council's contribution rate in respect of the Cornwall Pension Fund which were duly noted.

F3952 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor Cramp, seconded by Councillor Ayres and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for November and December 2010 be approved.

F3953 **COUNCILLOR TRAINING**

The Chairman advised the Committee of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils current training opportunities which were duly noted.

F3954 **CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS**

The Chairman reported that Councillor Hrydziuszka would be attending the meeting of CALC on the 10th February 2011 and this was duly noted.

F3955 **STRONGER CIVIL SOCIETY**

The Chairman reported that the Government consultation on strengthening community organisations was available for comment at www.communities.gov.uk and this was duly noted.

F3956 **NEW CONSULTATION ON SOCIAL HOUSING**

The Chairman reported that a summary of the Government consultation social housing was available for download from www.communities.gov.uk and this was duly noted.

F3957 **SOUTH WEST COASTAL PATHS**

The Finance Officer reported that a request had been received from the South West Coast Path team for funding to assist with their proposed clearance works to improve coastal views from three sites around Falmouth.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Biggins, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and

RESOLVED that the Council provisionally agree to contribute the requested sum of £3000 towards the cost of clearing, pending the approval of the land-owners concerned.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....