



**LOOE TOWN COUNCIL**

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING**

held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Fore Street, East Looe  
On Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> October 2014 at 7.00pm

**REPORT TO COUNCIL**

**PRESENT:** Chairman – The Mayor – Cllr D J Bryan

**COUNCILLORS**

Miss K Bishop	R Hendy
P Crossley	Mrs M Powell
J R B Dingle	M Soady
M Gregory	A Toms
Mrs E Hannaford	

**OFFICERS**

Town Clerk – Anne Frith

**IN ATTENDANCE**

Mr C Clements – Member of the Public  
Mr S Morton – Member of the Public  
Mr & Mrs Outten – Member of the Public  
Mr D Holford – Member of the Public  
Mrs S Marsh – Member of the Public  
Mr E B Galipeau – Member of the Public  
SE Cornwall Conservative Party Representative  
Various other members of the Public  
News Reporter

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The Mayor informed all present that a recommendation had been made from the Staffing Committee that the replacement of the Community Officer be put out to public consultation.

The Mayor then asked Members of the Public if they had any statements or questions.

Mr Clements asked why the Minutes of the Special Full Council Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> September had not been published, Cllr Toms responded that the Minutes have been done and will be approved at the next Full Council meeting.

No other questions or statements were forthcoming.

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<b>105.</b>	<p><b><u>APOLOGIES</u></b> Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Crane, T Stacey and D Welch</p> <p><b><u>ABSENT</u></b> Councillor Mrs E Graham-Jones and W Martin</p>	
<b>106.</b>	<p><b><u>TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST</u></b> Cllr Dingle declared an interest in any matter concerning East Looe Town Trust and West Looe Town Trust Cllr Hendy declared an interest in any matter raised concerning East Looe Town Trust Cllr Mrs Hannaford declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Cornwall Council Cllr Toms declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Cornwall Council, Looe Harbour Commission and Looe Development Trust.</p>	
<b>107.</b>	<p><b><u>TO DISCUSS THE FUTURE OF 2 POLKIRT ARCADE</u></b> Cllr Bryan stated that the first decision to make is whether the Council offices move in to the premises or not. Cllr Dingle asked why the email from Mr Morton, in which he asked various financial questions regarding the purchase of 2 Polkirt Arcade, had been referred to the Finance and Works Committee rather than being answered. The Clerk explained that most of the information is available on our website and that the email had been referred to the Finance Committee as Mr Morton had sent other similar emails regarding the Council finances, all of which are time consuming, for a recommended procedure for response to be put in place. Cllr Toms put his case for moving into the premises highlighting the large expenses that the Council is facing in the coming months and the implications of these, he stated that we have three options: move in, sell or lease. Cllr Toms also pointed out that there is the possible option of the Council offices moving into the library/one stop shop to save the library and have all local government in one place</p>	

<p>due to the cuts which Cornwall Council are having to make to the libraries budget.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory agreed with Cllr Toms statement stating that the Council has outgrown the current premises and the Tourist Information Centre needs to expand to meet the Council's requirements, this has all been slightly complicated by the potential availability of the library building.</p> <p>Cllr Hendy stated that the purchase of Polkirt Arcade was intended to resolve the accommodation issues for the Council offices and that we should use the premises as originally intended.</p> <p>Cllr Toms proposed that the offices move into 2 Polkirt Arcade, seconded by Cllr Gregory.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle questioned Cllr Toms percentage return on our outlay stating that it was the wrong decision to purchase the premises in the first place and he repeated the Clerk's comments of 14<sup>th</sup> January.</p> <p>In Cllr Dingle's opinion there are the following issues with the premises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>.1 Dangerous staircase</li> <li>.2 Lighting not office compliant</li> <li>.3 Not easily visible</li> <li>.4 Directing the public to the premises would be difficult</li> <li>.5 It would be a retrograde step to move in</li> <li>.6 The premises need refitting</li> <li>.7 We are paying full rental on the Guildhall premises until 2017</li> </ul> <p>In Cllr Dingle's opinion we should cut our losses now and dispose of the premises.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle proposed that the premises are rented out or sold, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hannaford.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Hannaford stated that she agrees with Cllr Dingle and stated her case for a potential move to the library premises. In her opinion it would be preferable to rent 2 Polkirt Arcade out.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle proposed an amendment to his previous proposal: The Council offices remain where they are, continue negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding the library premises and consider rental or sale of 2 Polkirt Arcade, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hannaford it was:</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>With a vote of 6/4 against to accept Cllr Dingle's amended proposal</p> <p>Cllr Gregory proposed that three valuations for sale and rental are now obtained, seconded by Cllr Dingle it was:</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>With a vote of 7/2 against and 1 abstention to accept the above proposal.</p>	<p>Clerk to organise valuations as proposed</p>
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	<p>Cllr Dingle requested all financial information relating to the purchase of 2 Polkirt be made available and that a quotation for the repair/replacement of the staircase be obtained.</p>	
<p>108.</p>	<p><b><u>TO DISCUSS A REPLACEMENT FOR THE COMMUNITY OFFICER</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Bryan reminded Councillors that the Staffing Committee had recommended that this discussion be deferred pending a public consultation being undertaken and informed that Cllr Toms had put together a suggested consultation sheet, which is available for collection this evening, asking the public to come back to us with suggestions.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Hannaford considered that the wording of the consultation sheet provided is too one sided and needs to show all options.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory questioned whether or not this consultation may be too early, we need to know what we need as a Council and also need to wait for the Full Council review which has yet to be done. Cllr Gregory also stated that we need to forget the role and look at what the town needs, the role needs to be structured and those needs are prioritised taking into consideration the services that Cornwall Council will not be providing in the future.</p> <p>Cllr Toms stated that he had been asked to put the consultation sheet together which he has done and asked Cllr Mrs Hannaford not to criticise it.</p> <p>Cllr Mrs Hannaford stated that she would produce a questionnaire style consultation sheet covering all options.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle stated that, in his opinion, there are two roles, one being a town promotion manger and one for maintenance/enforcement.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle proposed that the members of the public present be allowed to express their views at this stage, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hannaford it was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>.1 <u>Mr D Holford</u></p> <p>Mr Holford stated that he would like to send a list of questions to be asked on the consultation sheet to the Council. He also repeated that the previous Community Officer had no powers whatsoever and asked Cllr Gregory if Cornwall Council had told him to employ a Community Officer.</p> <p>Cllr Gregory categorically denied having been instructed to employ a Community Officer by Cornwall Council and also informed Mr Holford that the previous Community Officer had police accreditation and envirocrime powers, this was backed up by the Clerk and Mr Holford was invited to review those powers in the office, Mr Holford declined the offer.</p> <p>.2 <u>Mr Galipeau</u></p> <p>Mr Galipeau wished it to be noted that he does not agree with members of the public interrupting meetings.</p>	

	<p>Mr Galipeau also stated that serious consideration should be given to any expenditure bearing in mind that Looe has the second highest council tax burden in the County and he requested a moratorium on any decision regarding the replacement of the Community Officer, suggesting that the current staff take on extra workloads.</p> <p>Various Councillors agreed with Mr Galipeau.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle proposed that a consultation document be formulated for circulation to the public, seconded by Cllr Mrs Hannaford it was unanimously agreed.</p> <p>Cllr Bryan suggested that all responses should be received by the office by Christmas.</p>	
<p>109.</p>	<p><b><u>TO DISCUSS THE STAFFING STRUCTURE AS CIRCULATED BY CLLR TOMS</u></b></p> <p>Cllr Toms explained the rationale behind the draft document circulated and his vision for the future, he stated that this could be done without impacting on the budget.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle stated that the key to cutting costs is volunteer workers in the Tourist Information Centre, this is done very effectively in the Museum, in his opinion we need to review the TIC, look at charging for the use of the public conveniences and identify value for money.</p> <p>Cllr Dingle proposed that this matter be deferred until the Full Council review has been undertaken, seconded by Cllr Mrs Powell it was:</p> <p><b><u>RESOLVED</u></b></p> <p>Unanimously to accept the above proposal.</p> <p>The Meeting closed at 8.25pm</p>	