

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Full Council Meeting of the Looe Town Council
held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, East Looe
on Monday 19th January 2009 at 7.00pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Mayor- Cllr. R. J. Overd

COUNCILLORS

D. J. Bryan	C. Rose
J. R. B. Dingle	K. Smith
Mrs. E. Hannaford	A. Toms
M. Joy	D. Welch
D. Measures	

OFFICERS

The Clerk – Mrs A Frith

IN ATTENDANCE

District Councillor for Looe – E. B. Galipeau
Devon & Cornwall Constabulary – Inspector J. Turner
Rev. B. McQuillen – Mayor's Chaplain
Emma Haines – Cornish Guardian Reporter

166. PRAYERS

Prayers were given by the Mayor's Chaplain – Rev B McQuillen

167. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors M. Gregory,
Mrs. B. King, J. Rothwell and W. Scarah.

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The Mayor informed Council that Mr. Sid Gardner had died on the 27th
December and his funeral had been on the 16th January 2009 which was well
attended. Mr. Gardner had been a Councillor for Looe Town Council and had
been Mayor for six years.

The Mayor also informed Council that Mrs. Tagholm has resigned and we will
be advertising for a replacement.

Finally he reminded Council about the Mayor's Dinner on Friday 20th March in
aid of Shelter Box.

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168. TO APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE LAST COUNCIL MEETING

.1 Reference Minute No: 160.1 – C.A.T.S

The Mayor asked for clarification of the abbreviation.

.2 Reference Minute No: 160.2 – E.C.L.A.G

The Mayor asked for clarification of the abbreviation.

Councillor Joy proposed that the Minutes of the last Full Council Meeting of the 8th December 2008 be accepted, seconded by Councillor Mrs. Hannaford it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to accept the Minutes of the Full Council meeting of the 8th December 2008.

169. TO RECEIVE DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

.1 Personal Interests

Councillors Bryan, Rose and Smith declared an interest in any matter raised concerning East Looe Town Trust.

Councillor Toms declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Cornwall County Council or Caradon District Council.

Councillor Measures declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Looe-in-Bloom.

.2 Prejudicial Interests

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford, D. Bryan, D. Measures and A. Toms all declared an interest in Agenda item 18 (Accounts for Payment).

170. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

There were no questions raised as there were no members of the public present.

171. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DEVON & CORNWALL CONSTABULARY

.1 New Year Eve

Inspector Turner presented his report of New Year's Eve. It had been very well attended but had started later than last year. A lot of people arrived by coach and rail.

Considerable resources were out including police staff from the firearms unit but unfortunately two incidents occurred resulting in some of the duty officers leaving.

There were six arrests in total, four of them were under seventeen's for alcohol offences. There was also a problem with two licensed premises one of which was temporarily closed down and then re-opened and premises ignoring their capacity levels need to be dealt with. Some food outlets serving after 11.00pm also caused problems and there are concerns that this encourages people to remain in town longer than they normally would.

Inspector Turner acknowledged that the fireworks had provided a basis for dispersal of people when they had finished.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Turner and all his staff for their presence on New Year's Eve acknowledging that it couldn't have been easy but the Town Council are very grateful.

.2 Update on General Crime

Inspector Turner informed Council (see attached Appendix "A") that the crime figures for the period 1st April 2007 to 31st March 2008 were down by 30 on the figures for the previous year, there is a local reduction in violent crime but still room for improvement.

He is looking into the feasibility of providing “street pastors” who would patrol the streets as volunteers monitoring anti-social behaviour. There is funding available for training, travel etc.

There has been a rise in vehicle crime and burglaries, mostly of cars, but the offender has been identified.

On the whole there is a reduction in crime and the detection rate for this area is 32% which fares well compared to the rest of Cornwall.

Councillor Joy congratulated Inspector Turner on the reduction of crime and asked about the issue of people parking on pavements causing obstruction. Inspector Turner replied that unless the police actually see the offence being committed regrettably they cannot do anything. He accepts the issues and understands the frustrations, the police are interested and will take action if necessary.

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford stated that this is unacceptable.

The Mayor thanked Inspector Turner for his reports and Inspector Turner then left the meeting.

172. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE COUNTY COUNCILLOR FOR LOOE

Councillor Toms reported that he had attended an inordinate amount of meetings since the last Council meeting and reported as follows:

.1 Cornwall County Council – Finance Meeting.

It would appear that there is not going to be enough money available to cover all the services.

The centralisation of services in Truro also causes concern, many of the staff are in place but in his opinion too much is being done too quickly and services will suffer.

.2 One Stop Shop

Councillor Toms had received a letter from Cornwall County Council Leader Mr. Whalley stating that One Stop Shops had been located for their accessibility, on bus routes, and DDA compliant. Councillor Toms stated that the location of Looe’s One Stop Shop does not comply with any of this criteria.

.3 Caradon District Council – Costs of One Cornwall

The cost to Caradon District Council so far is £580,000, this is the cost of 24,000 working hours of officers dealing with One Cornwall.

Councillor Joy asked Councillor Toms to chase up the situation regarding Civil Enforcement Officers as we need to have this problem resolved before the start of the holiday season. Councillor Toms will get in touch with Kate Dixon at Cornwall County Council.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Toms from his report.

Councillor Toms then left the meeting.

173. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE DISTRICT COUNCILLOR FOR LOOE

Councillor Galipeau gave his report as follows:

.1 Community Network Area

All District Councillors have been involved in this matter and are trying to tidy it up. All three District Councillors for Looe fully support the Looe/Liskeard Community Network Area.

.2 Economic Downturn

Caradon District Council has been looking at this issue and are writing to the Government to ease Council Tax on empty commercial properties.

.3 Citizens Advice Bureau

Money has been awarded to provide more advisors during the credit crunch.

.4 Tourism

Caradon District Council is trying to identify funding sources to support the tourism industry. With the forthcoming end of the Caradon Area Tourism Forum Executive, SECTA, Best Of Bodmin Moor and TAVATA have got together and will continue to try to help tourism.

Councillor Joy asked Councillor Galipeau for an update on the Conservation Area proposal for Hannaford, Councillor Galipeau is still pressing for it.

The Mayor thanked Councillor Galipeau for his report.

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford informed Council that Caradon District Council are aiming to pay their bills within seven days and perhaps Looe Town Council should do the same.

NOTE: Looe Town Council have been doing this for some considerable time.

Councillor Measures stated that Looe has the highest number of people claiming Job Seekers Allowance with no job centre in Looe.

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford responded that she has been lobbying for recognition of this problem and Caradon District Council will write to the Department of Communities and Local Government to press for solutions.

Councillor Measures suggested that perhaps the caravan parks could keep their seasonal staff on a retainer for the next season.

The Mayor suggested this be referred to the Town Tourism Committee.

At this point Councillor Smith left the meeting due to ill-health (7.45pm).

174. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM A REPRESENTATIVE OF LOOE COMMUNITY SCHOOL

There was no report given.

175. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

.1 Reference Minute No: 149.3 – Boundary Commission Draft Review

This matter will be discussed later in the meeting.

CORRESPONDENCE

176. CARADON DISTRICT COUNCIL – CODE OF CONDUCT TRAINING

Code of Conduct training for Councillors will be held on the 24th February 2009. Any Councillor wishing to attend should inform the Clerk as soon as possible.

177. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE ENVIRONMENT & PUBLIC PROTECTION COMMITTEE

Councillor Joy gave the report of the meeting of the 12th January 2009 and proposed that the Minutes be accepted, seconded by Councillor Welch it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously agreed that the Minutes of the Meeting of the 12th January 2009 be accepted.

178. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE FINANCE & WORKS COMMITTEE

No meeting had been held.

179. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Councillor Joy gave his report of the meetings of the 12th December 2008 and 5th January 2009 and proposed that the Minutes of both meetings be accepted, seconded by Councillor Measures it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to accept the Minutes of the Meetings of the 12th December 2008 and 5th January 2009.

Councillor Joy added that the Committee are very unhappy with the inconsistencies and disarray within Caradon District Council Development and Building Control.

A letter had been written to this effect, an unsatisfactory reply had been received so another letter has been sent.

180. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE PROCEDURES COMMITTEE

No meeting had been held.

181. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE TOWN TOURISM PANEL

No meeting had been held but Councillor Dingle informed Council that he had been in touch with the Chamber of Trade and arranged a meeting with them and SECTA to discuss the way forward for tourism.

Councillor Mrs Hannaford stated that this is a really good idea.

182. TO RECEIVE A REPORT FROM THE SUB-COMMITTEES, WORKING PARTIES AND OUTSIDE ORGANISATIONS.

.1 Devon & Cornwall Rail Partnership

Councillor Rose reported that there was a 5.7% drop in usage of the Looe Valley Line last year but this was to be expected.

There is an additional £20,000 available for the Moorswater Park and Ride scheme study.

There are apparently possible intentions of parking charges being introduced at Liskeard Station.

.2 Looe Area Partnership

As Councillor Bryan had been unaware of the last meeting Councillor Mrs Hannaford reported that there are three priorities which have been identified.

a) The need to widen Community Groups – a “speed-dating” event for 11th February has been arranged to assist with this.

b) Information from Parish Plans – Councillor Toms is collating the relevant points from all Parish Plans to identify common issues.

c) Town Manager- the Chamber of Trade are very keen to have a town manager to promote the town. Councillor Mrs. Hannaford is collating information for a job description for the type of person(s) needed.

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford invited all Councillors to the “speed dating” event.

.3 East Cornwall Local Action Group

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford informed Council that there is a meeting on the 20th January 2009. The last meeting was all about training therefore there was not much to report.

The next meeting will be all about expressions of interest for projects. There is a fund of £300,000 available.

Councillor Mrs Hannaford will give a fuller report at the next Full Council meeting.

183. TO DISCUSS THE NOMINATION OF A COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVE FOR THE CHAMBER OF TRADE

Councillor Joy proposed that Councillor Dingle be nominated. As there were no other nominations the Mayor asked Councillor Dingle if he would be happy to represent Looe Town Council, Councillor Dingle stated he would be happy to do so and felt that as a Member of the previous Chamber of Trade he could possibly make a good contribution.

Councillor Joy's proposal was seconded by Councillor Overd and it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to nominate Councillor Dingle as the Representative for Looe Town Council on the Chamber of Trade.

184. TO RECEIVE AN UPDATE ON ONE CORNWALL

The Mayor gave a report of the progress so far, (see attached Appendix "B") A report had been received from Linda Ridley which pulled together all suggested options for Community Network Areas. The Mayor asked for Council's permission to respond to this on behalf of Looe Town Council, unanimous agreement was given.

Councillor Mrs. Hannaford stated that if Lanteglos joined with West Looe and Lansallos, as they wanted to do, it would be a 14% variation of electoral voting numbers.

Councillor Galipeau stated that there is no further money available for extension to the Library for the One Stop Shop.

185. MATTERS FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

There were no matters raised.

186. TO APPROVE ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT

At this point Councillors Bryan, Measures and Mrs. Hannaford all left the meeting having previously declared a prejudicial interest.

To accept for payment the bills as listed and amounting to £7,924.82 and for the transfer of £5,300.00 to the Wages Account for December 2008.

Councillor Joy proposed that the accounts for payment as listed for December 2008 be accepted, seconded by Councillor Welch it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to approve the accounts as listed for December 2008.

The Meeting closed at 8.20 pm.

