

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND WORKS COMMITTEE MEETING

held in the Tourist Information Centre,
The Guildhall, East Looe on Tuesday 22nd June 2010 at 7pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT

Chairman – Cllr Chris Rose
Cllrs D J Bryan, J R B Dingle, C Lambert,
K Smith and D Welch

IN ATTENDANCE

Town Clerk – Mrs A Frith
Cllrs E B Galipeau and A Toms

13. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Gregory.

14. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

.1 Personal Interests

Councillor Bryan declared an interest in any matter raised concerning East Looe Town Trust.

Councillor Dingle declared an interest in any matter raised concerning East Looe Town Trust and West Looe Town Trust.

Councillors Lambert and Galipeau declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Looe Development Trust.

.2 Prejudicial Interests

There were none declared.

15. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

.1 Ref Minute No: 12.2 – Granite Seats

Councillor Rose had been to look at the seats manufactured by “Columbaria” apparently located at Glynn Valley Crematorium but had been unable to find them.

Councillor Bryan informed the Committee that these seats are now there, located in the new garden by the lake. Councillor Rose will go and look again and report back.

The Clerk was asked to chase up the requested sample.

.2 Ref Minute No: 12.1 – EDF Energy – Bridge Lights

The Chairman informed the Committee that a meeting with Western Power has been arranged for Wednesday 23rd June to discuss the disconnection of the bridge floodlights.

16. TO DISCUSS THE PUTTING GREEN

The Chairman informed the Committee that a meeting has been arranged with the Bowling Club on 25th June 2010 to ascertain what level of assistance they would be willing to offer with regard to the manning of the Putting Green.

Councillor Dingle showed the Committee some score cards, produced by his daughter, which he would be willing to provide to encourage the use of the Putting Green. Councillor Dingle also expressed the opinion that we need to be realistic about how we deal with the Bowling Club/Putting Green.

The Chairman suggested that we look at other ways of managing instead of taking on full responsibility via a lease of the facility.

17. TO DISCUSS REQUESTS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

.1 St Martin with St Nicholas – Burial Ground Donation

This request was discussed by the Committee. Councillor Bryan asked if it could be ascertained how this annual donation originated and also wanted to know what the Church plans for the future as the Cemetery is becoming full.

Councillor Rose proposed that this matter be deferred to the next meeting pending receipt of this information, seconded by Councillor Bryan it was agreed with a vote of 5/1 against.

18. CORRESPONDENCE

.1 Looe Development Trust

A request for the pledged funds for the IT Centre had been received.

The Chairman explained that issues raised regarding the use of the funds have been satisfactorily resolved after a meeting with three of the Trustees and Councillor Rose proposed that payment of £3,000 be made now with further payments of £2,000 each in September and December, seconded by Councillor Bryan it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to make the recommendations to Full Council to make the first payment of £3,000.

Councillor Rose stated that any future funding should be dependant on usage of the facility.

.2 Mr Neville Upton

A letter of resignation had been received from Mr Upton who had, up to now, managed the Health Centre Patients Car Park for Looe Town Council for 15 hours a week.

The role of a replacement person was discussed at length taking into account maintenance of Council property, manning the putting green etc. It was agreed to defer this matter until after the Meeting with the Bowling Club on 25th June 2010.

In the meantime the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Dave Chessum (who had previously been employed by Cornwall Council to man the putting green) to offer him a short-term contract to cover Mr Upton's role of car park management until the requirements of a replacement have been agreed.

19. TO REVIEW COUNCIL SERVICE CONTRACTS

The Chairman explained that the only service required by Looe Town Council at the moment is window cleaning for which there is no formal contract. In his opinion formal contracts should be implemented but it was agreed by the Committee to defer this matter until clarification of Mr Upton's replacements role has been decided.

20. TO DISCUSS THE TOWN CRIER HONORARIUM

The Chairman explained that, as the Town Crier had been in post for twelve months, the honorarium paid to him is due for review.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that last year's honorarium of

£650 was inclusive of an amount towards the cost of the required regalia. Some concerns were raised over issues that had involved the Town Crier but it was agreed that, on the whole, he was carrying out his duties as required.

Councillor Dingle proposed that an honorarium of £300 be paid six monthly in arrears ie September and March, seconded by Councillor Rose it was unanimously agreed.

The Clerk was asked to write to the Town Crier with the proposal and ask for his acceptance.

21. TO DISCUSS THE WEST LOOE DOWN STORE

The Chairman informed the Committee that a re-valuation of the property had been done and the rateable value had been reduced to £1,000 from £1,850. A revised rates bill is awaited from Cornwall Council.

It was agreed that Councillors Rose, Welch and Dingle would survey the building for possible uses and report back to the next meeting.

22. MATTER FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION

.1 Cash Sheets and Bank Reconciliation

The Committee discussed the income/expenditure and bank reconciliation (as per attached) and agreed that this was in line with the budget forecast.

Councillor Galipeau requested a more detailed report of the Tourist Information Centre income and expenditure for the next meeting and also asked what, if any, budget had been allowed for marketing and advertising, Councillor Rose replied that any surplus from the profit of the Looe Guide would go towards the running costs of the Tourist Information Centre.

It was agreed that this matter be put on the Agenda for the next meeting.

.2 Government Budget Proposals 22nd June 2010

Councillor Bryan raised concerns about the Government's announcement to freeze Council Tax, would this affect Town and Parish Council precepts.

Councillor Rose also raised concerns that, if Cornwall Council show a 0% increase on Council Tax bills and Town and Parish Councils showed a ?% increase, it would present an unfair and inaccurate picture to the residents.

The Clerk was asked to write to CALC for their support and clarification of our concerns and the implications of the Budget proposals.

.3 Public Footpaths

Councillor Smith asked if Looe Town Council should or could take over the management of public footpaths from Cornwall Council as he had received a lot of complaints regarding the overgrown paths.

It was agreed that this matter should be put on the next Agenda for discussion. The Clerk was asked to obtain a list of all the footpaths within the Looe boundary. Councillor Bryan stated that Mr Cotton may have that information having ascertained all the information when he served on Looe Town Council.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm

Signed Date
Chairman of Finance and Works Committee