

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL FULL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND
WORKS COMMITTEE**

held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Fore Street, East Looe
on Monday 19th November 2012 at 7.00pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr D J Bryan

COUNCILLORS

P Crossley	W Martin
E B Galipeau	Mrs M Powell
M Gregory	C Rose
Mrs E Hannaford	A Toms

OFFICERS

Town Clerk – Mrs A Frith

IN ATTENDANCE

Mr G Heeley
Mr S Moreton

76. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors T Crane,
J R B Dingle, D Welch, K Smith and T Stacey.

77. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

.1 Personal Interest

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

Councillor Mrs Hannaford declared an interest in any matter raised concerning
Cornwall Council.

Councillor Toms declared an interest in any matter raised concerning Looe
Development Trust, Looe Harbour Commission and Cornwall Council.

.2 Prejudicial Interests

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

**78. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS OR STATEMENTS FROM MEMBERS OF THE
PUBLIC**

Mr Heeley congratulated Council on the openness and transparency by
providing the figures and analysis due to be discussed at this meeting.

79. TO DISCUSS THE FUNDING REQUESTS FROM EAST LOOE TOWN TRUST FOR SECOND BEACH STEPS AND THE MUSEUM

See attached Notes Appendix 'A' for reference.

At this point Councillors Bryan and Galipeau left the room.

.1 Second Beach Steps

Councillor Rose explained that, following the Finance and Works Committee meeting of 29th October 2012, he and the Clerk had met with East Looe Town Trust Chairman and Manager to discuss issues raised.

Councillor Mrs Hannaford read out the letter written by Caradon District Council on 2nd May 1995 in which they accepted responsibility for the steps, Councillor Toms is also dealing with this through the relevant Officers at Cornwall Council.

Councillor Gregory proposed that Looe Town Council await the outcome from Cornwall Council before considering the matter further, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hannaford it was unanimously agreed.

.2 The Museum

Councillor Rose declared a personal interest as a Museum volunteer.

The Clerk explained the current situation as per the notes attached. Councillor Rose informed Council that the volunteers had raised £10,000 this year and £9,000 last year.

As the repairs are estimated to cost in the region of £20,000 the question was raised as to why funding is being requested.

Councillor Gregory proposed that East Looe Town Trust be asked what their £10,000 budget is for and to ask for a copy of the accounts for the Museum for the last three years, also to suggest that East Looe Town Trust apply to English Heritage for a grant now, seconded by Councillor Crossley it was agreed with a vote of 6/1 abstention.

Councillor Bryan and Galipeau returned to the meeting.

80. TO DISCUSS THE BUDGET AND PRECEPT PROPOSALS FOR 2013/4 AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL

Councillor Bryan explained that a meeting with Cornwall Council regarding the Public Conveniences had taken place immediately prior to this meeting and the Portfolio Holder, Councillor Pollard, had suggested that we defer our Precept decision until January as we may not have enough funds to run the public conveniences should we agree to take them on. Cornwall Council require an agreement by 1st January 2013 for implementation on 1st April 2013.

Councillor Gregory explained that, as yet, we don't know the bottom line costs or capital costs, our key input would be taking on some toilets hoping to keep them all open by negotiation.

Councillor Gregory proposed that the draft budget as presented be approved subject to review in January when the full costs of the public conveniences are known.

Councillor Rose stated that it is disappointing that we have got this far and then faced with this issue and wouldn't want to agree the precept at this stage.

Councillor Gregory stated that the public conveniences expense would not, hopefully, change the precept and Councillor Bryan said that a lot depends on the lease negotiations with Looe Harbour Commission and that Councillor Pollard (Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder) had suggested that our Precept decision be delayed until January.

Councillor Galipeau stated that he wants to discuss the draft budget as he considers we are sitting on an ocean of money and need to go through the figures.

Councillor Gregory went through the proposals line by line in conjunction with the analysis.

Councillor Gregory proposed that the estimated £260,462 unallocated funds be included on the budget sheet as "buildings fund", as this is a specific project and the funds should be ring-fenced, seconded by Councillor Rose it was:

RESOLVED

Unanimously to accept Councillor Gregory's proposal.

Councillor Galipeau circulated a copy of his Motion/Amendment (as attached Appendix 'B'). He read the content out to Council and proposed an amendment to Councillor Gregory's proposal that the Council reserves be frozen at the estimated end balance for 2012/3 ie £442,417.

Councillor Bryan, Rose and Gregory wished it to be noted that they were disappointed that Councillor Galipeau had again tabled a document for discussion that had not previously been circulated.

Councillor Gregory argued that by doing this it would ignore all our accommodation problems, if there is no money available to address this situation a loan would be required and ultimately cost the Council more, using our own funds would minimize this and it would be very wrong to saddle a new Council with a loan. Councillor Gregory re-iterated his previous proposal, this was seconded by Councillor Rose.

Councillor Toms proposed a second amendment to Councillor Gregory's proposal and proposed that any decision regarding the precept requirement be deferred until January when the public convenience costings are received from Cornwall Council.

The Chairman asked Council to vote as follows:

.1 1st Amendment – Councillor Galipeau's Proposal

The Chairman asked for a seconder for this proposal, there was no seconder so this proposal was lost.

.2 2nd Amendment – Councillor Toms Proposal

The Chairman asked for a seconder for this proposal, seconded by Councillor Rose a vote was then take and it was:

RESOLVED

With a vote of 7/1 against and 1 abstention to delay the decision on the Precept until January 2013.

Councillor Gregory's proposal was therefore not voted on.

The Meeting closed at 8.45pm.

Appendix 'A'

NOTES OF THE DISCUSSION WITH EAST LOOE TOWN TRUST RE FUNDING REQUESTS FOR THE MUSEUM AND SECOND BEACH STEPS

held in the Mayor's Parlour, The Guildhall, East Looe
on Thursday 8th November 2012 at 10.30am

PRESENT: Councillor C Rose
Mr J Warne – East Looe Town Trust Chairman
Mrs Anne Frith – Town Clerk
Mrs Judy Martin – East Looe Town Trust Office Manager

Councillor Rose explained that Looe Town Council's Finance and Works Committee required further information regarding the funding requests.

.1 Second Beach Steps

Looe Town Council's Finance and Works Committee wanted to know whether permission from the owner of the steps had been given to carry out the repairs needed and who else East Looe Town Trust had contacted for financial assistance.

Mr Warne informed that the owner has given his written permission but is not prepared to donate any funds to the repair.

He also informed that West Looe Town Trust have pledged £1,000 but Looe Harbour Commission cannot donate as it is not within their remit. Numerous other letters have been sent out with no responses received so far. The cost of repair is £13,688 which is un-budgeted. Mrs Martin stated that she had a copy of a letter from Caradon District Council which states that the maintenance of the steps is their responsibility, however, Cornwall Council are not willing to honour this. The Clerk offered to contact the Community Network Manager to see if he can help.

.2 The Museum

Councillor Rose declared an interest being a volunteer for the Museum.

Mr Warne explained that the cost of the repairs is in the region of £20,000. East Looe Town Trust have £10,000 in their budget for the repairs and are looking for help with the remaining £10,000.

Mrs Martin stated that an application for funding was sent to Viridor but was unsuccessful.

Mrs Martin also stated that an application to English Heritage, as suggested, would be the last resort. Again, numerous letters have been sent out but no responses received to date.

Special Finance meeting
 Monday 19th November 2012

Motion/Amendment

That the Council freezes its reserves at the level estimated at the current year end.

*[A precept reduction of 23% to **£229,618**. Band D tax reduced from £134 to £103.]*

The figures in 7. & 8. relate to the Precept working paper proposals previously circulated.

1. The budget approved by council a year ago estimated end of year reserves of **£117,419**.
2. However, the current estimate of reserves at this year's end is very much larger than this; about **£442,717**.
3. There are several reasons for this discrepancy, which I believe have now been identified.
4. I am delighted that this year's precept paper seems to work and that this year the Finance Committee as done some detailed work to review and confirm the 'ring-fenced' money.
5. I am also relieved that money allocated to a New Council Offices fund has been brought into the open as a ring-fenced reserve.
6. I am told that a majority of Council members feels that none of this money should be handed back to the townspeople, and in effect should be a legacy for the newly elected Council to decide what to do with it.
7. The proposed budget suggests that we freeze the precept. If we did this it would further *increase* the end of year reserves by £70,000 to **£512,017**
8. Even maintaining the reserve money at this year's level would cost the town **£12,000** at the current 2.7% rate of inflation.
9. I believe the town can not afford to have such large sums of money sucked out of its economy.

Brian Galipeau Looe town councillor 19th November 2012

2012-13	Band D
Looe	£134
Saltash	£46
Liskeard	£90
Callington	£97
Torpoint	£64