

LOOE TOWN COUNCIL

**MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
FINANCE AND WORKS COMMITTEE**

held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, Fore Street, East Looe
on Monday 6th January 2014 at 7.00pm

REPORT TO COUNCIL

PRESENT: Chairman – Cllr M Gregory
Cllrs Miss K Bishop, D J Bryan, P Crossley,
R Hendy, W Martin, Mrs M Powell and M Soady

OFFICERS

Town Clerk – Mrs A Frith

IN ATTENDANCE

Cllrs T Crane, J R B Dingle, Mrs E Hannaford and A Toms
Ms T Brittain – Looe Music Festival

80. APOLOGIES

There were none received.

81. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Hendy 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 concerning Cornwall Council, Looe Harbour Commission and Looe Development Trust.

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

There were no members of the public present.

**83. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF
9th DECEMBER 2013**

No matters were raised.

84. TO DISCUSS THE REQUEST FROM LOOE MUSIC FESTIVAL

Councillor Gregory thanked Ms Brittain for her attendance and asked her to explain what she had in mind for the sale of Looe Music Festival tickets.

Ms Brittain explained that various options for ticket sales have been tried over the last three years, none of which had been entirely satisfactory. The Trustees had discussed this and decided that the handling of ticket sales be

put out to tender and to have one outlet only. They would be looking for someone who can be trusted and can be supported, it would also reduce the reliance on on-line tickets sales and provide the cash flow to book bands etc for this year's festival.

Councillor Gregory asked for confirmation that an outlay of £30,000, with a resale value of £37,500, is what Looe Music Festival are requesting and that any unsold tickets would be refunded. Ms Brittain confirmed that this is correct.

Councillor Gregory stated that the only risk he could see would be if Looe Music Festival collapsed, Ms Brittain stated that Looe Music Festival now has a significant track record having staged three successful events and Visit Cornwall are considering sponsoring the festival rather than just contributing, the risk of a collapse or non-event is negligible.

Councillor Dingle asked if the request for use of the public conveniences and patients car park formed part of the overall request, Ms Brittain stated that this is a different issue separate from ticket sales.

Councillor Miss Bishop asked if, when Looe Town Council have made their decision, Looe Music Festival Trustees will also be considering other tenders, this was confirmed. Councillor Mrs Hannaford proposed that Looe Town Council put forward a tender to operate the Box Office through the Tourist Information Centre and purchase £30,000 of tickets if successful, seconded by Councillor Mrs Powell it was:

RESOLVED

With a vote of 9/1 against (Councillor Bryan) and 2 abstentions to make recommendation to Full Council to accept the above proposal.

85. TO APPROVE THE QUOTATION(S) FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCE CONVERSION WORKS AND MAKE RECOMMENDATION TO FULL COUNCIL

Councillor Gregory asked Councillor Toms to explain the only quotation received (as attached), Councillor Toms explained that the quotation came in at £30,000 based on labour only with Looe Town Council purchasing all equipment and being able to reclaim the VAT. The quotation would include all works with high specification waterless urinals, basins, hand-driers etc. The only other quote received had been from Cormac who have quoted £70,000.

Councillor Crossley queried why we are not considering charging for the toilets with Councillor Martin stating that we should be looking at the charging before looking at quotes for conversions of the toilets. Councillor Gregory informed both Councillors that this matter is on the Agenda for the Environment and Public Protection Meeting on 8th January.

There followed much heated discussion with Councillor Dingle stating he has no confidence in the contractor who has supplied the quote and he has concerns that only one quote has been sourced and wanted to know who designed the requirements for the quote. Councillor Mrs Hannaford wants to see the contractors Insurance.

Councillor Martin wants to see quotations for the full cost including equipment and stated that, in his opinion, everything should go through a proper architect, project manager and proper quotes.

At this point Councillor Toms stated that he will now leave all this work to someone else as he feels that all this Council do is send things round in circles and no decision is made, he tries to do his best for this town,

decisions need to be made regarding the toilets or Looe Town Council will be a laughing stock.

Councillor Toms formally withdrew from any future management of the conversion works.

Councillor Gregory pointed out that Councillor Toms, Hendy and Mrs Powell had previously been given delegated authority to get on with this work and they had done as requested, he also pointed out that there is a time-limit of the end of June on Cornwall Council's offer of the funds to carry out these works and that the Guildhall conversion needs completing by the end of March in time for the summer season.

Councillor Hendy stated that the real objective is the conversion works not the consideration of charging, the key issue is whether we go ahead with the conversions or not and it is an urgent decision.

Councillor Toms proposed setting up a new Committee to deal with this which was seconded by Councillor Hendy.

Councillor Dingle proposed an amendment to Councillor Toms' proposal, this being to obtain a professional opinion, get drawings done and obtain proper quotes.

At this point Councillor Mrs Powell left the Meeting stating that she was not there to be insulted. As the meeting was becoming very heated Councillor Gregory suspended the Meeting for a short break. (7.55pm).

The Meeting resumed at 8.05pm.

Councillor Gregory proposed that this matter be brought to Full Council on 13th January 2014 and to ask Mr Colin Crabb (Project Manager) to oversee the quotation procedure and attend the Council Meeting, seconded by Councillor Dingle it was:

RESOLVED

With a vote of 8/4 abstentions.

The Clerk was asked to check the contractors qualifications and obtain two more quotations.

86. TO FURTHER DISCUSS THE BUDGET/PRECEPT 2014/15

Councillor Gregory went through the draft budget proposals which showed the potential outcome of a 0% and a 9% precept for 2014/15 and forecast for 2015/16. He explained the reasons for the increased expenditure partly due to the uncertainty of the Local Government Council Tax Grant after 2014/15. The Government is also due to make an announcement regarding capping of precepts for Town and Parish Councils. A 9% increase in the precept was recommended at the last Finance and Works Meeting for both 2014/15 and 2015/16.

Councillor Crane stated that residents will ask what the increase will mean to them and what they will get for the increase, it is important to have a unified answer and this needs to be publicised.

Councillor Toms stated that a narrative needs to accompany the budget increase and Councillor Martin stated that we need to show the public conveniences' costs and the benefits of charging.

Councillor Martin left the meeting

Councillor Bryan stated that the future of the Tourist Information Centre needs urgent discussion and proposed that a special meeting be called, seconded by Councillor Crossley it was unanimously agreed.

Councillor Mrs Hannaford asked for a breakdown of the staff costs and queried the increase in the Mayoral allowance, (Councillor Bryan, as Mayor,

left the room during this discussion) Councillor Gregory explained the increases.

Councillor Bryan returned to the Meeting.

Councillor Gregory proposed that the Precept for 2014/15 be increased by 9%, seconded by Councillor Bryan it was:

RESOLVED

With a vote of 9/1 abstention to make the recommendation to Full Council to approve a 9% increase.

87. MATTERS FOR FURTHER OR URGENT DISCUSSION AS DETERMINED BY THE CHAIRMAN

There were no matters raised.

The Meeting closed at 8.50pm.