

Councillors Present:

Mrs G A Grant – Town Mayor

Mrs M V Bennett, K S Green, Mrs C Hutchings, J Langan, Mrs M K May, G K Mockett, Mrs S Peters, D A Prynn, G C Rickard, M Snowdon, Mrs S Townsend and E L Wilkes

Mrs Lorna Smuda attended the meeting and thanked the Town Mayor, Councillors and volunteers for their hard work in organising the Diamond Jubilee street party in Penryn. She added that it was a mammoth task and the atmosphere had been tremendous. She also expressed disappointment at a lack of attendance by Councillors at recent civic events and urged Councillors to support these occasions.

PCSO Lewis Vague attended the meeting to give a police report and introduced Sergeant Chris Miles who was the new neighbourhood sergeant for Penryn and the rural areas for at least the coming year. Main issues centred around parking, particularly at Kernick and Green Lane. Road cones that had been placed on the highway in the area had been ignored and therefore police were beginning to issue enforcement tickets to cars parked illegally or causing obstruction. He also warned of a spate of marine crime in the more rural areas towards Flushing and Mylor.

7. APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors N S Ferris, Mrs B Hulme (Deputy Mayor) and M J Mullins.

8. MINUTES

RESOLVED that minutes 103 to 114 of the Council Meeting held on 2 April 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Proposed by Councillor M Snowdon and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Hutchings

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 16 April 2012 be noted.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs C Hutchings and seconded by Councillor E L Wilkes

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting of the Planning Committee held on 21 May 2012 be noted.

Proposed by Councillor E L Wilkes and seconded by Councillor G K Mockett

RESOLVED that the notes of the meeting of the Management Team held on 30 April 2012 be noted.

Proposed by Councillor E L Wilkes and seconded by Councillor G K Mockett

9. CORRESPONDENCE

Letters of thanks for Section 137 Grants had been received from Falmouth Golf Club and the Penryn and District Twinning Association. The Women's Institute Penryn also thanked the Town Council for organising the Diamond Jubilee street party for the residents of Penryn.

The Town Council had also received a copy of a letter from the Penryn River Users Association to the Harbour Office raising concerns regarding the need for a freshwater facility on Exchequer Quay and the restrictions placed on berthing at the new pontoons. Councillor Mrs M K May undertook to raise the issues with the Harbours Board.

10. MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENT AND ENGAGEMENTS

The list of the Town Mayor's engagements since the previous Council meeting was noted.

11. REPRESENTATION BY CORNWALL COUNCIL MEMBERS AND REPORTS BY COUNCILLORS ATTENDING EXTERNAL MEETINGS

Cornwall Councillor Mrs M K May gave an oral report to Council and advised of the following:

- She thanked Councillor D Prynn and John Kirby and their team of volunteers for erecting the bunting and helping with the hanging baskets during the Diamond Jubilee weekend and also to Councillors, in particular, K S Green and D Prynn, for their help with the street party.
- Penryn Rugby Club had been allocated £2225 from the Cornwall Community Fund to enable their ladies team to compete out of the county.
- Cornwall Council had written to the Housing Minister in reference to the housing Right to Buy requesting that Cornwall be considered as a special case.
- The refuse had been collected on Bank Holiday Monday and Tuesday and the only days of year that did not now have a collection were Christmas Day and Boxing Day.
- Enforcement measures were being introduced in relation to parking on Exchequer Quay due to abuse of the current arrangements.
- Cornwall Council had announced that it would not be funding a Stadium for Cornwall. Councillor Mrs May advised that she was in support of a Stadium as Penryn College was a Sports College of Excellence and the stadium would also be a community asset for the whole of Cornwall.
- Liskeard had been successful in bidding to become a Mary Portas Pilot town. All towns which had expressed an interest would be receiving a briefing paper.
- The planting of the shrubs at Poltair playing area would be carried out in September and October.
- Councillors were reminded in response to emails circulated from St Dennis Parish Council that if Sita's application for an incinerator did not go ahead, the cost to taxpayers would be in the region of £50m.
- Cornwall Council was backing Cornwall as a national hub for solar power.

12. REPORT FROM THE TOWN CLERK

The Town Clerk presented a report on her attendance at meetings during the period 26 March to 28 May 2012 which was noted.

13. ACCOUNTS

The statement and list of payments made for the period 21 April to 20 May 2012 were presented.

RESOLVED that the list of accounts paid from 21 April to 20 May 2012 be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor Mrs M V Bennett

14. APPROVAL OF ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2011/2012

The Town Clerk presented a report on the annual accounts for the financial year ending 31 March 2012.

RESOLVED that the accounting statements for the financial year ending 31 March 2012, and the annual governance statement confirming a sound system of internal control and audit and preparation of the accounting statements, be approved.

Proposed by Councillor J Langan and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Hutchings

15. APPOINTMENTS TO OUTSIDE BODIES

The Town Mayor presented a list of appointments to outside bodies and reminded Councillors that they should send a substitute, where appointed, if they were unable to attend a meeting.

RESOLVED that the list of appointments to outside bodies, as drawn up by the Town Mayor, be approved.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Peters and seconded by Councillor G K Mockett

16. CODE OF CONDUCT

The Town Mayor advised that the interim Code of Conduct had only been made available by Cornwall Council on the day of the meeting and therefore she wished to defer the item to the meeting of the Planning Committee on 18 June 2012 in order to allow Councillors sufficient time to familiarise themselves with its content.

RESOLVED that consideration of the Code of Conduct be deferred to the meeting of the Planning Committee to be held on 18 June 2012.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs C Hutchings and seconded by Councillor K S Green

17. VAT ON HALLS

The Town Clerk presented a report in response to issues raised by the Council's accountant regarding VAT on Council-owned halls recommending that the Council opts in to VAT on halls from the next tax period following the success of the Town Hall as a wedding venue. Councillors were advised that they would also need to consider whether to absorb the costs of VAT on lettings or to increase the fees. It was noted that it had been the intention to review hall hire rates in any case and the current hire rates were extremely competitive.

RESOLVED that the Town Council opts in to VAT on its halls and lettings with effect from 1 July 2012 and that halls fees be increased by 20% inclusive of VAT.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs S Townsend and seconded by Councillor Mrs C Hutchings

Councillors G K Mockett and E L Wilkes requested that their names be recorded as abstaining from voting on the above item.

18. MINOR REPAIR GRANTS

It was noted that there had been very poor take up of the Minor Repair Grants and it was felt that this was possibly due to the thresholds being too low for the current economy.

RESOLVED that the limit on Minor Repair Grants be raised to £300 per property and that the threshold for the total cost of the project be raised to £1500.

Proposed by Councillor Mrs M K May and seconded by Councillor M Snowdon

19. PENRYN VISION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FUND

The Town Clerk presented a report on the Penryn Vision Community Development Fund which had recently closed and passed its remaining assets to Penryn Town Council to be used for the support of projects that met the aims of the Forum. A recommendation had been put forward following a meeting of the Management Team and following a lengthy discussion it was

RESOLVED that £50 be given to Olive Branch towards the costs of the community café, £300 to the Christmas Lights Committee, and the remainder (£308.85) towards the costs of the town's Jubilee celebrations.

Proposed by Councillor E L Wilkes and seconded by Councillor D Prynn

20. SECTION 137 GRANTS

The Town Clerk presented a report detailing a number of grant requests.

RESOLVED that the Women's Institute Penryn be awarded a Section 137 Grant of £150 towards the costs of the annual Christmas party for the visually impaired.

Proposed by Councillor E L Wilkes and seconded by Councillor Mrs M V Bennett

RESOLVED that the Merlin Multiple Sclerosis Therapy Centre be awarded a Section 137 Grant of £200 towards the cost of running the new minibus service.

Proposed by Councillor J Langan and seconded by Councillor Mrs M V Bennett

Councillor Mrs S Peters declared a personal interest in the above item and did not take part in the debate or the vote.

RESOLVED that a request from Olive Branch for a Section 137 Grant towards the cost of setting up a community café be refused on the grounds that the organisation had recently been awarded a Section 137 Grant of £80 for a community stall and had also been given £50 from the remaining assets of the Penryn Vision Community Fund earlier in the meeting (see Minute No. 19).

Proposed by Councillor E L Wilkes and seconded by Councillor G K Mockett

Councillor Mrs C Hutchings requested that her name be recorded as voting against the above decision.

21. COUNCILLORS' QUESTION TIME

There were no questions from Councillors.

There being no further business the meeting was closed at 8.40 p.m.

TOWN MAYOR