

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON MONDAY 29 MARCH 2010  
at 7.00 pm**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Mrs R E Cox) **In the Chair**  
Councillors Biscoe, Bowyer, Mrs Carlyon, Congdon, Cooke, Cox,  
Miss Fozzard, Mrs Hosken, Ms Kelly, Mrs Neale, Nolan, Rich, Roden,  
Ms Southcombe, Taylor, Vella and Wells

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs Callen, Jenkin, Dr MacKenzie, Tamblyn and Ms Young

Mrs F Ferguson CC and Mr John Sweetman were also in attendance

**PRAYERS**

Prior to the business of the Council the Mayor's Chaplin, Reverend Christopher Epps, opened the proceedings with prayers.

**398 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures or declarations of interests reported.

**399 SUSPENSION OF STANDING ORDERS**

**RESOLVED** that the Standing Orders of the Council be suspended to enable discussion to take place on the following items.

**400 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY**

Mrs Ferguson CC confirmed that no time table had been agreed, but assured members Truro City Council would be kept fully informed and she would report back to a future meeting when further information was available.

**401 PLANNING CONSULTATION**

**15 & 16 St Clement Street**

Councillor Biscoe advised that four semi detached cottages with a yard and gardens at the rear was being constructed on this site which currently was surrounded by scaffolding.

**402 TRURO STRATEGIC INVESTMENT FRAMEWORK (SIF) (F20/7)**

Further to Minute 368, it was reported the document had been recalled as it had been considered to be not transformational. Members were of the opinion that the document should focus on a few schemes and not the spread of projects in the original document.

Standing Orders were then resumed.

**403 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the City Council held on 22 February 2010, having been previously circulated, were taken as read, and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**404 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

**(i) King Edward Mine**

With your Council papers you will have received an invitation to attend a 'free' Open Day on Sunday 25 April 2010 between 10.00 am and 4.00 pm at the King Edward Mine, Troon, Camborne. Your support at this event will help maintain and develop this unique reminder of Cornwall's mining heritage and I hope as many of you as possible will attend as it will be an interesting visit.

**(ii) Mayor's Coffee Morning**

I am pleased to advise that my coffee morning raised £181.00 for my two charities, the British Heart Foundation and Muscular Dystrophy. Many thanks to all members who donated raffle prizes and those who turned up on the day. My special thanks to Clarice Mortensen Fowler for her help during the morning.

**405 LICENSING ACT SUB COMMITTEES**

**Selection of Members**

Further to Minute 364, the Town Clerk reported a letter received from Cornwall Council concerning the selection of members to Licensing Act Sub Committees. He advised the system adopted at the formation of the new Unitary Council for appointing members to the Sub Committees was on an alphabetical rotational basis with regard to geographic location.

Cornwall Council confirmed that, at the request of members of the Licensing Act Committee, the system was reviewed by the Committee in January 2010 and the main points of consideration was the need for a system to provide practical application of appointment of members to the various sub-committee which took place throughout the County. It was noted that the current procedure for appointment of members to the Licensing Act Sub Committee meetings had revealed a differential across Cornwall, the impact of which was that some members had been unable to build an awareness of licensing issues across the County and did not have the opportunity to gain a full knowledge of the Licensing Act or to build experience.

In order to address such issues Cornwall Council advised it was proposed to introduce a simple process of selection whereby members would be appointed on an alphabetical rotational basis, without emphasis on geographical location, and if any member was unable to assist, they would either be approached to attend the next meeting, or their name would go to the bottom of the list, depending which option the Committee preferred.

Cornwall Council confirmed that following debate, it had been resolved that three members be appointed to the Licensing Act Sub-committee on an alphabetical rotational basis and the name of any member being unable to attend the hearing would be placed at the end of the rota.

It was reported the system would be reviewed in due course and a further report would be produced on the progress of the system to a future meeting of the Licensing Act Committee.

Councillor Nolan confirmed this was a trial for a six month period but members

were of the opinion that Truro City Council should monitor the situation and consider a better way of appointing members to the Sub Committee.

Members discussed whether it might be beneficial for a Solicitor from Cornwall Council to explain the licensing process to members at a future meeting of the Council and, following lengthy debate it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk seek advice from N.A.L.C. and forward a letter to the Ministry of Justice, with copies to parliamentary candidates, asking that they consider reviewing the Licensing Act and whether they had any objections to Truro City Council running a pilot scheme to set up a Licensing Committee.

**406 CASUAL VACANCY – TREHAVERNE WARD (F6)**

Further to Minute 396, the Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had received a petition for the vacancy to go to election and it was expected the election date would be 27 May 2010. He advised the Notices of Election would be issued after Easter and the last day for nominations would be 29 April 2010.

**407 ELECTION OF MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR (F6/4)**

**(1) Mayor 2010-2011**

The Town Clerk reminded members of the Council Policy regarding Mayoral Selection in accordance with Procedural Guidance and called for a proposer and seconder in respect of the nomination of Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Municipal Year. It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe and seconded by Councillor Wells that the present Deputy Mayor, Councillor R C Cooke, be nominated.

The Council then proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, as a result of which Councillor Cooke was duly elected by a unanimous vote.

**(2) Deputy Mayor Elect – 2010-2011**

The Town Clerk informed members that the Councillor having at least three year's continuous or interrupted service, and not previously having held the office of Mayor, who had agreed for his name to go forward for nomination of Deputy Mayor, was Councillor Nolan.

The Mayor then called for a proposer and seconder in respect of the nomination for Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Municipal Year. It was proposed by Councillor Vella and seconded by Councillor Ms Southcombe that Councillor Nolan be nominated.

The Council then proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, as a result of which Councillor Nolan was duly elected by a majority vote of 17 for and 1 against.

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**RESOLVED** that

- (a) Councillor Cooke be invited to accept the office of Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal year 2010-2011;
- (b) Councillor Nolan be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal Year 2010-2011.

Councillor Cooke thanked members of the Council for their support and electing him to serve as Mayor. He confirmed it had been an honour and privilege to work with the present Mayor, Councillor Mrs Cox and thanked Councillor Nolan for agreeing to be Deputy Mayor.

Councillor Nolan thanked members for their confidence and electing him to serve as Deputy Mayor after being a councillor for only three and a half years. He confirmed he would support the Mayor Elect in every way he could.

**408 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Minutes of the Meetings of the under-mentioned Committees were approved and adopted by the Council, except where otherwise stated:-

(1) PARKS COMMITTEE 8 MARCH 2010

(2) PLANNING COMMITTEE 11 MARCH 2010

**Minute 385(e) Withdrawn Application PA03/0067/10/B  
Compton Castle, Lemon Quay**

The Town Clerk reported a consultation had been placed on the City Council website requesting the electorates' opinion and this had also been reported in the local press. He requested that members of the Planning Committee, in accordance with Minute 385(e) arrange a date for the "round the table" meeting.

Members considered the City Council should not make suggestions for the site and any meetings should only be held with Cornwall Council and following lengthy debate it was

**RESOLVED** that the item be referred back to the next meeting of the Planning Committee to be held 15 April 2010 for discussion.

Councillor Nolan, being a member of the Planning Committee, Cornwall Council abstained from voting on the above item.

(3) FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE 15 MARCH 2010

**409 CORNWALL COUNCIL**

**Parking Policy Advisory Panel - Consultation**

The Town Clerk reported a letter from the Chairman of the Parking Advisory Panel inviting Truro City Council to take part in a comprehensive consultation exercise on the new parking charging policy currently being developed by Cornwall Council.

It was confirmed the Parking Advisory Panel had been requested to develop a new policy on parking charges which would be fair and consistent across the

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whole of Cornwall and it was vital for both local residents and the viability of towns and villages for the Panel to ensure the charges were right.

Members discussed the questionnaire, previously circulated, requesting Truro City Council's views which would be considered by members of the Panel when they met to draw up recommendations for the new Policy.

The Town Clerk confirmed he had already written to Cornwall Council regarding Truro being placed in Group 7 and requested that this be amended to Group 6, Minute 298 refers.

Following lengthy discussion it was considered that one reply should be forwarded from Truro City Council and it was

### **RECOMMENDED** that

- (i) members complete and return the questionnaires to the Town Clerk by Friday 9 April 2010 for collating and presentation to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held 19 April 2010;
- (ii) the Finance and General Purposes Committee, in accordance with Standing Order 77(2) be granted delegated powers to complete the questionnaire on car park charges and respond to Cornwall Council;
- (iii) the Town Clerk ascertain the views of other towns on the Parking Policy.

## **410 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED** that, in accordance with S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by reason of their confidential or special nature.

## **411 STAFFING (F4)**

### **Town Clerk's Office**

#### **(i) Recruitment of an Apprentice**

Further to Minute 397, the Town Clerk advised the Government subsidy in Cornwall for the Apprentice had been over subscribed and was no longer available.

**RESOLVED** that, the Town Clerk and Treasurer prepare a report for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held 19 April 2010 and, in accordance with Standing Order 77(2), delegated powers be granted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to deal with the matter.

#### **(ii) Maternity Leave**

The Town Clerk reported a letter he had received from the employee currently on maternity leave advising that she would be returning to work 16 August 2010 but

had requested that her contract of employment be amended from a five to three day working week.

Members discussed staffing arrangements in connection with the post and the overall future structure of the general office and it was

**RESOLVED** that, the Town Clerk and Treasurer prepare a report for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held 19 April 2010 and, in accordance with Standing Order 77(2), delegated powers be granted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to deal with the matter.

**(iii) Community Development Worker**

As a representative of the partnership group, the Town Clerk advised members that the current post holder had requested a reduction in working hours to two days per week. He reported that, in order to build on the partnership over the seven years they were looking to amend the job description and ascertain the support needed by the various communities. Members were advised it was envisaged that a new Community Development Worker could be employed whilst also accommodating the existing employee's request for reduced hours within the existing partnership budget.

The Town Clerk confirmed he was in the process of arranging an immediate meeting with representatives from the Residents Associations to discuss their future needs and it was

**RESOLVED** that, the Town Clerk and Treasurer prepare a report for discussion at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee to be held 19 April 2010 and, in accordance with Standing Order 77(2), delegated powers be granted to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to deal with the matter.

**412 CORNWALL COUNCIL  
Play Pathfinder Grant**

The Town Clerk advised that Cornwall Council had approached Truro City Council to act as the delivery organisation for a grant which was available from the Government Department for children, schools and families and that confirmation was required by 31 March 2010, the end of the financial year.

Members were advised the work would involve an audit of some 233 play areas controlled by Cornwall Council throughout the county with a view to determining the "play value" of each site. He reported it was assumed the City Council would employ staff to carry out the work rather than contract the work out and efficient delivery of the scheme could lead to a financial surplus however, inefficient delivery of the scheme could lead to a financial loss.

It was reported stage one would involve agreeing the methodology for the work. Stage two would be a visit to each site with a written description and photographs

to a pre designed template. Stage three would involve desk work using material such as the geographic mapping system to include proximity factors and Stage four would be the writing of the final report.

The Town Clerk reported the methodology had to be agreed by 1 May 2010, with site visits commencing in July and the final report being delivered by the end of November. He advised the work would be an example of effective partnership working between the City Council and Cornwall Council and increase knowledge within the City Council of the latest developments in play area design and equipment.

Members considered the partnership would be beneficial but stressed any photographs taken of children should only be with the consent of their parents. Following discussion it was also considered a management fee should be included to ensure any costs would be covered.

**RESOLVED** that Truro City Council enter into an agreement with Cornwall Council to carry out the above work at no cost to the City Council.

**413 TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE (F4/2/1)  
Storm Shop Premises**

The Town Clerk reported that, together with the Treasurer, a meeting had been arranged with a representative from Cornwall Council on 30 March 2010 to discuss Heads of Terms for the Storm Shop premises. He advised members of the water rates required for the premises but confirmed he was still trying to ascertain the business rate required.

The Town Clerk reported that, in the event of the Hall for Cornwall obtaining grant funding for alterations to the foyer on Boscawen Street, the Hall had confirmed any future plans would incorporate the Tourist Information Centre should the purchase of the Storm Shop proceed.

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk's report be noted and any further information be reported to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes to be held 19 April 2010.

The meeting opened for press and public access.

**414 COMMON SEAL**

**RESOLVED** that the Common Seal be affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.46 pm

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MAYOR