

**Notes from audio recording made at Camelford Town Council meeting of 7th Feb 2008
(these notes transcribed by E. McCormick)**

Present: Mayor B. Lush (BL), Dep Mayor J. Pearce (JP), D. Elliott (DE), P. Clark (PC), R. Rotchell (RR), P. Lessels (PL), A. Shaw (AS), B. Ireland (BI), M. Baber (MB).
Minutes taken by Acting Town Clerk R. Hart (RH)

Guest speakers: D. Rogerson M.P. (DR) and Sgt. P. Jones (PJ) of Camelford Police.
Also present: Members of the Youth Forum

DR stated that he had written to all Councils in his constituency offering to meet and chat. He spoke about the time he had spent recently on the Planning Bill and the issue of second-home owners in Cornwall. He had received from RH a copy of the letter sent to the Ambulance Service regarding response times. He hadn't yet seen the correspondence about the recent Chamber of Commerce (C.o.C.) meeting where possible re-routing of HGV's was discussed.

BL then asked if anyone had questions for DR.

District Councillor Bob Ellison (BE) spoke about issues that had been brought to his attention whereby members of the public had (1) experienced difficulties with Police and (2) experienced problems of anti-social behaviour. He was concerned that the perpetrators of anti-social behaviour appeared to get more support than the victims. He wanted the Police, District Council and Housing Associations to coordinate their efforts to remove the fear factor. BE also mentioned a recent case where an arson attack had taken place but the Police officer approached initially refused to deal with the matter, also the delay in the Police arriving to take the report.

Lynn Crockford then asked a question re Doctor's surgery opening hours and difficulties being experienced due to lack of public transport when patients needed to get to hospital. DR replied with details relating to Serco who provide certain out-of-hours services. Doctor's contracts are currently under review by the Government.

Michael O'Neill then spoke with regard to the possible large increase in house-building in the area. DR replied that affordable housing was a major concern and that as towns got bigger then public services such as transport become more viable to operators – this links in with the question from Lynn Crockford. AS then spoke re the lack of infrastructure to accommodate the extra housing needs. DR replied re Section 106 and the Community Infrastructure Levy which would require builders/developers to contribute to infrastructure needs.

BL thanked DR for coming to address the meeting. He then introduced Sgt. Paul Jones. PJ explained that he is the Neighbourhood Team Leader, the team consists of himself and 3 response officers and Vicky who mans the front office at Camelford Police Station. He explained about the important role being played in the community by PCSO's and the recent publication of the 'PACT' cards. He stated that there had been a much more high-profile Police presence recently due to the incidents of anti-social behaviour and that the Police had been writing to the parents of misbehaving children. He commented on his attendance at recent meetings called due to the problems of anti-social behaviour. PCSO Sam Smith has been assisting with drawing up the Parish Plan and has been very involved with the young of the community. DR asked if alcohol was an issue in the bad behaviour, PJ replied that it was contributing to poor behaviour and he had contacted shops to ensure that alcohol was not being supplied to under-age drinkers. MB stated that she had witnessed officers confiscating drinks from youths in the street but then leaving the intoxicated youngster who was free to buy more rather than informing the child's parents.

She said that she had little confidence in the Police's ability to deal with the problem. Having repeatedly reported incidents of abuse she was very disappointed by the slow response times with officers arriving long after the abusers had gone. PJ replied that he was currently arranging for officers to be on patrol at the times when incidents have occurred in the past in an attempt to deal with the problem, he also said that the 'PACT' forms were helping but also that prosecutions could be considered. MB believes that 'threatening' to arrest had not stopped the abusive behaviour and theft. She wants actual arrests of the culprits so that word will be spread that Camelford will not tolerate this type of behaviour. PJ produced a list of priorities that had been identified. PC asked if an officer could be on duty on Friday evenings where and when problems are known to have arisen. Contact with these officer(s) would still need to be through the use of the 0845 number or 999. In reply to a question from BI, PJ stated that the 'PACT' initiative was nothing to do with the Neighbourhood Watch scheme. Roger Roose of Helston expressed his disappointment at the lack of response at the arson attack (mentioned earlier by B. Ellison). PJ was fairly confident that the officer in question was not part of the Camelford team but he also stated that the reaction of the officer 'was not good enough'.

RR suggested that Council invite Sgt. Jones back in a couple of months to see how effective 'PACT' and changes to policing in the area had been.

Francis Munden felt that there was a much bigger issue because of the lack of powers that PCSO's must operate 'without teeth', also that the judicial system was too soft on offenders.

BL thanked PJ for attending and invited him back for an update later in the year. In closing, PJ asked that he be informed of problems rather than complaints going to other bodies. He will be keeping his superior, Inspector Andy Lewis, informed of the concerns of the Camelford community.

Public Participation

Members of the Youth Forum then addressed the meeting. First to speak was Paul Narraway representing the older element of the school. Concerns were expressed about public transport to other colleges with the impending closure of the 6th Form at Sir James Smith School. PC believes that the closure is under review but Mr. Narraway understands the closure is still likely to go ahead. Next speaker was Rowyn O'Neill who spoke with regard to Enfield Park. She is concerned about the state of the toilets in the park which are in a dirty condition. Finally Connor Munden provided a list of concerns to Councillors for them to study and subsequently reply to. Connor and some friends have identified issues and collated them into the list presented. Connor's father, Francis Munden, explained that all the compiled evidence was due to the efforts of the children, there was no adult input in the document.

BL explained that the rules of the Council meant that answers could not necessarily be given this evening but consideration would be given to all the concerns expressed and a reply would be available either at the next CTC meeting or in the form of a written reply.

Dan Rogerson gave his congratulations to the Council for their involvement with the youth of the community and expressed his thanks for the opportunity to address the meeting.

1 – Apologies – A. Hearnden (ill), absent without apology was S. Morris. Proposed for acceptance by AS, sec by RR, 8 in favour, 1 abstention (PC).

2 – Declarations of Interest – BL, personal (11e), PC, personal (4b) & (12b), BI, pers, (12a).

3 – Minutes of 15th Jan 2008 – MB prop, JP sec, 8 in favour, 1 abst (BI).

4 – Items carried forward –

(a) Ambulance response times – RH read a reply from Southwestern Ambulance which asked for more specific details of the area of concerns. A reply was sent by email from RH which has now been

replied to by S.W.A. stating they will supply the details shortly. Included in the email reply was a statement that there are no current plans to close the ambulance station at Camelford. BL asked RH to inform Mr. Hugh Huntley in writing.

- (b) Re-siting of Co-op rearwards – update – RH has written again but still no reply.
- (c) Rights of way application – opeways – no further information received as yet.
- (d) C.C.C. sign-cleaning partnership with CTC – no reply received.

5 – Answers to Public Participation of 15th Jan 2008 – From E. McCormick re installation of kerb outside the Charity Shop in Back Street – RH had replied to Mr. McCormick that Oskar van Winden was the responsible officer for this matter but that RH had contacted Mr. van Winden for details. The received reply was that both CTC and the Town Trust had raised no objection to the plan to install the kerb. JP stated that he had experienced difficulties while acting as driver of the Welfare bus when he caused a delay to drivers coming down Chapel St. RH advised that individuals and organisations as well as CTC and Trust could still raise objection to the kerbed area. Answering a query from AS, BL explained that both the Charity Shop vehicle and the Welfare bus had previously had an area to park but now would probably cause a temporary obstruction. BI suggested that anyone with concerns could use the good offices of the Chamber of Commerce to commence dialogue with Mr. van Winden at County Hall.

6 – Questions from Councillors – None.

7 – Items requiring a decision –

(a) Purchase of grass-cutting machinery – RH stated a price of £979.82 (£1151.28 inc. VAT) for the mower and strimmer. RR prop acceptance, sec by MB, 8 in favour, 1 abst (AS). RH advised that a programme of works now needs to be drawn up by the Amenities Committee for approval by full Council before April. BL clarified that all instructions to the town maintenance man **must** come via the Town Clerk, i.e. individual Councillors cannot request directly with John Gilbert that work be carried out.

(b) Wall in car park – repair – work has commenced, at a fixed price, but further negotiations are needed for other necessary work. PL commented that damage could be resulting from vibration caused by the re-cycling vehicle and from vehicles reversing into the wall – perhaps a barrier could be considered.

(c) Frequency of Council meetings – from PC – MB felt that it would be nice to have just one meeting a month but the amount of work made it necessary to stay with the present arrangement. AS strongly recommended that 2 meetings be retained, especially with the changes that the Unitary status will bring and CTC's possible 'Best Council' status. BI suggested that CTC should investigate how other councils operate, i.e. delegation of duties to Committees. RR agreed with AS and suggested that this issue be reviewed again in 6 months. BL proposed that the item be 'left on the table' so that it could be addressed at any future time, PC sec, a.i.f.

(d) Clean car park relining of parking bays – from AS – AS commented on the inadequacy of white-lining which meant vehicles were straying outside the lines and causing difficulties. He proposed that NCDC be contacted to reinstate the white lines, sec by PC, 8 in favour, 1 abst (BL).

(e) Camelford Doctor's surgery, access agreement – re Community First request for access via the Enfield Car Park during building works. They have now additionally asked for a formal legal agreement on access **plus** parking spaces at the top end of the car park. AS recommended objection to using Enfield parking spaces. BI agreed and suggested that CTC ask Community First for an annual payment of £9,000 for continuing use of access. JP felt this was an excellent suggestion. MB agreed with BI's suggestion and proposed this go forward, sec by DE, 6 in favour, 1 against (PC), 2 abstentions (BL & JP).

8 – Items for Information –

(a) 'Brain-storming' meeting report – JP reported on the meeting held with interested bodies and Sally Lewis re future wishes for improvements to Camelford such as run-down shop-fronts and properties.

He felt that ‘champions’ could take up a guiding and informing role on individual projects. Cooperation with Town Forum could move issues forward. Copies were supplied to Councillors for consideration. MB believes that this has been a good exercise but doesn’t address the need for a Town Plan which needs to be updated. AS brought the Council’s attention to the legal remit which means that responsibilities are restricted. BI commented on the role of CDCDT in projects which meant that Council would then not be controlling the projects. AS spoke of the history of the Town Forum whose role has now become that of a ‘talking shop’ rather than direct involvement. AS proposed that this remain ‘on the table’, sec by BI, 5 in favour, 4 abst (PC, BL, DE & JP).

(b) Enfield Park report – PC suggested that this item be moved to come under the Amenities Committee report. BL agreed and there were no objections.

(c) Seat at Clease Rd. – BL had met with contractor and agreement reached. AS asked if ‘spoil’ could be used on the bank. Price of around £150 has been suggested and RH has permission to take this forward.

(d) Appointment of external auditor by Audit Commission – notification received of cost £875 per annum.

9 – Approval of payments – list available from Town Clerk – RR asked re cheque No. 103419 and this was clarified as a contract payment. BI asked re cheque No. 103409 and was told that this would be an on-going payment as a retainer fee reference Allianz insurance. Proposed for acceptance by RR, sec by MB, 8 in favour, 1 abst (AS). AS stated he had a problem over a cheque paid to Mr. Jordan for holiday pay. RH stated that this cheque would be shown on the next agenda – the need to produce the agenda in good time for the meeting and to forestall a possible solicitor’s fee was a duty of the Clerk.

10 – Resolutions from Councillors – None.

11 – Correspondence –

(a) From Cancer Research UK – Invitation to Mayor to cream tea at Clease Hall on 21st Feb, 2.30 to 4.30pm. BL will be on holiday and JP will attend in his stead. PL would also like to attend.

(b) From Mr. D. Pierce – Mr Pierce, writing as an ex-Town Councillor and Mayor, expressed his disappointment at the poor level of attendance by Councillors at meetings since the new Council was elected in May 2007. BL referred to minutes of the 15th January (Item 16) when he brought up the issue of members being absent. RH to reply accordingly.

(c) From Mr. M. Williams – 2 items – (1) re omissions from CTC website (2) increase in precept of 57.13%. Mr. Williams stated that he doesn’t ‘accept the fact that the person responsible for updating the website could have been ill, on holiday or temporarily deranged.’ RH stated that the website is now up to date. RH to reply.

(d) Poppy Support, Royal British Legion – BL to re-open shop sometime in March after refurbishment. Offer to supply large poppy at a cost of £400. RH to reply that CTC has no facility to display the poppy so reject the offer.

(BL called a break at 9.35pm, MB apologised and left, BL reconvened the meeting at 9. 45pm.)

12 – Planning applications –

(a) Sir James Smith School re construction of all-weather pitch with floodlights and grass playing field – BL stated that concerns had been expressed re the type of floodlights to be installed. He also said that the football club had shown an interest in using the facility which meant he lights could be on for 3 or 4 evenings per week. RR saw this as an opportunity to involve the youth of the area and perhaps resolve some of the issues discussed earlier re youngsters having nowhere to go. BI was concerned about the access to the field which he felt should be from the B3266 (Sportsmans) side of the field. AS had spoken

to a school governor who was sure that the gates at Dark Lane would be closed after school and access would be from the B3266. BL proposed no objection provided access is from B3266 and floodlights are the 'shrouded' type, sec by RR, a.i.f.

(b) Co-op, Camelford – re fascia sign, menu board & 3 car park signs – AS suggested that this be strongly recommended and proposed this, sec by ??, 7 in favour, 1 abst (PC).

13 – Planning approval –

(a) Kings Acre – 3 cabins & games room.

(b) SWW Treatment works – Kiosks & shower unit.

14 – Planning refusal – Lib Club – stair enclosure & uPVC smoking/seating room on flat roof area.

15 – Planning application withdrawn – Greylake House – conversion of barn.

16 – Committee reports –

(a) Finance Committee – JP prop acceptance of minutes, DE sec, a.i.f. JP stated that negotiations with NCDC over payment for Town Clerk's work in front office were stalled due to forthcoming Unitary status. Clarifications re audit procedures to be adopted on a trial basis until April. Town maintenance issues to be held over until discussions of Amenities Committee. A list is being drawn up re Risk Assessment in consultation with the Clerk. BI stated that CTC is still well within budget. Some viring (transfer) of funds is necessary which will be shown at the next Finance meeting. Bank reconciliation and petty-cash details were agreed. BI mentioned a 'worrying' item which is an un-presented cheque from 20th Nov 2007 to CDCDT which has not been cashed, AS will query this with the CDCDT treasurer.

(DE apologised and left the meeting)

(b) Car Park Committee – Minutes prop by PL, sec by JP, a.i.f. PC stated he had not received a copy of the report so requested (under Standing Orders) that this be held over to the next meeting.

(c) Amenities Committee – Minutes of 29/11/07 – PL prop acceptance, sec by PC, a.i.f.

Minutes of 31/01/08 – Prop by RR, sec by PC, a.i.f.

Re 29/11/07 – 'stand-in' for holiday/sickness cover for town maintenance man. RH to write to named alternatives.

Date for public meeting to identify interested individuals/groups re Amenities sub-committee for Enfield Park proposed by RR, sec by AS, a.i.f. as Wed 5th March, 7.30pm in Cleese Hall (it is acknowledged that a new sub-committee could be elected in May). RR believes that a continuing 'information-gathering' exercise could be undertaken without impacting on the formation of the sub-committee.

Re 31/01/08 – PC reported re meeting with Rivers Trust. 4 items identified as 'urgent', Rivers Trust believes some of these could be dealt with as Army projects. Resident S. Hicks has raised strong objection to work near her home that could impact on wildlife. PC proposed that CTC write to Rivers Trust, sec by BL, 6 in favour, 1 abst. It is highly unlikely that there can be an increase in funding from NCDC for ground maintenance. RH to write to request contract/price details for year 2008/9, prop by PL, sec by RR, 6 in favour, 1 abst.

(d) AS recommended acceptance of the HERS report/document, proposed by PC, sec by JP, a.i.f.

17 – Reports from outside bodies –

(a) Town Forum – BL read a report provided by MB – PCSO Sam Smith is looking to get a grant from NCDC in respect of roller-skating, she has also sought details re the setting up of a 'Youth Café, perhaps in Enfield Park. Medical Centre, looking to buy rectory & gardens to get more building space. Town Trust investigating problems with gold-leaf on clock tower. Chamber of Commerce want HGV diversion to B3266. Police priorities, youths hanging around, under-age drinking and boy-racers – request that each separate incident be reported to Police.

(b) C.A.R. – BL read a report from MB – BI requested that a CAR report be incorporated (when appropriate) on each CTC agenda. Reps from Primary Care Trust & Oasis Dental Care had attended the CAR meeting. NHS patients can now register at Highfield Dental. Police Insp. A. Lewis is to be invited to the next meeting on 30th May.

(c) Youth Club – no report.

(d) CDCDT – meeting next week.

(e) Mayor’s report – BL represented CTC at the funeral of Mr. F. Huband.

(f) Other reports – PL reported on his attendance at the C.o.C. meeting. New Chairman is Avian Sandercock, Terry Tague will take over the duties of Vice-Chairman, Clare Ireland to remain as Sec and Jenny Metters as Treasurer. List of local businesses to be given to C.A.R. for inclusion on their website. Update business details at entrance to car park. CoC to approach Carnival Committee with a view to bring forward date of carnival.

(g) Clerk’s report – RH reported on Trefrew Rd./Victoria Rd. traffic signage and access – Janey Comber is continuing to deal with this. Letter from B. Ellison copied to CTC re arson attack at Helston (see earlier in these notes). Letter from C.A.R. to Housing Association copied to CTC re anti-social behaviour. PC proposed that CTC write to the Housing Association stating that a member of Council had witnessed incidents of abuse and anti-social behaviour and this behaviour was not acceptable, sec by BI, a.i.f. CTC are now members of SWPE.

18 – Newsletters & Circulars –

(a) NCDC summary of accounts 2006/7 (available from Clerk’s office).

(b) Community asset ownership – (available from Clerk’s office).

19 – Items for 19th Feb meeting – None.

Exempt information – Press & public were excluded for the following items –

(a) Applications for position of Town Clerk.

(b) Receive interview format from NCDC.

----- End of notes -----