

Notes made from the audio recording of the CTC meeting held on 19th Feb 2008.

Present: 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).

Public Participation – E. McCormick read a statement in connection with Item 11(a) on the agenda (see below) and asked a question regarding an email he had received from the former Clerk B. Jordan which related to payments made by Council. RH to reply in writing.

1 – Apologies – B. Lush (holiday), A. Hearnden (ill), S. Morris (apologised for absence –see below (Item 17)). BI asked if there was any further information on the state of Cllr. Hearnden's health, RH replied that a doctor's report was awaited to see if Cllr. Hearnden should remain a member of the Council. Several members commented on the important role Cllr. Hearnden had played at the few meetings he had been able to attend. MB prop acceptance of apologies, sec by RR, a.i.f.

2 - Declarations of Interest – PC (Item 4b, personal), AS (Planning-00188, personal).

3 – Minutes of 7th Feb 2008 – Due to the late publication of these minutes they could not be proposed for acceptance and are held over until the next full CTC meeting.

4 – Items carried forward –

(a) Ambulance response times – no update but this item has been passed to MP Dan Rogerson who has tabled a Parliamentary question on the matter.

(b) Co-op shop re-siting – No reply received. AS commented on the fact that Co-op had some years ago looked at an alternative site but had not proceeded.

(c) Rights of Way application (opeways) – nothing further received as yet.

(d) Sign-cleaning partnership – no reply.

(e) Request to NCDC for re-lining of Clease car park – RH replied that this item is on the NCDC budget for next year. AS wanted to clarify that this was 2008/9 budget, RH replied that it was and that it would probably be completed before the change to 'Unitary' status.

(f) Offer made to 'Community First' re access via Churchfield car park – no reply.

(g) Risk Assessments – RH stated that he and JP had compiled a list but this had to be in a format that would satisfy the auditor. AS asked if a Fire Risk assessment had been undertaken, RH replied that NCDC officials had attended and provided a document but he hasn't yet taken it further.

(h) Grass-cutting – contract & price – 2008/9 will be done by NCDC Rangers. BI & JP felt this would be a good idea because this would allow assessment of the responsibilities to be undertaken by the CTC maintenance man (John Gilbert).

(i) Cllrs for interview panel (Town Clerk vacancy) – To be BI, PL, BL, JP & DE – meeting on Mon 3rd March – Notification of the selected applicant, if one is chosen, will be made on that date. BI has supplied a rough outline of suggested questions to be asked of the candidates (these to be approved by NCDC legal dept.). MB asked for a question to be included on how the applicant would deal with 'difficult' or 'troublesome' people – it was felt that this would be covered during interview under 'people skills'. RR also wanted to ask how the applicant would raise the profile of the Council. RH confirmed that the panel would need to select a chairman prior to beginning interviews. RH offered to work alongside the successful candidate if necessary. JP thanked BI for his work compiling the questions.

(j) Seat at Lloyds bank – Lloyds have asked for a plan showing the proposed location – this item to go to Amenities Committee.

5 – Answers to Public participation of 7th Feb –

(a) From Connor Munden (list provided to all Councillors) – JP suggested that RH write in reply. JP felt that, unfortunately, many of the issues raised were not under the remit of Town Council, but the public toilet at Clease Hall is open during the day, although not 24 hour. MB suggested that RH write thanking Connor for his hard work. Sponsored litter collection is one suggestion that could be taken up.

(b) Fun Week – is not run by CTC but PC stated that the Youth Council could book the park to run ventures, he had also suggested that C.A.R. might wish to run a day during ‘Love Parks Week’ (dates of ‘Love Parks Week’ are available on a website). PC also suggested that Youth Council liase with PCSO Sam Smith.

(c) From Paul Narraway – re public transport – once again this is not under the remit of CTC but RH will point the Youth Council toward the appropriate authority.

(d) Re dirty toilets – toilets are cleaned every day but it is the students themselves who are mostly responsible for the vandalism and dirty state of the toilets.

6 – Questions from Councillors – None.

7 – Items requiring a decision –

(a) Request from MP Dan Rogerson to write a regular contribution to a local newsheet – this to go on the next agenda with the proviso that no party-politics are included. BI would also like to see the CTC website expanded to accommodate things like this. RH to reply to Dan Rogerson.

(b) Playing fields grant (Cornwall County) – to remain on the table.

(c) Camelford Show – Wed 13th August – RR felt this would be a good opportunity to promote the Council to the wider audience. MB proposed and will, with RR who seconded, man the stand, a.i.f.

8 – Items for information –

(a) Report by JP re Police visit – Copies given to Cllrs. – JP had met a policeman in the car park and discussed his concerns about the incidents taking place on Fridays over the past weeks. He was told that it didn’t fit in with shift patterns. He had apologised to Sgt. P. Jones for the lack of time to allow discussion, but 3 suggestions were mooted, (1) That a police rep would attend CTC meetings on a regular basis, (2) that 1 or 2 Councillors act as liaison with the police to improve the understanding of the role and what was going on ‘behind the scenes’, and (3) any Councillor who might want to accompany police. BI asked if those accompanying the police would be insured should anything happen. RH stated that the CTC would not provide insurance cover but he assumed that the Police would. AS commented that anyone could apply to become a ‘Special Constable’ and MB confirmed that there was a current recruitment campaign. Re (1) - RH to write inviting police to attend CTC meetings, proposed by RR, sec by PL, 7 in favour, PC abst. Re (2) MB & JP to liase (but not to the exclusion of others), prop by MB, sec by PL, 6 in favour, PC & BI against. Re (3) – PL would like to take part if insurance is arranged, Prop by MB, sec by RR, 5 in favour, PC & BI against, AS abst.

RH then referred to the email reply from Sgt. Jones re his attendance at the CTC meeting of 7th Feb 2008 (all Cllrs had received a copy). RH read from a reply by Mayor B. Lush which stated that the complaint about Sgt. Jones demeanour at the meeting was from a member of the public, not a Councillor, and, as the address by Sgt. Jones took place during Public Participation, the Mayor had not intervened. BI believes that Sgt. Jones’ email criticises the Council for actions of the public. PC proposed, sec by MB, that Council reply to Sgt. Jones conveying support for the comments made by the public during the participation period. AS thought this might be too provocative and suggested an amendment, and the initial proposal failed. MB & AS asked to be named as abstaining the vote. RH advised that Council could return to this issue via a special resolution at the next meeting.

(b) Mayor’s report on the recent CALC AGM – BI will ask his wife to email the report to interested Councillors.

(c) Consultation on Sir James Smith 6th Form – County Council has been studying the proposal to close the 6th form in July 2009 and receive no intake for the 6th form in Sept. 2008. A public consultation meeting will take place at 7pm on Thursday 21st Feb at Sir James Smith. JP asked for this to be an item on the next agenda when, he felt, Councillors would be better informed.

9 – Approval of payments –

RH explained about the cheque payment of £239.20p for holiday pay made to former Clerk B. Jordan. He stated that the item could not go on the agenda last time because, by the time the CTC's solicitor had been informed and had replied, the expiry occurred. This was before Councillors could vote and that he (RH) has a duty to make payment which might otherwise have brought the Council into disrepute. RH further explained that the holiday pay had become payable because Council suspended Mr Jordan on full pay – if the suspension had been without pay then holiday entitlement would not have accrued. BI asked that RH make it clear that this cheque was not a 'pay-off' or an exoneration of Mr Jordan which is what had been said around the town. Mrs. A McCormick asked JP to temporarily suspend Standing Orders, which he did, so that the £25 cost of the court order could be explained. RH confirmed that CTC had paid the £25 on the advice of the solicitor. JP reinstated Standing Orders. AS proposed acceptance of the payments, sec by BI, a.i.f.

10 – Resolutions from Councillors – None.

11 – Correspondence –

(a) From E McCormick re B Jordan's holiday pay and comments from AS at the previous meeting. AS replied that he knew about the issuance of the cheque the night before the last meeting. He didn't think other Councillors were attempting a cover-up so he didn't vote against the proposal to accept the approval of payments but did abstain. He also stated that he was not attempting to play to the gallery by bringing the issue up.

(b) From E McCormick – a copy of an email from B Jordan re the payment of holiday pay (discussed earlier). RH stated had heard from the police that Mr Jordan had been observed in town waving the cheque and saying he had been exonerated – this information had been passed to the CTC solicitor. A pre-hearing review will give the solicitor the opportunity to have Mr Jordan's claim struck out as having no prospect of success.

(c) From M Williams – Mr Williams referred to the notes of the CTC meeting of 7th Feb 2008 published on the C.A.R. website. He apologised in advance if those notes did not agree with the CTC minutes and asked, with reference to Item 16, about Cllr Ireland's concerns about an unrepresented cheque for £689.23p. Mr Williams confirmed that the cheque had indeed been presented and had cleared. He queried the efficiency of the CTC financial system. RH and BI will investigate the discrepancy and reply thanking Mr Williams for the information. RH stated that the auditors are currently holding CTC bank statements, and have been since November/December.

12 – Planning Applications –

(a) Unit 1, Highfield – BI is concerned about the method of fencing used in the area. MB understands that the type of fencing was approved because of the security concerns over Key Organics. JP recommended that BI bring his concerns up at another time because it has no direct relevance to the application. AS proposed no objection, sec by BI, a.i.f.

(b) 10 Green Meadows – BI prop no objection, sec by RR, 7 in favour, AS abst.

13 – Planning approval –

(a) 16 Greenhills

(b) Hendra Farm, Trevia

(c) 11 Bowood Park, Lanteglos

14 – Planning refusal –

- (a) Land adjoining Penmellen

15 – Planning withdrawn – None.

16 – Committee reports –

(a) Car Park Committee – PL reported – next meeting 27th Feb – Confirmation of earlier minutes of the committee. PL had been approached re difficulty being experienced by disabled drivers not being able to find empty bays near the Lib Club. PL proposed that warning notices be issued by Councillors to drivers abusing the spaces, continuing abuse could result in a fine under current regulations. Answering a question from DE, PL believes that abuse is mainly a morning problem. PL's proposal was seconded by AS, 7 in favour, PC abst. DE offered to hold the record book at Spar premises which would negate the need for individual Councillors to each have a book. Review of Churchfield car park – PL has noticed approx 25 vehicles staying over-night (exceeding the 23 hour limit). DE proposed, JP sec, that PL will monitor and record vehicle numbers between the hours of 7am and 11am, 6 in favour, PC against, MB abst. AS reported on the incident over the weekend when cars were damaged – police attended. PC then reported on damage to the wall. RH to ask CCC if they have any suitable barrier that might resolve the problem of damage. PL commented on the level of vibration caused when the re-cycling vehicle attends which is also causing damage to the wall. Brambles in the area are to be cut back by volunteer Cllrs suggested for Sunday 9th Mar 2008 at 11am (hand-tools only) – C.A.R. to be asked to include this in their next Newsletter and on website if published in good time. Request from Mr Pooley (Camel Taxis) for a designated 'taxi' space – consideration was given to places near the Darlington or at the Pop-Inn centre. AS suggested using a space in Churchfield car park. BI prop, sec by MB that cost involved in changing the Parking Order it would be disproportionate so no approval for a place in Town Centre, 5 in favour, PL against, DE & PC abst.

17 – Reports from outside bodies –

(a) Town Forum – meeting tomorrow. RH asked for clarification of agenda item re widening of footpath in the park which said "funding available" – this to be raised at the Forum meeting.

(b) CDCDT – AS reported on meeting last week with NCDC – more information soon – the meeting had been very positive.

(c) Youth Club – nil to report.

(d) C.A.R. – MB reported on the meeting arranged for Thursday by CAR to discuss anti-social behaviour issues particularly in Tor View (all welcome). BI stated that the final fund-raising event involving CAR's contribution to the Fireworks Committee would be a 'School Dinners' eating event to be held at Camelford Hall on Saturday 5th April – fancy dress welcomed.

(e) Chamber of Commerce – no report.

(f) Mayor's report – RH read out a report re the Mayor's attendance at the AGM of CALC – from 2009 there will be no District Council and hence no free legal advice (unless County take this over). Changes in local government will take place with the possibility of elections being brought forward to 2009 (still being looked at in Parliament).

(g) Other reports – BI reported on his attendance at the Electoral Commission meeting on 12th Feb. He commented on the poor acoustics in the Gaia Centre. A review could be undertaken to preserve community identity and to equalise the number of electors within boundaries. Notices and adverts will be displayed before the end of April. He felt 'One Cornwall' and the Electoral Commission were producing conflicting information.

(h) Broadwood Path – BI reported that money was needed (about £3 – 4,000) and he would probably need to apply to NCDC and make a report to Forum before proceeding.

(i) Clerk's report – (i) document from 'One Cornwall' on the role of Parish and Town Councils – 2 Cllrs invited to the Parkhouse Centre in Bude on 10th March (PC & BI to attend). – (ii) 'Recycle Cornwall' – PC to attend on 12th March. - (iii) Trench outside 'Market Place has now been filled in.

(iv) **Resignation of Simon Morris as Town Councillor** – Cllr Morris has resigned due to numerous other commitments which have restricted his attendance at CTC meetings. He felt that he could not adequately serve the community because of his commitments. RH confirmed that 10 (or more) electors need to request an election for the vacant post otherwise CTC can co-opt a person of their choosing.

18 – Newsletters & Circulars – NCDC Hotline – copy available from Clerk's office.

19 – Items for 6th March –

(i) PL would like a review of Standing Order 82 whereby any one Councillor can ask for referral of an item that they haven't had time to study.

----- End of notes by E McCormick -----