

Minutes of Council Meeting held on Wednesday, 1st April 2008 at 7:00pm in the Council Chambers

Present:

Chairman: Cllr. D. Smith
Councillors: Cllrs. R. Buckingham, B. Harris, E. Squire, M. Barfett, B. Priddy, P. Johns, D. Jose, L. Latty and R. Kennedy
Cllr. R. Brown arrived at 7.06p.m.

Town Clerk in attendance
Assistant to the Town Clerk in attendance
PCSO Elson
Member of the press in attendance
Members of the public present

1507

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr. D. Shadrick

1508

DECLARATION OF INTERESTS

The Mayor requested that interests be declared as matters arose.

1509

PUBLIC OPEN QUESTION TIME

No matters arose.

1510

POLICE REPORT

PCSO Elson reported as follows:

161 crimes had occurred between April 2008 and April 2009. In March there had been 4 Criminal Damages, 7 Thefts, 1 Burglary, 1 Public Order, and 3 Assaults (no injuries). PCSO Elson explained why the Police Helicopter had been used over Holsworthy recently. On one day three youths had led a "crime spree" including criminal damage, theft, entering Deer Park Nursing Home. Three youths were arrested. Cllr. Smith asked if there were any questions, there were none.
Cllr. Brown arrived at 7.06 p.m.

1511

COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

The Town Clerk informed the Meeting that copies of the Minutes have been reissued correcting a mistake in the numbering of Items. The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 4th March, 2009 having been previously circulated were presented to the Meeting. Cllr. Smith proposed the Minutes of 4th March, 2009 be approved. Cllr. Jose seconded this and the proposal was carried. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstentions).

1512

MATTERS ARISING

Item 1486 – Cllr. Harris confirmed that the Football Club were in possession of the barrier, which had been erected.

Item 1498 - Cllr. Smith asked why Market Hall was to be booked on St. Peter's Fair Day. The Town Clerk said this was agreed after discussion as stated in the said Minutes.

1513

MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cllr. Smith reported that a former Mayor's Cadet, John List, had been wounded in Afghanistan and is being treated at a hospital in the U.K. The Town Clerk was circulating a card to be signed by Cllrs. to be sent to John.

The Mayor reported that he had attended the following:

Ruby Art Award
Bideford Manor Court
Model Exhibition.

Cllr. Smith then stood and read out a Statement to the Meeting (**Appendix 1** received at the Council Offices on Friday, 3rd April).

Cllr. Brown stated that he felt Cllr. Smith was expressing personal opinions and should not be doing so. Cllr. Smith said that whilst he was on his feet he should not be interrupted.

The Assistant to the Town Clerk who was the Minute Taker would like to point out that her minutes indicate that Cllr. Smith actually said "the Council has a Clerk who is unqualified, and has inadequate training to enable the Council to hold quality status".

His written statement does not reflect what he actually said.

1514

TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR MAYOR DESIGNATE

Cllr. Kennedy nominated Cllr. Squire as Mayor Designate. This was seconded by Cllr. Buckingham. Cllr. Squire was duly elected Mayor Designate. (For 11. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1515

TO RECEIVE NOMINATIONS FOR DEPUTY MAYOR DESIGNATE

Cllr. Jose nominated Cllr. Buckingham as Mayor Designate. This was seconded by Cllr. Squire. Cllr. Buckingham was duly elected Deputy Mayor Designate. (For 11. 0 Against. 0 Abstentions).

1516

ACCOUNTS DUE FOR PAYMENT

Cllr. Kennedy, Chairman of the F&GP Committee, went through accounts due for payment:

HOLSWORTHY TOWN COUNCIL - MARCH TO BE PAID IN APRIL 2009

Date	Pay To	Voucher	Gross	Nett	VAT	Reason
09.03.09	BT Payment Services Ltd	105108	£18.60	£16.37	£2.23	Telephone line rental
25.03.09	Mrs.CL Dalley & Mrs. MR Fenner	105109 105110	£1,980.37	£1,980.37		Salaries
25.03.09	Dartmoor Tree Surgeons Ltd	105111	£345.00	£300.00	£45.00	Tree Survey Stanhope & Badock
25.03.09	IGF Invoice Finance Ltd	105112	£7.52	£6.54	£0.98	Call charges
01.04.09	Arthur Stewart	105113	£69.00	£60.00	£9.00	Repair water leak Stanhope. Repair boiler Penroses Terrace
01.04.09	C. Drew	105114	£387.00	£387.00		Maintanance Badock Gardens
01.04.09	Concorde Copiers	105115	£78.53	£68.29	£10.24	Photocopies taken
01.04.09	Viking Direct	105116	£187.39	£162.95	£24.44	Filing Cabinet
01.04.09	Cornish & Devon Post Ltd	105117	£133.86	£116.40	£17.46	Advert Hly Post re Towns Meeting
01.04.09	CommuniCorp	105118	£10.00	£10.00		Annual subscription to Clerks & Councils Direct
01.04.09	HM Revenue & Customs	105119	£1,885.54	£1,885.54		PAYE & National Insurance
01.04.09	Devon Playing Fields Assoc.	105120	£30.00	£30.00		Membership fee 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Carers' Support Group	105121	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Majorettes	105122	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Museum Society	105123	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Phoenix Camera Club	105124	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Scouts & Guides	105125	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	St. John Ambulance	105126	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Holsworthy Parish Church	105127	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	St. Peter's Fair Committee	105128	£100.00	£100.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Torridge & Bude Citizens Advice Bureau	105129	£400.00	£400.00		Grant 2009/2010
01.04.09	Cash	105130	£50.86	£50.86		Petty Cash
01.04.09	C. Drew	105131	£547.58	£547.58		Maintenance Badock & Stanhope
TOTAL			£6,931.25	£6,821.90	£109.35	

PETTY CASH

Date			
25.02.09	Newspaper	£0.65	£0.65
26.02.09	Stamps	£22.40	£22.40
04.03.09	Water council mtg	£1.96	£1.96

600

05.03.09	Newspaper	£1.45	£1.45
06.03.09	Soap for Council office	£0.92	£0.92
09.03.09	Milk	£0.85	£0.85
17.03.09	Window Cleaning	£8.00	£8.00
18.03.09	Milk	£0.49	£0.49
19.03.09	Newspaper	£1.45	£1.45
19.03.09	Tea bags	£1.89	£1.89
24.03.09	Stamps	£10.80	£10.80
TOTAL		£50.86	£50.86

COUNCIL RECEIPTS

Date	Paid By	Council	Nett	VAT	Reason
02.03.09	BACS	£20.00	£20.00		Newsletter
05.03.09	Cash	£40.00	£40.00		Newsletter
05.03.09	Cheques	£170.00	£170.00		Newsletter
05.03.09	Cash	£75.15	£75.15		Market Takings
06.03.09	Credit	£4.90	£4.90		bank interest
06.03.09	BACS	£480.84	£480.84		Bowling Club rent
09.03.09	Cheques	£15.00	£15.00		Newsletter
10.03.09	BACS	£85.00	£85.00		Parish Paths partnership
11.03.09	Cash	£76.01	£76.01		Market Takings
18.03.09	BACS	£30.00	£30.00		Newsletter
19.03.09	Cash	£113.53	£113.53		Market Takings
19.03.09	Cheques	£425.00	£425.00		Rent Penroses Terrace
19.03.09	Cheques	£40.00	£40.00		Newsletter
23.03.09	Cheques	£75.00	£75.00		Newsletter
26.03.09	Cash	£120.39	£120.39		Market Takings
26.03.09	Cheque	£20.00	£20.00		Newsletter
TOTAL		£1,790.82	£1,790.82		

Cllr. Kennedy asked if there were any questions. There being none, Cllr. Kennedy proposed the payments be approved. This was seconded by Cllr. Harris and the payments were unanimously accepted. (Vote 10 For. 0 Against. 1 Abstentions).

1517

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Meeting held on 25th March 2008 had previously been circulated to Councillors. Cllr. Kennedy asked if there were any questions regarding the Minutes; there being none Cllr. Kennedy proposed the Minutes be approved, Cllr. Jose seconded and the Minutes were duly approved and the decisions ratified. (Vote 11 For. 0 Against. 0 Abstention). Cllr. Kennedy then went through the Budget Sheets. Cllr. Kennedy advised that the total spend to date stood at 81.8% and the total income stood at 100%. The Town Clerk explained that there is a total of £3,200 that is still to be deducted; an invoice for maintaining Badock/Rowland Gardens; setting up of the website and PAYE and NI.

1518

TO DISCUSS AND AGREE A COURSE OF ACTION REGARDING THE NINE RECOMMENDATIONS MADE BY THE GRIEVANCE PANEL, WHICH WERE DETAILED IN THE LETTERS SENT TO THE COUNCILLOR AND EMPLOYEE CONCERNED

Cllr. Smith said he had requested this as, he felt, this subject had not been discussed properly by the full Council.

Cllr. Brown said that as a point of order, he felt Cllr. Smith had a prejudicial interest and should therefore not be voicing any comments. Cllr. Smith refused to agree with this.

Cllr. Kennedy said Cllr. Smith had a prejudicial interest in the Item, that he (Cllr. Kennedy) had a very different opinion and felt that the subject had been dealt with and, therefore, no further discussion or course of action is necessary. Cllr. Smith said he would refer Cllr. Kennedy to Standing Order 26 a).

Cllr. Kennedy replied that he reiterated that the subject had been resolved by the Council six months ago and the subject should not be discussed at all, as the matter was closed to the satisfaction of the Council,

and that Cllr. Smith had a prejudicial interest and should not be discussing this Item. Cllr. Kennedy then left the Meeting. The Town Clerk said that Cllr. Smith did have a prejudicial interest and his actions over the last six months had demonstrated this. She said she could not remain in the Meeting "if this farce continues". Cllr. Smith again started to discuss the Item and the Town Clerk left the Meeting. Cllrs. Buckingham, Squire, Barfett, Jose, Latty, Harris, and Brown also left the Meeting.

Cllr. Smith said that there was now no quorum and therefore he adjourned the Meeting, to be reconvened at some future date.

Signature

Date

APPENDIX 1

“It is normal practice for Holsworthy Town Mayors to serve a two year term of office. As a result of my experiences of the last year however I am not willing to be Chairman of this council for a further year.

I feel that I owe an explanation for my action to both the council and the residents of Holsworthy.

I am not convinced that we are delivering value for money to the council tax payers of Holsworthy. This year we are charging nearly £42,000, however never a week goes by without at least one towns person contacting me to complain about some aspect of the Council’s behaviour. Indeed the only time I have received any positive feedback was after the January meeting where I commented on our poor performance— people whom I did not know stopped me in the street to express their agreement with my statement.

I am worried that we are not being fully accountable to the tax payers of Holsworthy; the latest set of minutes on the website date from July 2008, the list of councillors includes 2 people who are no longer on the council. We change Standing Orders whenever they appear inconvenient. These are the rules which govern how the council conducts its business, and we change them without examining the reasons for having these rules, and without considering any impact that these changes might have.

I have 10 years experience as a town councillor but am one of only three councillors who have undertaken training as a councillor. We have similarly failed to provide adequate career development to our employees; Clare has been with us for three and a half years, and we have not ensured that she has completed the course to become a qualified town clerk.

I would once again remind Councillors of the old adage “the person who controls the agenda and minutes controls the decisions”; it is our responsibility to set policy, and to support our staff to implement these policies.

For these reasons I cannot in all conscience remain the chairman of the council for another year.

In conclusion I would like to thank those councillors who have supported me and to assure the townspeople that I will continue to represent their interests for the remainder of my term as councillor.”