



## PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### MINUTES OF PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING

Tuesday 12 June 2012

**Present:** Dick Cliffe (DC)(Chairman), John Garrison (JG), Margaret Cass (MC), Barbara Hanik (BH), Hazel Trembath (HT), Arnaud Reutsch (AR), Janet Mogford (SM).  
Sally Bodinar (SB).

The Chairman welcomed Cllr Ruth Lewarne, deputy Town Council Chamber representative to her first Chamber meeting. He was also pleased to welcome Janet Mogford from NatWest Bank, a new Chamber Member, to her first Chamber meeting.

#### **Item 1 Apologies**

Apologies were received from Chris Edwards, Lucy Kean and Malcolm Lawrence.

#### **Item 2 Previous Minutes**

The previous minutes were agreed. Barbara Hanik had not received the minutes nor other recent emailed correspondence.

**Action.** Chairman to check that the email address used for BH was correct.

#### **Item 3 Matters Arising**

Advice on A Boards (prev minutes 7.4). Outstanding action on Chairman to draft general guidance regarding signs for town centre retailers.

Letter to Cornwall Council on Harbour Car Park Anomalies. The Chairman had written to Cornwall Council (Cllr Wallis) – action discharged. See “Parking” agenda item for details.

Country Market. The Chairman had made contact with Joyce Sanderson, Coordinator, Penzance Country Market, and apologized for not inviting them to participate in the Town Team. Town Team members had agreed that the Country Market should be included as a member of the Town Team.

#### **Item 4 Applications for Membership.**

There have been no applications for membership.

Newlyn Male Voice Choir had advised the Chairman that, at their AGM, the decision had been taken not to renew their membership. The Chairman had written to the Secretary and thanked the Choir for their support in recent years and acknowledged that the benefits of membership were limited for non-trading not-for-profit organizations.

#### **Item 5 Correspondence.**

5.1 Trading Licence Application (New) – Sharon Holmes. The Chamber had supported the licence application (new application) for a handicraft stall outside Lloyds Bank.

5.2 Trading Licence Application (Renewal) – Denise Leggett. The Chamber had supported the renewal of the applicant's licence to sell ice cream at the edge of the Harbour Car Park opposite the Wharveside Centre entrance.

#### **Item 6 Communication Links.**

6.1 Harbour – DC updated the meeting on the Penzance Harbour Project. The Minister (Norman Baker) had written to Penzance Town Council on 7 May pointing out that progress needed to be made urgently if ERDF funding deadlines were not to be missed. The letter had not been copied to Cornwall Council the only Transport Authority in Cornwall able to deliver the projects. Bob Collins (DfT) was organizing a meeting of concerned parties for 15 June to discuss the deliverability and way ahead for both Penzance Harbour and St Mary's Harbour projects.

6.2 Helicopter – There was no news to report regarding the move of the helicopter service to Newquay. BIH were not taking booking beyond October 2012.

6.3 Scillonian life extension to 2018. The IOSSCo Chairman, Andrew May, had announced on 19 May the directors' decision to update the current vessel to give the Company more time to investigate options for the future. It was intended the vessel should remain in service until 2018 (when it will be 41 years old). DC stated that it was likely that this decision had been forced upon the IOSSCo by necessity. It is not known whether the IOSSCo's proposed update will make the vessel compliant with current EU-wide regulations for passenger vessels. The

Maritime & Coastguard Agency (licencing authority) was a key player in any extension of the vessels operational life.

Explanatory Note. The current standards required for Class B passenger ferries like the Scillonian III are laid down in Council Directive 18/98/EC dated 17 Mar 98 “*Safety Rules and Standards for Passenger Ships*”. These requirements were phased in gradually from 1998 and for a vessel constructed “*on or after 1 January 1975, but before 31 December 1984*” the date the regulations applied was 1 July 2009. The Scillonian III is not compliant. The regulations allow at Article 7 that “*Provided there is no reduction in the level of safety and subject to the procedure laid down in paragraph 4, a Member State may adopt measures to exempt ships from certain specific requirements of this Directive for domestic voyages to be carried out in that State including in its archipelagic sea areas sheltered from open sea effects under certain operating conditions, such as smaller significant wave height, restricted year period, voyages only during daylight time or under suitable climatic or weather conditions, or restricted trip duration, or proximity of rescue services.*” Para 4 of Article 7 covers the requirement for the Member State (UK Govt) to notify the European Commission and the time within which the Commission must respond if it disagrees with the exemption.

6.4. IOS Transport Report. The Council of the IOS had issued a 108 page report entitled : Isles of Scilly Transport – a Comparative Study of the Isles of Scilly and the Scottish Islands. The report addressed the questionable sustainability of current arrangements and the inequalities between the IOS and comparable Scottish islands (Isle of Islay). Report can be found at <http://tinyurl.com/bt947f3> .

## **Item 7                    Town Centre & Town Team**

### 7.1 Town Team

The Town Team had met twice since the last meetings (2 May and 29 May). The meeting on the 2 May had received a briefing from Cornwall Council (Veryan Jones) and SR Studios on the Discovery Map project and proposals to assist Penzance is developing it's own Discovery Map.

The Town Team had met on 29 May and agreed:

- a. To pursue development of a Penzance Discovery Map. The effort would be led by the PDTA supported by the Chamber and Civic Society.
- b. Establish a “Markets Working Group” to develop more detailed proposals for a Town Centre Market and embrace issues such as the possible relocation of the Farmers’ Market and Country Market when Cornwall Council went ahead with major works on St Johns Hall. (WG Members: Farmers Market, Causewayhead Traders Assn., Town Council, Future Penzance and Country Market (to be invited)).

c. Establish a Strategy Working to flesh out in more detail the ideas sketched out in the Portas Portas Bid. The Chairman, as Town Team Coordinator would lead this activity.

## 7.2 Town Team – Discovery Map.

The Chairman had attended (as Town Team Co-ordinator) the Town Council meeting on 11 June and spoken in the public speaking spot seeking support for a Penzance Discovery Map. The response had been muted initially and subsequently it was discovered that the Council's agenda included difficult budgetary issues of which the Chairman was unaware. Cllr Ruhmund has been supportive and proposed a resolution to have the matter referred to the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The resolution was passed by the Council with just one abstention.

Committee members examined examples of existing maps (St Austell, Hayle, Camborne) and there was a unanimous view that a Penzance Discovery Map would benefit the Town. With the Newquay Discovery Map going for a 4<sup>th</sup> re-print to satisfy demand a Penzance Map should be financially viable in the long term with commercial demand generating the revenue to keep the map and supporting website up to date. (Note: It has subsequently been agreed that more information needs to be collected about the commercial performance of the map projects).

The Town Team had set itself a challenging target of finding 33% (~£11,000) of the cost from sponsorship and Cornwall Council had indicated that it was prepared to provide £5000 in funding if the Town Team trialed Cornwall Council's "Discovery Map Tool Kit". This left the source of the 50% of expected cost still to be identified or the scope of the project reduced (all previous projects have funded a free map for every household).

## 7.3 Town Team – Portas Bid.

The Chairman advised that the Penzance Portas bid had been one of the 359 unsuccessful bids. Liskeard was the only town in Cornwall to be successful. There was to be a second round of funding (another 15 winners) and all unsuccessful bids were to be automatically entered. Bidders had the option of revising their bids and the Town Team had agreed Penzance should do so as the presentation of the bid could be improved with a new video. Winning towns will feature in a new Portas TV series.

## Item 7 Sainsbury's Store.

There was nothing new to report regarding the Sainsburys reserved matter application.

RL raised the issue of concerns about the routing of the footpath along the side of the A30. The idea of the footpath running inside Sainsbury's perimeter fence to make it safer had been proposed. The Chairman agreed to find out what the current proposal contained and whether there was flexibility on the routing of the footpath.

## Item 8 Parking

8.1 Harbour Car Park. The Chairman had written to Cllr. Wallis, Chairman, Parking Policy Advisory Panel raising two issues concerning the Harbour Car Park. The first issue was the poor coordination of ticket machine charges and signage changes when parking rates increased in April. This had led to users not getting a parking ticket when they fed the ticket machine the amount specified on the tariff sign. The matter had been resolved but needed to be avoided in future when rates changed. The second issue was the lack of marked parking slots for drivers by the new 30 minute tickets. The signage stated that vehicles with 30 minute tickets could only park in specially marked bays. Because no bays had been marked the 30 minute tickets could not be used. The letter to Cllr Wallis pointed out that the simplest solution was to remove the restriction and allow vehicles with a 30 min ticket to park in any slot. Demand for 30 minute tickets was limited given the distance of the car park from the Town Centre. (Note: The Chamber's letter has been acknowledged but no decision has been announced).

8.2 Parking After 4.00 pm. MC and SB were concerned about the negative impact of the evening car parking rate (£2.00) applying from 4.00 pm. For the car park behind the White Lion, the day rate was £1 for 2 hrs up to 4.00 pm. After that time even the shortest stay incurred the full £2 evening tariff. The tariff was a substantial disincentive to 'pop into town before the shops close'. Given the difficulty the Chamber had experienced in the past getting Cornwall Council to make changes to the parking tariff, it was agreed that the Chairman would pursue the issue through the Town Team.

**Action;** Chairman pursue Chamber car parking issues through the Town Team.

(Note: The Town Team has created a working group to address parking issues. Members have been invited to pool issues for the agenda.)

## Item 10. Any Other Business

10.1 Twinning Association. SB raised the issue of the Chamber's membership of the Twinning Association. The Chairman agreed to take the matter up with the Town Clerk's staff.

- 10.2 Town Toilets. Members were concerned about inadequate provision of public toilets following Cornwall Council's decision to offload many of them onto town councils. It was agreed to keep toilets on the Committee's agenda.
- 10.3 Gas Works Site. RL advised that the Western Area Planning Committee had refused planning consent for Churchill Retirement Living who had proposed building 60 flats for the elderly (a sheltered accommodation complex) plus some ground level commercial units on the Gas Works site.
- 10.4 Coinagehall Street. DC and RL understood that Cornwall Council had selected a preferred bidder for development of the Coinagehall Street site. The preferred proposal was understood to be for a mixed use, hotel led development. RL had been lobbied by a guest house owner concerned about competition from a hotel and wanted to know the Chamber position. The Chamber was generally supportive on a hotel led development, the more up-market the better to avoid cannibalizing existing guest house trade. There was a shortage of hotel bed spaces in Penzance which made it difficult to host large events and coach parties. Visitors to West Cornwall wanting hotel accommodation often ended up in hotels in St Ives and Falmouth with Penzance being the loser.
- 10.5 Information Centre. HT (an Information Centre volunteer) stated that staff had been taken aback by the high level of demand in recent weeks. Over 200 members of the public visited the Centre on busy days. Other members of the Committee were not surprised and were relieved that the Centre was up and running.
- 10.6 Suitability of new Venue. Committee Members considered the Wharfside Conference Room to be a better venue for Committee Meetings and were grateful to Peter Wood, Wharfside Centre Manager, for making the premises available.

**Actions:**

DC to speak to the Town Clerk's staff re Twinning Association subs.

DC to add Public Toilets to the standard agenda.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 21.10 hrs



DICK CLIFFE

Chairman  
2 July 2012