



PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Minutes of the Penzance Chamber of Commerce Committee Meeting held in the Wharfside Centre Conference Room on Tuesday 4th June 2013

Present: Dick Cliffe (DC) (Chairman), John Garrison (JG), Margaret Cass (MC), Barbara Hanik (BH), Hazel Trembath (HT), Sally Bodinar (SB), Steven Richford (SR), Lucy Kean (LK) (Secretary)

Apologies: Chris Edwards, Janet Mogford, Nina Minear, James Howarth, Mary Mzera.

Item 1. Apologies

Apologies were recorded as above.

Item 2. Previous Minutes

The Chairman apologised for the minutes not being sent out but advised that due to commitments in future a record of actions would be sent out ahead of minutes. Also draft minutes would be sent to committee members prior to their finalisation and then being sent to all Chamber members.

Item 3. Matters Arising

The matters arising were dealt with through the agenda items.

Item 4. Applications for Membership

There have been no applications for membership.

Item 5. Correspondence

A letter had been received from Andrew George MP expressing his desire to collaborate with the Chamber of Commerce. Options were discussed and DC will investigate possible options eg involvement with the proposed Town Centre market.

Item 6. Sainsburys

Currently there £1.2 million allocated within the Sainsbury's S106 agreement to build a park and ride on the Sainsbury's site. However the park and ride would not have a dedicated bus service and would rely upon existing bus services.

There was an allocation of funds in the Section 106 to make the park and ride bus fare affordable but it would eventually run out. The Section 106 agreement was understood to provide enough flexibility for this money to be used for other purposes within Penzance and Cornwall Councillor Tim Dwelly (Penzance East) had already spoken to Nigel Blackler, Head of Transportation, about the issue. After a discussion the Committee concluded that it was likely that a park and ride adjacent to the Sainsbury store was not the best use of the funds and that options for spending in elsewhere in the Town should be explored.

DC would facilitate a meeting between the councils and the town to progress this.

The Section 106 agreement can be viewed here: <http://tinyurl.com/kdeqdt>

Item 7. Proposed Members Meeting Event

DC proposed a meeting to discuss the priorities for spending Section 106 funds when the time arrived (late 2013). The meeting needed to be either before or after Golowan week as many members would be otherwise occupied during Golowan week. DC would look at the Workbox as a venue so members could be introduced to the new facility.

Item 8. Penzance Town Team Project Update / Discovery Map Launch

8.1 Town Team – The Town Centre market is being treated as a ‘proof of concept’ exercise as the available funds (£10,000) were insufficient to create a financially sustainable market; there was simply insufficient stall income to cover the cost of road closures on top of other costs. The proof of concept exercise would involve several monthly markets and perhaps an expanded Christmas Market. At that point it would be clear if Sainsbury’s Section 106 funds should be sought to expand the market further and make it a permanent feature . The end of July had been the target date for the first market but that had now slipped to the end of August 2013.

The Town Council’s HSE advisor had assisted with arranging training for persons involved with the market and the necessary road closures. A detailed plan needed to be presented to the Town Council for their endorsement. DC would ask the Town Council to consider acting as accounting authority for the purchase of additional market equipment as it was understood the existing Farmers Market was owned by the Town Council (ex Penwith DC) and their involvement meant that approximately £1,600 in VAT could be recovered.

The Town Centre Market had the potential to assist the Farmers Market, Country Market and Christmas Market as well as add vibrancy and footfall to the Town Centre. The Committee saw the market as potentially a great benefit to the

Town.

8.2 Discovery Map Launch - The Discovery Map is almost complete and the graphics will be finalised this week so that it can be sent to print in time for the launch at Golowan. The initial order will be for 25,000 copies. They will be sold for £1 each at Mazey weekend and the Cornishman will run a 2 week promotion with a coupon to allow people to buy them for £1 from participating outlets.

Tony White (Civic Society), Fran Brint (PDTA) and Chris Edwards (Chamber/PDTA) had secured a great deal of business sponsorship. Local businesses had been very supportive.

Sec's Note: Total sponsorship £21,500 (includes £5,000 launch funding from Cornwall Council). Major sponsors include IOSSCO, Penwith College, National Trust West Cornwall, Sainsburys, DEFRA/Cornwall Mining Heritage, and the PDTA.

Item 9. Joint PDTA/ Chamber Stall at Golowan

The PDTA and Chamber will have a joint stall at Golowan; in Queen's Square on Mazey Day and on Coinagehall St on Quay Day. Volunteers are needed to man the stall. This would be an excellent way to promote the Chamber and the sell Discovery Maps. The following people offered possible support for this.

<u>Saturday</u>	<u>Sunday</u>
Steven Richford (am)	Steven Richford (am)
	Hazel Trembath (around other activities)
Barbara Hanik (am)	Sally Bodinar
Margaret Cass (am)	Margaret Cass (am)
	Barbara Hanik (am)

Note: The PDTA are organizing the stand and some offers have been accepted to make up the manning roster. Please feel to join even if not rostered.

Item 10 IOS Transport Update / Penzance Harbour Proposals

Unresolved issues remained with Penzance Harbour works. The Minister had asked the Town Council for its opinion on rock armour proposed by Cornwall Council back in the autumn of 2012. The Town Council had refrained from stating an opinion as little was known about the justification for rock armour and it was a controversial issue.

Cornwall Council had since commissioned a survey of South Pier and advice about dealing with the overtopping issue. This report is available at the link <http://tinyurl.com/mdpgx6e>.

South Pier was in a fair to good condition but there was a problem with the Pier Head subsiding and stonework becoming separated from the body of the Pier. The survey concluded that the Battery Road was insufficiently protected from overtopping and that drivers using the road were exposed to an avoidable hazard in bad weather. No sea defence could be provided in this area as it was not permitted by the 2009 Penzance Harbour Revision Order.

The report offered the option of limited rock armour strategically located to protect vulnerable points and limit overtopping at the worst locations. Limited rock armour would make routine operations on the Pier safer but would still required the Scillonian to be moved to its storm berth in bad weather. The limited rock armour was costed at £1.5 - £2.5 million verses £6 million for the full rock armour as originally proposed for Option A.

The proposed dredged of South Pier and the Albert Pier was not controversial and neither were proposed highways improvements in the Harbour area.

The Town Council had not proposed to hold another meeting on the issue of rock armour but new Councillors thought otherwise and it was resolved to hold a special meeting to discuss the issue and agree an opinion to communicate to the Transport Minister.

Time for agreeing works on the two Harbours (Penzance & St Mary's) was quickly running out. ERDF was an important source of funding and the current 7 year programme ended in December 2013.

Note. The special Town Council meeting took place on 10 June with representation from Cornwall Council. The Council agreed by a large majority to support the use of limited rock armour where it's use was deemed essential.

The FRIST leadership had visited the European Commission to discuss state aid for transport services for remote island communities. The key findings were that because the IOS link carried less than 300,000 passengers a year, the UK Government could subsidize the service if it was minded to without the need to go to competitive tender. The Government had communicated unambiguously that it had not intention of subsidizing the service. It was DC's opinion that this position might change quickly if the economy of the islands went downhill quickly or medical services became difficult to sustain in the winter months.

Item 11

Any Other Business

11.1 General Town - Lyn Barton of the Western Morning News had contacted DC to discuss the Town in general and how businesses were finding trade.

Members reported that the Town was generally busy, particularly with foreign visitors. Members also reported that visitors were spending.

SR asked if anything could be done to build further relationships with other countries to encourage visitors. HT reported that the TIC had 260 visitors through the door in one day and some guesthouses are reporting record bookings for June. SB had spoken to tour operators who had asked if specific targeting had taken place to encourage foreign visitors and if there was any patterns were emerging.

It was noted that there is often an influx of visitors from a particular country following airings of TV programmes set in the area. The 400th anniversary of the granting of the Town's Charter was an opportunity to market the Town. The Town Clerk had already been contacted by a member of the Maddern family in Australia who wanted to organize an international gathering of the Maddern Family in Penzance in May 2014 as John Maddern had been the Town's first Mayor. This was an opportunity that should not be ignored.

11.2 S106 Funds – There was some further discussions over the spending of the S106 funds. The agreement included a small sum to fund a Town Centre Manager. It was thought this might be better spend employing an events manager as the BID would fund the Town Centre Manager position if successful.

11.3 Palm Court Properties Limited - There had been a combined briefing of the Town Council and Chamber by the Coinagehall site developer (Palm Court Properties Ltd). The conclusion had been that a lot of further work was required on the design which was considered bland. The development was large and needed to be architecturally striking given its prominent location. Further briefings were expected later in the summer.

With no further business the meeting was closed at 1925hrs

Dick Cliffe
Chairman
27 June 2013