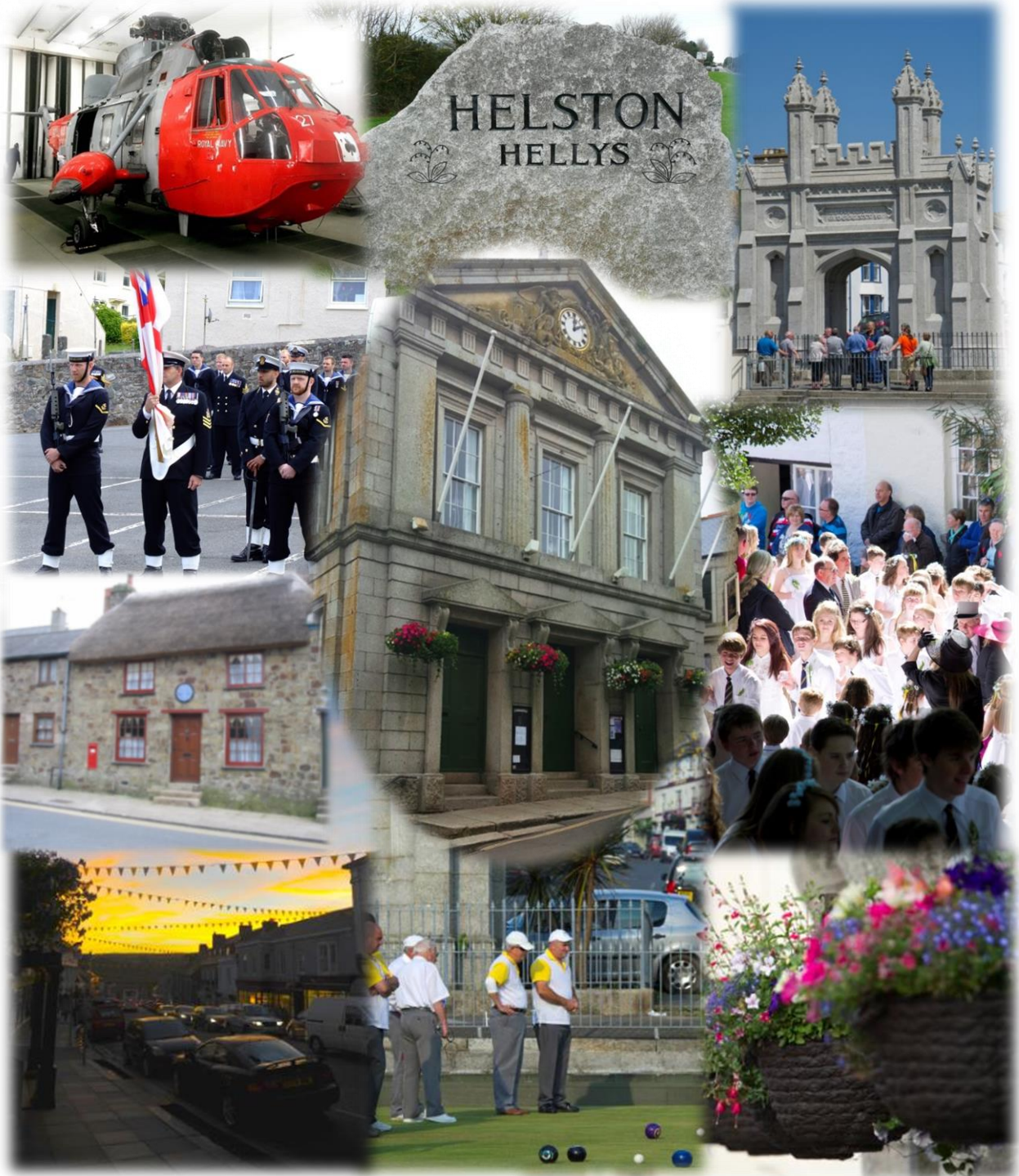




Helston Town Council

Konsel an Dre Hellys



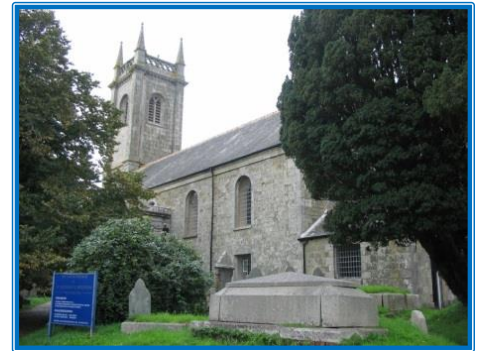
Annual Report 2015/16

Message from the Mayor



A year ago we were looking forward to Flora Day and facing a general election that threatened to deliver a hung Parliament and there was a slight hint in the country of an improvement to our overall economic condition. We will always be looking forward to Flora Day, we now have a majority Conservative Government and the economic condition has remained static. Some things do not happen as planned, others just turn out slightly differently, others events are dependable and certain. News of work beginning on Wetherspoons was on everybody's lips and the concern about the urban extensions - 1 & 2 and even 3 were regular newspaper and Council items. HX1 has been passed twice and HX2 is currently deferred by Cornwall Council; HX3 proposals are about to be released and considered. Wetherspoons has arrived and if you have not seen page 27 of their Spring 2016 trade magazine Helston, in the guise of the Mayor and Mayoress, is well and truly represented.

A year ago the Town was silent as the bells of St Michael's Church were out of commission for mechanical servicing and, as it turned out, for new support brackets. What a difference it was to hear the first peal of new bells as they played out for the Civic Service in June of that year. The new bell captain is Bob Woods and he has a team of volunteers - but is always looking for new ones! I was made very welcome when I went up the tower recently and I was surprised to sense the movement of the tower as the bells were rung.



Beginning in March last year - despite the work in progress on the bells – was the first toll of a bell to commemorate the 100 year anniversary of the deaths of WW1 local men; Herbert Pascoe was the first to die from this area. Sadly the bell has tolled regularly over the last year. Every time that I am in town and hear that bell being rung I stop, think and reflect on a life taken so needlessly. A poignant and appropriate way of remembering the fallen - Helston is one of only a few town parish churches remembering the fallen from this conflict in this manner. I am very grateful for all those involved with the WW1 Heritage Group commemorations, and I look

forward to the arrival of the *'Talking Post'* at the bottom of Trengrouse Way later this year.

The civic highlight of the Year was of course the conferment of the Freedom of the Town Ceremony. This had last happened some eleven years previous. On July 28th 2015 Margaret Fitter; Robert Williams and Ivan Perry became the three new Freeman of Helston. I know that for each of them and for their families this was a terrific honour and it was a privilege for me as Town Mayor to present each of them with their official scrolls.



I missed Harvest Fair and our Carnival procession as I was attending a family wedding in Spokane WA. The Mayoress stood in for me and presented prizes on the Sunday. I am told by the committee that the whole event was a great success with an increase in entries and attendance overall. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking all those volunteers that help to make that event so important in our town calendar.

On my return to Cornwall, and after chairing September's Full Council, I was taken by the Plougasnou Twinning Group on a Mayoral visit to our twin town in Brittany. The purpose of the visit was for the Mayor of Helston to be present at a ceremony to honour six British aircrew who lost their lives in 1944 when their Halifax bomber was shot down near Plougasnou. They are buried in the town cemetery. It was a heart rending moment when, with my fellow countrymen, we lined up in front of their grave stones and honoured them with speeches and our respective national anthems. I am pleased that Mayor Natalie Bernard will be visiting Helston this July and arrangements have been put in place for the return party to attend our annual Civic Service followed by a Civic Reception at a local restaurant.

Our Football team began the season in a new league and I understand that their performances throughout the year have been very encouraging indeed. We are blessed with four sizable functioning sports facilities - the AFC / Rugby / Bowls and Cricket grounds that are a credit to the town. There are also ranges of other sporting groups that meet regularly and attract people to Helston.

In early October the Deputy Mayor Mark Upton died. His was a courageous struggle with cancer and his determination to live on was stirring to see. You may not realise that he chaired a meeting of the Amenities Committee on Thursday evening and he died on the following Monday night. What a terrific loyalty to public office. Mark's husband Gary was an excellent Deputy Mayor's consort and I thank him publicly for all that he has done and continues to do for this town. The Mayor's Ball in November raised £2000.00 for the Roy Castle Lung Cancer Foundation. The proceeds have already been put to good use locally to support families as they deal with the social disruption that Cancer treatment can cause.



A new group of volunteers has emerged during the past year. Although using a name that some may be familiar with, 'Helston in Bloom' has developed from members of the Aesthetic Group of the HBIP. They have already won an award and are exceedingly keen to do well again this year. They are looking after the hanging baskets and the displays around the welcome signs to the town. Thank you so much for stepping forward - I have a feeling that you will achieve great things for us.

Christmas was a very buoyant time in the town - we had some excellent events organised by a range of people co-ordinated by Shirley Moralee and Amanda Boxer and the torch procession has set a standard for this Christmas, which I earnestly hope, will be continued. As is customary the Mayoress and I visited all three nursing homes on Christmas Eve and with the amazing support of former GP Ken Whittle, aka Father Christmas, I toured the Community Hospital visiting those that were unfortunate to have to be in hospital on Christmas Day. One of those we visited was former Mayor Nick Martin who is now out and recovering well.

As the year drew to a close one member of the town must have drawn a sigh of relief. Jude Caroll completed her 365 project - this was to get members of our community to take a photograph on a given day and to send it to her with a caption stating the reason for and significance of the picture taken. In early 2016 it was a pleasure to open the exhibition of those 365 photographs in the display area of Helston Museum. The exhibits attracted a large number of people and the photographic standard was excellent. This event also showed how valuable our Museum is for the town and during my two years as Mayor it has been great to see how it has continued to go from strength to strength.

Meanwhile, after what appears to have been months of consultation work and consultancy contracts, the Public Realm Board has been regularly meeting under the chair of Cllr. Nicola Boase and the expertise of Mr Martin Searle. Martin's patience with the demands of Cornwall Council and its conservation and heritage officers are a credit to his professionalism and his work has been recognised by this council and the public at large. During the first months of 2016 the Grylls Monument was shrouded in scaffolding and I can testify that there was serious work to do up there as I, complete with chain, made it up to the top before and after the restoration work was completed. The Monument now stands out and is an icon of Helston and a tribute to the life of Grylls - a life that many of us will be educated about when Amanda Boxer gives talks to local groups about this subject in the months to come. Other public realm work around this area is in advance stages of preparation and we are working very closely with the Bowling Club as they fundraise to improve our much loved bowling facility - they are a great team of people who have welcomed the Mayoress and I to their club house on more than one occasion and have extended the bowling hand of friendship.



Our local schools have often been in the news with pupils and students achieving awards and some excellent exam results. Students at Helston Community College did exceptionally well in the Summer - a tribute to their teachers and parents who have encouraged them to work hard. The years of frustration regarding the rebuild of C block have continued but I remain optimistic that things can only get better and that news of a clear timeline of building work will one day soon echo throughout the town. News of the imminence of the Multi Academy Trust means that yet again a new system of education will exist in the Helston and Lizard area. As a town we want our children to do well and for our schools to be well invested with teachers and resources. I am confident that the headteachers of this Multi Academy Trust will do their very best for our children.

We still have three newspapers and we welcomed back Emma from the Packet after her maternity leave. She and Graeme of the West Briton are regular attendees at Council meetings and sometimes the sole representatives of the public - apart of course from Freeman Perry.

Perhaps the most amusing of statements during the year was from the CC Portfolio holder for Transport Cllr Bert Biscoe. We had asked him to speak with us about a few transport issues that we were facing in the town. He raised the possibility that in a post 'Paris Climate Conference' world anything was on the table and that we could legitimately campaign for the restoration of our train station as we are the only large town in Cornwall that does not have a connection to the main line. This did provide some amusement for the dull winter days but maybe in few decades time a Mayor of Helston will be invited to open the Helston station stop of the new Cornish Metro! On a more serious note two transport issues have caused us concern during the last year: Firstly, the volume of taxis in the main street and the inability that we seem to have as a Town Council in communicating with the taxi drivers and secondly, the state of the B3297 - Helston to Redruth Road that is, in places, single track. I am not wishing to increase the speed of driving on the B3297, I am just wanting our families to be able to commute along this road in safety. It is my intention to continue to campaign for improvements to this road in the months and, if necessary, years to come.

The year has also been dominated by the state of businesses in our town. The current empty shop numbers are low. We have seen the departure of some traders and the emergence of new ones and others, I hope, are waiting in the wings. Welcome and thank you for your faith in our town! For some five years the HBIP has worked with the Town Council to help stimulate the town centre's vitality by focusing on professional marketing and events programmes. Overtime teams of people came together to make Helston a more viable trading centre. They brightened the town, identified issues and attracted people from surrounding areas to use the town's facilities. You may recall that during this period the Daily Telegraph identified Helston as in the top 100 of up and coming places to do business in. In my opinion the data that convinced a national pub chain to open in this town would have come from this dynamic period. The jury is still out on whether such a decision by Mr. Tim Martin, owner of J.D. Wetherspoons, has benefitted the whole town.

At the end of March the HBIP ended. At that month's Full Council a decision was made to work in partnership with Helston Museum and the South Kerrier Alliance in order to promote Helston through a combined programme of marketing and events management. A new post has been created which will be jointly funded by the three organisations. I thank the Directors of the HBIP for their hard work and I would like to single out Andrew Ferris and Andy Perry for the great amount of voluntary time that they put into the HBIP and for the drive they had to move to a Helston Business Improvement District. I would also like to pay tribute to the work of Shirley Moralee who as the HBIP staff member broached the BID idea with our businesses. For a variety of reasons this avenue of progress did not become the model for change; a model which has been utilised by other large towns in Cornwall. For example, Falmouth has a Town Centre Manager and a Business Improvement District Manager.



The town's relationship with RNAS Culdrose has continued to thrive and we welcomed members of the Base to Helston's Freedom Parade in July and it was great to see so many adults and children lining the route as the tradition of '*swords drawn, bayonets fixed, drums beating, bands playing and flags flying*' was enacted for all to see. However, it was a sad day to be part of the decommissioning ceremony for 771 (SAR) Squadron on March 22nd but the Mayoress and I enjoyed attending the

procedure for laying down of a Sea King Helicopter as a Gate Guardian on naval land close to the Hospital Cross Roundabout. This Sea King is a testament to the work of the crews and maintenance staff that kept the Search and Rescue helicopters such a regular sight and sound in the skies above Helston. All is quiet now but I suspect the future will soon see some rather lively fixed-wing jets.

I have had a very positive working relationship with Captain Adrian Orchard and I wish him and his family all very best as they move to California for Captain Orchard to work at the Edwards Airforce Base. I understand that the future of HMS Seahawk is assured as a centre of excellence for 'Carrier Aviation' for the near future. It is my vision that the base could become a provider of more aviation apprenticeships and perhaps one-day work in partnership with a university to even offer higher education courses. I did jokingly suggest to a Falmouth Councillor that Helston might be keen to welcome the Combined Universities proposed 3000 extra students which Falmouth and Penryn are not happy about at all. What a difference that would make to our town!



Our Town Warden Craig Bowcott has worked tirelessly dealing with issues in and around about Helston - often being called up about emergencies when off duty. He has his finger on the pulse and in a nano second can say what is new and what needs sorting out. His close contact with businesses and service organisations provide us all with a working knowledge of problems that are occurring in the town.

Our CCTV is fully functional and is being monitored in Tolvadon at the Fire and Rescue base at Pool. It has already been very useful for identifying those involved with deviant behaviour in our town.

We have continued a programme of redecoration and maintenance of the Guildhall. I am grateful to the work of our Amenities Committee led by Cllr J. Radford-Gaby.

The town's relationship with Cornwall Council has moved on from the toilet arrangements that dominated the previous year. I am grateful for the attendance at our meetings of Cllrs. Andy Wallace; Judith Haycock and Philip Martin. A new group of people that have met on more than one occasion are the above mentioned plus our MP, Derek Thomas, myself and the Town Clerk. This has been an excellent way for the three levels of governance to meet and work for the betterment of Helston. During the last year three new Councillors have joined the Council - in date order we have welcomed Dave Potter; Tim Grattan-Kane and Paul Williams. I hope that they will enjoy their time with us and perhaps progressing to becoming Mayor themselves one day. I thank former Councillors Hornsby and Knight for their service to this Council.

The future - I foresee many more meetings about town growth, transport, the needs of all our schools and ways of increasing footfall into our town businesses.

In conclusion, as I look back at two years of being Town Mayor I believe that our town is a great place to live and to bring up children. It is a comfortable and absorbing town that has much going on. As I said in my introduction to the Spring Newsletter - just like the scaffolding around the Grylls monument allowing maintenance to take place - volunteers enable so much to happen to make Helston the place that it is. I would like to publicly thank my wife for being my consort and for giving so much of her time to research former consorts of Helston. Her work has been published in a book 'The Consorts of Helston' that will be available from the end of this month.



I wish the nominated Mayor and Deputy Mayor elect Cllrs. Gillian Geer and John Martin all the very best for the civic year to come: myself and the Mayoress look forward to supporting them both when they take up office.

I would like to thank all our Helston Town Council office staff and to the professionalism of our Town Clerk Chris Dawson and Deputy Town Clerk Pamela Lavelle. And of course to town councillors not mentioned above: - Ronnie Williams; John Boase; Nicola Roberts and Aidan Harrison whose continued commitment to our town across a range of interests is much appreciated.

Thank you for the privilege of being your Town Mayor.

Councillor Michael H Thomas
Town Mayor – May 2016

THE COUNCIL

Helston Town Council was formed in 1974 and has 12 elected Councillors (5 Councillors represent the North Ward, 5 Councillors represent the South Ward and 2 Councillors represent the West Ward). A list of current Councillors can be found on page 11. Elections will next be held in May 2017.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2015, the Council re-elected Cllr Michael Henry Thomas as Mayor for the 2015/16 civic year.

Meetings of the Full Council are held at the Guildhall, Helston on the third Thursday of every month (no meeting in August). In addition to the Full Council meetings, the Council has three committees to facilitate the effective management of its business:

Amenities

Planning

Policy, Finance & Resources



There is public participation at the monthly Full Council meeting to enable members of the public to make comments or to raise local issues. There is also public participation during committee meetings during which comments can be made regarding items on the agenda. A Calendar of Meetings for the 2016/17 civic year can be found on the Council's website www.helston-tc.gov.uk. Agendas and Minutes are also published on the website and Facebook page.

Councillors do not receive payment or any allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business. A record of meetings attended during 2015/16 is included in this report on page 8.

A representative of the Devon and Cornwall Constabulary is usually present at Full Council meetings to report on crime statistics and to discuss issues as they arise. There is also an agenda item for the Cornwall Council Local Members and the Community Link Officer to give reports and they attend when possible.

The Council employs five full-time and two part-time officers based at The Guildhall:

Mr Chris Dawson – Town Clerk

Miss Pamela Lavelle – Assistant to the Town Clerk (*Deputy Town Clerk from June 2015*)

Mrs Shelly Price – Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

Mrs Julia Chambers – Administrative Assistant (Part-time)

Mr Craig Bowcutt – Town Warden

Mr Martin Searle – Town Centre Regeneration Officer

Mrs Amanda Boxer – Town Centre Management Project Assistant

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Committee was Chaired by Cllr Mark Upton until he sadly passed away in October. Cllr Radford-Gaby was then elected into the Chair for the remainder of the year. The Committee met on seven occasions during the 2015/16 civic year. This Committee is responsible for the Council's property such as the Guildhall and Public Conveniences as well as bus shelters, public seats and litter bins.

The Town Warden regularly reports to the Committee and an excellent working relationship has been developed with the National Trust at the Penrose Estate.

Firstly, I must pay tribute to the drive and enthusiasm that the late Cllr Mark Upton brought to leading this Committee during his illness and the Committee continues to bring to fruition his ideas to make Helston the place that its residents and visitors deserve.

The Amenities Committee has, this year, absorbed responsibility from the former Play & Young People Committee for equipped play areas and open spaces. The Committee receives regular reports on the condition of the play areas and the Council is building a Reserve to replace equipment when this becomes necessary.

Work has continued on the Grade II listed Guildhall and the Committee is committed to caring for this iconic building that serves as the Council's administrative base and main focal point each Flora Day.*

Looking forward, the public realm improvements will continue during the summer and the Grylls Monument and bowling green area will be added to the Amenity Committee's responsibilities in due course.

Cllr Jonathan Radford-Gaby – Chair

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee, consisting of six Members meets on the first and third Thursday of every month and has delegated authority to consider all planning applications and to make recommendations to Cornwall Council – the Planning Authority. All Applications are categorised into those that are non-contentious (Category I) and those that require more in-depth consideration (Category II). Each Category II application is allocated to a Committee member who visits the site and contacts neighbours to establish a balanced view and to make a presentation and recommendation at the Planning Committee meeting. If a near neighbour of the application site cannot be contacted a letter is left giving the application details and how to contact the Committee member. The public are welcome to attend the meeting and again have the opportunity to express their opinions to the Members.

From June 2015 to May 2016, 32 Category I planning applications were considered and 55 Category II.

The Planning Committee has been involved in several important planning decisions over the past twelve months. These include major housing development applications proposed for the town. These controversial applications attracted quite an interest from members of the public who attended meetings with enthusiasm. The Committee members are particularly committed to scrutinising planning applications that fall within the town's Conservation Area.

Cllr John Martin – Chair

POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of six Members, Chaired by the Mayor - Councillor Thomas, met on seven occasions during the year with meetings held on the second Tuesday of the month.

The Committee's functions include reviewing existing Council policies and risk assessments and the consideration of new policies. With regards to finance, the Committee regularly monitors the budget and considers reports of the independent internal auditor and the external auditor. The Committee also agrees a draft forward budget and determines the Precept for recommendation to Full Council each year.

Committee membership (2015/16)

Amenities Committee

Cllr R Williams

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase – *Vice Chair (from October)*

Cllr M H Thomas

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby – *Chair (from November)*

Cllr M Upton – *Chair (to October)*

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Cllr M Knight – *Vice Chair (to September)*

Cllr A R Harrison

Cllr D J Potter

Cllr P E Williams

Planning Committee

Cllr R Williams (Reserve)

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase (Reserve)

Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor)

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby

Cllr Miss J A Hornsby (Reserve)

Cllr J Martin – *Chair*

Cllr M Upton – *Vice Chair (to October)*

Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Cllr M H Thomas – *Chair*

Cllr R J L Boase

Cllr Mrs F N E Boase – *Vice Chair (from October)*

Cllr J Martin

Cllr M Upton – *Vice Chair (to October)*

Cllr M Knight

Cllr Mrs N Roberts

Cllr T E Grattan-Kane

Current Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies from May 2016

| | |
|--|---|
| West Cornwall CCTV Group | Cllr M H Thomas |
| Cornwall Association of Local Councils | Cllr J Martin |
| Helston Community College | Cllrs M H Thomas & J Martin & T E Grattan-Kane |
| Helston and the Lizard Works | Cllr M H Thomas |
| Helston Welfare Trust: Nominated Trustees | Cllrs R Williams, Mrs G A Geer & A R Harrison |
| Helston in Bloom | Cllrs R Williams & R J L Boase |
| Loe Pool Management Forum | Cllr R Williams |
| The Furry Youth Café Directorate | Cllr M H Thomas |
| Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group | Cllr Mrs G A Geer |
| Public Realm Project Board | Cllrs Mrs F N E Boase & J Martin |
| Helston & South Kerrier Community Network Panel | Cllr J Martin |

Attendance at meetings May 2015 – May 2016

| | Full Council | |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------------------|
| | | Absent and no apology received |
| <i>Number of Meetings</i> | 16 | |
| Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor) | 16 | |
| Cllr R Williams | 16 | |
| Cllr R J L Boase | 16 | |
| Cllr Mrs F N E Boase | 16 | |
| Cllr J P Radford-Gaby | 15 | |
| Cllr Miss J A Hornsby | 5/5 | |
| Cllr J Martin | 16 | |
| Cllr M Upton | 5/6 | |
| Cllr Mrs G A Geer | 15 | |
| Cllr M Knight | 6/6 | |
| Cllr N Roberts | 14 | |
| Cllr A R Harrison | 12 | |
| Cllr D J Potter | 7/9 | |
| Cllr T E Grattan-Kane | 6/7 | |
| Cllr P E Williams | 4/5 | |



| Committee | Amenities | Planning | Policy, Finance & Resources |
|------------------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| <i>Number of Meetings</i> | <i>7</i> | <i>22</i> | <i>7</i> |
| Cllr M H Thomas (Town Mayor) | 6 | 21 | 6 |
| Cllr R Williams | 4/4 | 2/2 | |
| Cllr R J L Boase | | 20 | 5/5 |
| Cllr Mrs F N E Boase | 7 | 1/1 | 7 |
| Cllr J P Radford-Gaby | 6 | 14 | |
| Cllr Miss J A Hornsby | | 1/1 | |
| Cllr J Martin | | 22 | 7 |
| Cllr M Upton | 3/3 | 1/8 | |
| Cllr Mrs G A Geer | 5 | 20 | |
| Cllr M Knight | 2/2 | | 2/2 |
| Cllr N Roberts | | 17 | 5 |
| Cllr A R Harrison | 1/4 | | |
| Cllr D J Potter | 2/2 | | |
| Cllr T E Grattan-Kane | | | 2/2 |
| Cllr P E Williams | 2/2 | | |

FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's accounting statements for the financial year 2015/16.

| | 2014/15 £ | 2015/16 £ |
|---------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Balances brought forward | 769,714 | 705,647 |
| Annual Precept | 269,650 | 303,691 |
| Total other receipts | 95,772 | 71,075 |
| Staff costs | 204,881 | 207,448 |
| Loan interest / capital repayments | 0 | 0 |
| All other payments | 224,608 | 232,111 |
| Balances carried forward | 705,647 | 640,854 |
| Total cash & short-term investments | 696,196 | 666,850 |
| Total fixed assets & long-term assets | 1,858,804 | 1,883,988 |
| Total borrowings | 0 | 0 |

During the year the Town Council gave financial support to the following organisations:-

Cornubian Arts & Science Trust

Helston Town Band

Helston Age Concern

Helston Cricket Club

Helston Flora Day Association

Helston Friendship Club

Helston Community Martial Arts Centre

Helston & Dist.Town Twinning Association

Helston Christmas Lights

Andrew Oliver Big Heart Fund

South Kerrier Heritage Trust (Museum)

One & All Judo Club

WW1 Heritage Project

Helston in Bloom

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

Following extensive public consultation, and on the recommendation of the Public Realm Project Board, the Town Council took the decision to develop the Monument and Bowling Green area and the steps to Castle Green utilising the S106 public realm funding obtained from Tesco and Sainsburys. A detailed scheme has been drawn up to include a new public toilet and demolition of the existing toilet block, resurfacing of the area, granite buildout in front of the Grylls Monument and additional seating. The project also includes an Interpretation Board and artwork. Cormac Contracting Limited is due to complete the work in late October. The Town Council has agreed to meet a shortfall in funding from Ear-marked Reserves.



The project also includes an Interpretation Board and artwork. Cormac Contracting Limited is due to complete the work in late October. The Town Council has agreed to meet a shortfall in funding from Ear-marked Reserves.

Related to this project, the Town Council secured grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, Cory Environmental Trust and Cornwall Heritage Trust to clean & repair the Monument itself and to develop an education programme on the life of Humphry Millet Grylls.

The Town Council has commenced talks with Cornwall Council to have the project area devolved so that the Town Council becomes responsible for its upkeep and cleanliness.

The public realm CCTV system is operating again. Cornwall Council upgraded the town's seven cameras and equipment prior to passing it over to the Town Council. The Council is a member of the West Cornwall CCTV Group with seven other councils who have jointly contracted Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service to carry out monitoring. An extra camera is included in the Monument and Bowling Green public realm project to monitor the newly regenerated public space.

Continuing with the devolution of services theme, talks between the Town Council and Principal Authority have taken place regarding the Helston Library and One Stop Shop. Discussions are at an early stage and it is the Town Council's aim that these Cornwall Council services continue in the town.

In March the Town Council agreed to contribute towards a new post of Marketing & Events Coordinator based in the Helston Museum. The Town Council and South Kerrier Heritage Trust (Museum) are contributing financially and the South Kerrier Alliance is providing staff time to promote Helston and create an annual calendar of events. One of the first tasks is to update the VisitHelston website and Facebook page originated by the Helston Business Improvement Partnership which sadly folded at the beginning of 2016.

The Town Council continues to play a lead role in the very successful partnership project that immersed during 2014/15 – Helston & the Lizard Works. Partners include: Helston Jobcentre Plus, Inclusion Cornwall, Volunteer Cornwall, Helston Community College, Active Plus and the National Trust. The aim of the project, that attracted a Government grant of £50,000, is to assist the area’s unemployed into work by facilitating volunteering opportunities to develop skills and gain valuable work experience. Over 30 local businesses signed up to the scheme with more than 200 local unemployed engaging, of which over 100 have found paid employment or have entered training schemes. The Town Council has acted as Lead Accountable Body and is the first local council to manage a Government-funded project of this kind which is now being rolled out in other parts of the Duchy.



At a Special Meeting in July the Council conferred the Freedom of Helston upon three of its citizens: Mrs Margaret Fitter; Mr Ivan Perry; and Mr Robert Williams – the first such ceremony for 10 years. Each of the new Freeman were presented with a badge and commemorative scroll for their outstanding roles in the community and voluntary work. In April 2015, Freeman of Helston badges were presented to Mrs Jean Symonds, Mrs Brenda Edwards and Mr Martin Matthews. Mrs Symonds received the Freedom of the Town in 1995 and Mrs Edwards and Mr Matthews were granted the honour in 2004.

In November the Council agreed a Strategic Plan 2016 – 2020. The document contains the Town Council’s aims and aspirations for the next five years and is available to view on the website. The Plan will be reviewed and updated annually.

During the last 12 months the Council also created a new website www.helston-tc.gov.uk. The site includes a wealth of information about the Town Council and its activities.

To finish, on behalf of the Council, I would like to congratulate Mrs Amanda Boxer for being appointed as the Town’s first female Sergeant-at-Mace.

Mr Nigel King stood down from the role after serving a year alongside Mr Fred Angove who is now in his 27th year!



Mr Chris Dawson, MAAT, MILCM
Town Clerk

YOUR TOWN COUNCILLORS

| Helston North Ward | Home Telephone | E-mail |
|-------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|
| R J L Boase | 01326 573200 | j.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| A R Harrison | 07983 441177 | a. harrison@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| J P Radford-Gaby | 01326 560210 | j.radford-gaby@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| Mrs N Roberts | 07889 191514 | n.roberts@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| M H Thomas | 01326 562947 | m.thomas@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| Helston South Ward | | |
| Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor) | 01326 554330 | g.geer@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| T E Grattan-Kane | 07747 866201 | t.grattan-kane@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| J Martin | 01736 545959 | j.martin@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| P E Williams | 01326 565164 | p.williams@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| R Williams | 01326 572179 | |
| Helston East Ward | | |
| Mrs F N E Boase | 01326 573200 | n.boase@helston-tc.gov.uk |
| D J Potter | 01326 565632 | d.potter@helston-tc.gov.uk |

The Council can be contacted on **(01326) 572063** or e-mail **townclerk@helston-tc.gov.uk**

Or write to:- The Town Clerk, Helston Town Council, The Guildhall, HELSTON, Cornwall, TR13 8ST

For more information regarding meetings and the latest news visit our web site **www.helston-tc.gov.uk** or Facebook page **www.facebook.com/helstontc**

