



Helston Town Council



Annual Report 2012/13



Message from the Mayor

It is not far off a year ago that I took over as Mayor of Helston, with all the ceremony, personal pride and aspirations for the future that this involved. I made a speech on the day I took over, accepting within it the role of Mayor and all the various component aspects to the role that this entailed, and as I stood in the Guildhall speaking, I wondered to myself what the forthcoming year held in store for our town. I knew a few of the things that were planned, and I was full of anticipation, looking forward to what I thought was going to be a great year for Helston. I can say now that the year did not disappoint.

The first event was the arrival of the Olympic Torch into Culdrose, accompanied by Her Royal Highness the Princess Royal, Mayor of London Boris Johnson, Deputy Prime Minister Nick Clegg, the Lord Coe, and last but not least David Beckham. The following morning, the torch relay came right through Helston, and for a split moment,

the town centre was as packed as any sunny weekend Flora Day. The likeness to Flora Day was underscored as our wonderful town band struck up a few bars of the Flora Dance, after the torch had passed through the town. Many unsung heroes worked very hard to ensure that our town was looking at its best, was smartly presented and looked as good as ever as we showcased ourselves to the world's media.

Then came the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, with all the events that were organised to celebrate it. Particularly noteworthy was the street tea party in Meneage Street, which I had the pleasure of opening. The people of the town turned out in their droves, and the considerable shower of Cornish liquid sunshine did nothing to dampen the spirits of those who attended.



Mrs Charlotte Chadwick



After many a false start, our former community centre building at 3 Penrose Road, was finally sold to the Cornubian Arts and Science Trust, for the formation of an arts centre. The Mayoress and I were very privileged recently to be invited to a superb exhibition in the building. It was as humbling to see what had been achieved by the many volunteers of CAST by way of restoration of the building itself, as it was to marvel at the skill of those whose work was on display. I understand that the first studios have now been let and I wait with great anticipation as the project evolves. This year has seen the formation of the South Kerrier Heritage Trust, a group of volunteers from Helston who have come together to bid for, and take over the management of, Helston Folk Museum. A wonderful asset of the town, it did look for a short while as if its future may be far from certain. However, thanks to the good people of SKHT, the future of our museum is looking far more promising.

Perhaps less of an attractive prospect but no less essential, the Town Council have taken over the management of the public conveniences in the town from Cornwall Council, to prevent them from closing. I am personally a great believer in local services being run by local people, and Cornwall Council for me is not local enough. The future of our public conveniences is now secured – you may have noticed that they have recently even received a lick of paint and a spruce up.

The centenary of our Coronation Lake was celebrated on a glorious day in the summer of last year, and again was organised largely by a troop of volunteers for the people of the town. There were stalls and sideshows during the day, and the spectacular ‘lanterns on the lake’ event in the evening, all rounding off with a superb firework display.



It was also my pleasure to be a part of the first Youth Engagement event this year, organised by our Play and Young People Committee. The school councils from the town's three primary schools came into the Guildhall for an evening of organised activities to give them a flavour of the Town Council's responsibilities. Those who have ceremonial attire dressed the part, and at the end of the evening, a lively debate was held on the subject of graffiti. The evening was so successful that it was resolved to make it an annual event. Anything which makes the Town Council more accessible to the people of Helston, whatever their age, has to be a good thing.

This year has seen the formation of the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP), the brainchild of our Town Centre Manager. Jonathan Birkett has encouraged business owners to come together, to form a community interest company, and start taking control of the regeneration and the commercial destiny of the town. As a Council representative on the HBIP board, I have never seen the businesses of the town working together so cohesively to achieve so much in such a short time. The HBIP have attracted national interest, such has been the success of the organisation. The Marketing Group has produced the super new Independent Business Guide, the Markets Group have re-launched the ancient Charter market with new colourful gazebos, the Aesthetics Group has filled the town with beautiful flowers by means of hanging baskets for all the retail businesses who want them and have cleaned many grimy buildings and signage in the town centre, the Healthy Helston group have bought two defibrillators for the town and have trained many who work in the businesses of the town to use them, to name but a few of the HBIP's achievements.

When I took over as Mayor, I dedicated my Term of Office to the people of Helston identifying that, as lovely historically and aesthetically as our town is, it is nothing without its people. It is the people that give Helston its richness by showing incredible levels of generosity of time and spirit in making all these great things happen. Never have I seen groups of people working together in quite such volume, bound together with a love of their town and an overriding wish to see things improve. Much work has been done, and there is no room for complacency, there is still much to do. It has been a wonderful experience for the Mayoress and I to serve the people of Helston over the past year, and whilst no one would under estimate the work still to be done to restore our town to the shining beacon it once was and will be again, I know that this and more will be achieved because of the spirit of the people of Helston, all importantly working together as a team.

Together, we can make it happen, together, we will make it happen, because together, we are Helston.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Jonathan P Radford-Gaby'.

Councillor Jonathan P Radford-Gaby
Town Mayor

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 9. Elections were held on 2nd May 2013 for the North and South Wards. The two West Ward Councillors were elected unopposed.

At the Annual Meeting in May 2012, the Council elected Cllr Jonathan Radford-Gaby as Mayor for the 2012/13 civic year.

Meetings of the Full Council are held at the Guildhall, Helston on the third Thursday of every month. In addition to the Full Council meetings, the Council has four committees to facilitate the effective management of its business:

- Amenities
- Play & Young People
- Planning
- Policy, Finance & Resources

There is public participation at the monthly Full Council meeting to enable members of the public to make comments or 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 2013/14 civic year can be found on the Council's website www.helstontc.com. Agendas and Minutes are also published on the website and posted on the Council's five notice boards throughout the town.



Councillors do not receive payment or any allowance for attending meetings or for carrying out Council business. A record of meetings attended is included in this report on page 6.

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 Network Manager 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
- Mrs Shelly Price – Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
- Vacancy – Administrative Assistant (Part-time)
- Mr Craig Bowcutt – Town Warden
- Vacancy – Town Centre Regeneration Officer
- Mrs Amanda Boxer – Town Centre Management Project Assistant

AMENITIES COMMITTEE

The Committee was Chaired by Cllr Mrs Susan Swift and met on six occasions during the 2012/13 civic year. This Committee is responsible for the Council's property such as the Guildhall and land as well as bus shelters, public seats and litter bins.

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

PLAY & YOUNG PEOPLE COMMITTEE

The Play & Young People Committee, which consisted of six Town Councillors and up to six members of the public, was Chaired by Cllr Mike Thomas and met on six occasions. The Committee's remit includes the maintenance of the Town Council-owned play area at Hellis Wartha and the investigation and promotion of youth engagement. This Committee also facilitates improvements to play areas owned by Cornwall Council and is in negotiations to directly manage the playgrounds.



King George V play area

PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Planning Committee, consisting of six Members was Chaired by Cllr Jonathan Radford-Gaby during 2012/13. The Committee 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 2012 to May 2013, 13 Category I planning applications were considered and 88 Category II.

POLICY, FINANCE & RESOURCES COMMITTEE

The Policy, Finance and Resources Committee, consisting of six Members, Chaired by Councillor Keith Reynolds, met on fifteen occasions during the year. The Committee meetings are held on the second Tuesday of every month and its functions include the consideration of new policies, monitoring of the budget and auditing of the Council's accounts and internal controls.

Committee membership (2012/13)

Amenities Committee

Cllr Mrs S M E Swift – *Chairman*
Cllr N J C Devenish
Cllr K Reynolds – *Vice Chairman from 24.1.13*
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase
Cllr D C Swift**
Cllr R R Pryor – *Vice Chairman**
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby

Play & Young People Committee

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor)
Cllr R J L Boase
Cllr N J C Devenish
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase
Cllr M H Thomas – *Chairman*
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby – *Vice Chairman*

Planning Committee

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor) – *Chairman*
Cllr R J L Boase
Cllr N J C Devenish – *Vice Chairman*
Cllr K Reynolds
Cllr M H Thomas
Cllr J Martin

Policy, Finance & Resources Committee

Cllr J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor)
Cllr Mrs S M E Swift – *Vice Chairman*
Cllr N J C Devenish
Cllr K Reynolds – *Chairman*
Cllr M H Thomas
Cllr J Martin

* Cllr Pryor resigned from the Council on 6th December 2012.

** Cllr D C Swift was appointed to the Amenities Committee on 17th January 2013.

Current Town Council Representatives on Other Bodies as at May 2013

Bulwark Group	Cllr Mrs F N E Boase
CCTV Group	Mr C Dawson – Town Clerk
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Cllr M Upton
Coronation Park Centenary Plus One Committee	Cllr Miss J A Hornsby (Cllr M H Thomas)
Helston Community College	Cllr J Martin
Helston Framework Steering Group	Cllrs R Williams, J Martin & M Knight
Helston and The Lizard Community Network Panel	Cllr Upton (Cllr R J L Boase)
Helston Business Improvement Partnership	Cllrs Miss J A Hornsby & J Martin
Helston Welfare Trust: Nominated Trustees	Cllrs R Williams, Mrs G A Geer & M Knight
Local Council Planning Forum	Cllr Upton (Cllr R J L Boase)
Loe Pool Management Forum	Cllr R Williams
South Kerrier Alliance	Cllr Miss J A Hornsby
The Furry Youth Café Steering Committee	Cllr M H Thomas
Victim Support West Cornwall Advisory Group	Cllr Mrs G A Geer

Attendance at meetings May 2012 – May 2013

	Full Council	
		Absent and no apology received
Number of Meetings	19	
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor)	19	
Cllr R Williams	17	1
Cllr Mrs S M E Swift	16	
Cllr R J L Boase	18	
Cllr N J C Devenish	18	
Cllr K Reynolds	17	
Cllr D C Swift	15	
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	16	
Cllr R R Pryor*	7/11	
Cllr M H Thomas	17	
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby	17	
Cllr J Martin	18	
Cllr M Upton**	5/5	

Committee	Amenities	Planning	Play & Young People	Policy, Finance & Resources	Licensing Consultative Group
Number of Meetings	6	23	6	15	1
Cllr J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor)		23	6	14	0
Cllr R Williams					
Cllr Mrs S M E Swift	6			14	1
Cllr R J L Boase		21	3		1
Cllr N J C Devenish	2	22	2	11	
Cllr K Reynolds	5	21		12	
Cllr D C Swift	2/2				
Cllr Mrs F N E Boase	6		5		
Cllr R R Pryor*	3/4				1
Cllr M H Thomas		22	6	15	
Cllr Miss J A Hornsby	4		4		1
Cllr J Martin		22		14	1
Cllr M Upton**					

* Cllr Pryor resigned from the Council on 6th December 2012

** Cllr Upton was co-opted on to the Council on 23rd January 2013

FINANCE

Set out below is a summary of the Council's accounting statements for the financial year 2012/13.

	2011/12 £	2012/13 £
Balances brought forward	700,780	625,617
Annual Precept	189,490	224,940
Total other receipts	42,173	218,808
Staff costs	158,068	170,253
Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0
All other payments	148,758	255,696
Balances carried forward	625,617	643,416
Total cash & short-term investments	623,471	640,510
Total fixed assets & long-term assets	2,016,115	1,663,671
Total borrowings	0	0

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

CAB Cornwall	Helston Christmas Lights Committee
CAN-DO	Helston Cricket Club
Chicks	Helston Flora Day Association
Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust	Helston Theatre Company
Cornwall Blind Association	Jubilee Event
Cornwall International Male Voice Choir Festival	McGill's Music
Coronation Park Centenary Event	Shelter Cornwall
Helston & District Town Twinning Association	Sithney Cornish Wrestling Club
Helston AFC	The Pollen Count

COUNCIL ACTIVITIES

During the past twelve months the Council has seen significant advancement in the devolution of assets and services from Cornwall Council. From 1st April 2013, the Town Council took over responsibility for the public conveniences at the Guildhall and adjacent to the Grylls Monument. The Town Council received a grant of £9,279 from Cornwall Council as a contribution in the first year against the estimated £17,000 p.a. running costs. It is not yet known if Cornwall Council will continue to contribute in future years. Cornwall Council has decided to permanently close the Trengrouse Way toilets.

Negotiations have also reached an advanced stage on a Management Agreement to take on responsibility for the following three play areas: King George V, Wellmoor (Cades Parc) and Bulwark Estate. The Town Council has agreed to assume responsibility for the Bulwark Estate play area project to re-instate some much need play equipment. Much good work and fund-raising has already been carried out by the Bulwark Residents Group and the Town Council is keen to see the project through to a successful conclusion. The Town Council had also been securing funding for its own project at the Carey Parc play area to again replace equipment removed by the former district council.

Thirdly, the transfer of the Falmouth Road bus shelter is imminent. This was the only bus shelter in Helston not already owned by the Town Council and the transfer should be finalised by July.

In November 2012, the sale of 3 Penrose Road was completed. The building was purchased by the Cornubian Arts and Science Trust (CAST) and is being lovingly restored and converted into artists' studios and workshops. The Council has ring-fenced the sale proceeds and pledged to invest it in a new community facility.

During the 2012/13 financial year the Town Council awarded seventeen grants to local organisations totalling £3,922. The full list can be found on page 7.

The Council also continued to support the town centre businesses through Section 106 funding received from Tesco and Sainsbury. The Town Centre Manager was instrumental in establishing the Helston Business Improvement Partnership (HBIP). The Town Council has two seats on the HBIP Board of Directors and the links between the two organisations has grown from strength to strength. The Town Council's confidence in the HBIP was highlighted when it awarded £85,000 to fund twelve HBIP projects over a twelve month period. In April the Council received the public realm element of the Section 106 funding from Tesco and Sainsbury via Cornwall Council. The Town Council will be consulting the HBIP and other stakeholders in the near future on possible town centre public realm projects.



The beginning of May 2013 saw the local elections and a number of changes on the Council. The Town Council said farewell to former Councillors Susan Swift, Niall Devenish, Keith Reynolds and David Swift who had some 48 years of Helston Town Council experience and expertise between them. A few months earlier, Richard Pryor had resigned his position on the Council to move out of the area. So there are five new faces around the Council table – Councillors Mark Upton, Gillian Geer, Lloyd Harris, Martine Knight and Nicola Roberts. Members are elected for a four year period with the next elections in May 2017. Contact details for all Town Councillors are included on page 9.

Mr Chris Dawson, MAAT, MILCM

TOWN CLERK

YOUR COUNCILLORS

Helston North Ward

	Home Telephone	E-mail
R J L Boase	01326 573200	boase@helstontc.com
J P Radford-Gaby (Town Mayor)	01326 560210	radford-gaby@helstontc.com
L C W Harris	01326 562140	harris@helstontc.com
Mrs N Roberts	07889 191514	roberts@helstontc.com
M H Thomas	01326 562947	thomas@helstontc.com

Helston South Ward

R Williams	01326 572179	
J Martin	01736 763814	martin@helstontc.com
Mrs G A Geer	07974 817520	geer@helstontc.com
M Knight		martinecouncil@gmx.co.uk
M Upton	01326 561636	mark.upton@helstontc.com

Helston East Ward

Mrs F N E Boase	01326 573200	n.boase@helstontc.com
Miss J A Hornsby	01326 374498	hornsby@helstontc.com

COUNCIL OFFICERS

Town Clerk	Mr Chris Dawson	Senior Caretaker	Mrs Jean Johns
Assistant to the Town Clerk	Miss Pamela Lavelle	Assistant Caretaker	Mrs Sam Goss
Mayor's Secretary and Administrative Assistant	Mrs Shelly Price	Flora Day Street Market	Mr Steve Mole
Administrative Assistant	Vacancy	Town Beadle	Mr Jim Moran
Town Centre Regeneration Officer	Vacancy	Sergeants-at-Mace	Mr Fred Angove
		Sergeants-at-Mace	Mr Paul Cooke
Town Centre Management Project Assistant	Mrs Amanda Boxer	Flag Flyer	Mr Paul Upperton
Town Warden	Mr Craig Bowcutt	Tree Warden	Mr Martin Maylam

The Council can be contacted on **(01326) 572063** or e-mail **townclerk@helstontc.com**

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.helstontc.com**