

**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING OF HELSTON**  
**HELD AT THE METHODIST CHURCH HALL,**  
**COINAGEHALL STREET, HELSTON**  
**ON THURSDAY 12<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2018 AT 7.00 PM**

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**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs G A Geer (Town Mayor) in the Chair

**Helston Town Councillors:**

R Williams	M H Thomas (also Cornwall Councillor)	Mrs N Roberts
R J L Boase	J Martin (also Cornwall Councillor)	Rev. D P Reed
Mrs F N E Boase	D J Potter	M J Kenchington

**Residents:**

L Mason	Mr M Oliver	Freeman I D Perry
G Mason	Ms J Morris	
Mrs M Knight	Mr M Hedger	

**Representatives of Organisations:**

Mr D Musk – 1<sup>st</sup> Helston Scout Group  
Mr C Bowcutt – 3<sup>rd</sup> Helston Squadron Air Training Corps  
Mr I Mallows – Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit  
Mr I Wass – Helston Bowling Club  
Miss J Hornsby – Helston Christmas Lights  
Mr R Williams – Helston Christmas Lights  
Mrs M Hichens – Helston & District Carers Association  
Mr J Burt – Helston & District Carers Association  
Mrs J Carroll – Helston Makes It  
Mrs J Haycock – Helston Museum (South Kerrier Heritage Trust)  
Mrs R Jones – Helston Netball Club  
Mr R Belton – Helston Railway Preservation Society

**In Attendance:**

Mr C Dawson (Town Clerk)  
Miss P J Lavelle (Deputy Town Clerk)  
Miss R Cook (Administrative Assistant)  
Mr M Searle (Town Centre Regeneration Officer)

**1. MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Martin, seconded by Councillor Reverend Reed, and

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the last Annual Town Meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> April 2017 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **2. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Mayor presented a resume of the affairs of the town during the preceding twelve months and made special reference to:

- (a) The retention of Helston Library which had been incorporated with the Job Centre and the Cornwall Council One Stop Shop which was an example of partnership working that also saved money and made good use of the library premises;
- (b) The commencement of the new build at Helston Community College, expressing her congratulations to those who had obtained the funding and her thanks to the Light and Life Church for allowing construction vehicles access to the work area;
- (c) The construction of a purpose built shelter which would shortly be installed at Monument Walk on what was historically a site for a shelter;
- (d) The improvements at the bottom of the Castle Green steps which were looking good;
- (e) Helston Town Band's achievements at the West of England championships where they had come top of their section, expressing her congratulations for their hard work;
- (f) The Town Council's achievement as Council of the Year runner-up in the National Association of Local Council's Star Awards 2017, expressing the opinion that whilst it was easy to criticise the Council, the staff and Councillors were all working for a better Helston. She confirmed that the Town Council's precept was one of the smallest in the County but Members used their limited resources as effectively as able for Helston tax payers;
- (g) Helston Town Council's employment of a grounds/general maintenance person to assist with maintenance issues around the town;
- (h) The licensing of the Guildhall as a wedding venue, expressing the opinion that the building was a great venue for couples who wished to keep their celebrations local; and
- (i) The formation of an enthusiastic group of people, both residents and Councillors, who were trying to identify new ways forward for Helston. She advised that whilst it was not yet ready for public presentation the ideas under consideration were exciting and positive.

## **3. CHARITY ACCOUNTS: TREVENEN EXHIBITION**

The Town Clerk reported details of the Accounts of the Trevenen Exhibition Charity which showed balances on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2018 of £5,665.11 representing £4,236.61 in shares currently held and £1,428.50 in the Charity's bank account.

The Town Clerk advised that the current recipient, Mr R Yung, was about to receive his final payment and a new recipient was due to be sought.

#### **4. REPORT ON THE DOWNSLAND TRUST**

Councillor Potter advised that the Chairman of the Helston Downslant Trust (Councillor Grattan-Kane) had given apologies and had requested that he read the report on his behalf. Councillor Potter advised that the Helston Downslant Trust gained funds from the letting of small parcels of land and its investment portfolio, and gave grants for the benefit of Helston. He further advised that the Trust had supported the bid by the South Kerrier Alliance CIC for the management of Coronation Park who had just received responsibility of the area.

#### **5. TOWN AFFAIRS**

A member of the public expressed concern with vehicles parking on pavements, the condition of the kennels in the town and the amount of potholes in the roads. A further member of the public expressed concern with the potholes in Wendron Street and Godolphin Road and queried when the road was due to be resurfaced. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that the number of staff working on potholes had been reduced from 180 to 42 people so Cormac was very understaffed with a long list of work to be carried out. He advised that the potholes in Wendron Street/ Godolphin Road would be patched initially until the road could be resurfaced and confirmed that both himself and Cornwall Councillor Thomas were trying to get the works brought forward. Cornwall Councillor Thomas confirmed that he had taken photographs of the potholes and sent them to the Deputy Leader at Cornwall Council. He advised that he was embarrassed that the town was in the current position with the lack of service due to cuts suggesting that members of the public should contact their MP as the lack of funding was a government issue.

Councillor Williams spoke as an individual to express concern with the condition of the pavements and the kennels advising that the Cornwall Council Highways Officers did not see a problem and he felt that the tax-payers were being let down. He also expressed concern with the condition of Helston Cemetery advising that he felt the Council owed it to the relatives to take action regarding the situation. The Mayor advised that together with the Town Clerk she had met with Cornwall Council officers to discuss the situation but still nothing was done. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that, together with Councillor Thomas, he had been taking photographs at the Cemetery that morning and was making a case for the area to be devolved to Helston Town Council. Cornwall Councillor Martin advised that the austerity was expected to continue for another 12 years and it would take more than Helston Town Council to resolve the issue, it would need everyone to become involved and the town would continue to be reliant on volunteers.

#### **6. PRESENTATIONS FROM ORGANISATIONS**

Presentations were made by the following organisations that had received financial support from the Town Council over the past year:

- 1<sup>st</sup> Helston Scouts
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Helston Squadron Air Training Corps
- Hellys Bocka Explorer Scout Unit

- Helston Bowling Club
- Helston Christmas Lights
- Helston Makes It

- Helston Museum
- Helston Netball Club
- Helston Railway Preservation Society
- Helston WW1 Heritage Project
- Helston & District Carers Association

The Town Clerk read reports submitted by the following organisations that were unable to attend the meeting:

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Helston Brownies
- ACT1 Youth Theatre
- Helston & the Lizard Food Bank

**Meeting closed at 8.17pm**

**Confirmed**

**Town Mayor**