

Notes from the recording of the meeting of Camelford Town Council held on 3rd April 2008

Present: Mayor B. Lush (BL), Dep Mayor J. Pearce (JP), D. Elliott (DE), P. Clark (PC),
R. Rotchell (RR), P. Lessels (PL), A. Shaw (AS), B. Ireland (BI), M. Baber (MB).

Minutes: Town Clerk B. Groves (BG).

BL handed certificates of attendance to PC, DE, BL, MB, PL, AS & BG in respect of completion of Code of Conduct training for 2008.

Public Participation – None.

1 – Apologies for absence – A. Hearnden (ill) – proposed for acceptance by AS, seconded by MB, all in favour.

2 – Declaration of Interest – BL (7c, personal, member), PC (4a & 13a, personal).

3 – Minutes of 18th March 2008 – Proposed for acceptance by AS, sec by BI, 7 in favour, 2 abstentions.

4 – Items carried forward –

(a) Co-op – request for re-siting – BL asked MB if she wished to continue with this item due to the lack of response from Co-op. MB asked whether Acting Town Clerk Ron Hart (RH) had progressed this after she had supplied a contact number for the new Area Manager. Due to RH not being present the new Clerk will take this up.

(b) Rights of Way application (opeways) – still no reply.

(c) Sign-cleaning partnership (request by CTC) – no reply.

(d) Re Sgt. Jones of D & C Police – no further reply.

5 – Answers to Public Participation of 18th March – None.

6 – Questions from Councillors – None.

7 – Items requiring a decision –

(a) Replacement bus shelter – Police are investigating, DE asked if this is being treated as a hit & run, BL replied that further enquiries are under way. MB asked if CTC had insurance cover and BL replied in the affirmative. Brochures in respect of type of replacement were available to Council. PL asked if CTC should pursue a civil claim if a culprit is identified. BL again said ‘Yes’ (subject to Police supplying information. BI asked if the insurance company would pursue the claim, BL said this could happen if the driver is identified. MB suggested that the company that supplied the shelter should be asked to provide the replacement. AS stated that plexi-glass rather toughened glass had been used and should be used again. PC said that ‘like for like’ should be stipulated. MB proposed that model HG25 with thermo-plastic be used, sec by PC, a.i.f.

(b) Business Link meeting scheduled for 13th May at Bude and 21st May at Bodmin – BG explained that this circular was mainly to do with businesses and PL proposed that this go to Chamber of Commerce, sec by BL, a.i.f.

(c) Royal British Legion – request to use Enfield Park for 10th Anniversary celebration on 20th June 2009 – face-paints, bouncy castle etc. free to children - PC proposed that this be allowed, sec by DE, a.i.f.

(d) New waste bin at Clease Road – BL explained about complaints received re litter etc. in the area. The street-cleaner suggests that a bin nearer to the Kebab shop would be beneficial. RR proposed that the owner of the shop be asked to provide a waste receptacle at or near their premises, PL sec, a.i.f.

(e) Camelias at Victoria Road – PC stated that the flowers never seem to have done very well in the area. MB said that camellias take a long time to become established. AS believes that ericaceous soil is necessary. DE suggested appropriate feed might help. RR proposed that CTC approach Jenny Metters for advice, PC sec, a.i.f.

8 – Items for information –

(a) From PC – Standards Board complaints – PC stated that BG has a file containing recent complaints along with the outcomes of most of them. BG explained that, of the 8 complaints received, the Standards Board is looking at 2 for further investigation. PC asked if the Clerk would read an example of the complaints received. BG picked a complaint at random (it happened to be the complaint against Councillor Clark) and read it – the complaint was from Barry Jordan the former Town Clerk in respect of a number of CTC meetings held previously. It was alleged that PC had (i) failed to treat Mr Jordan with respect, (ii) damaged his reputation and authority, (iii) used his position (as a Councillor) improperly, (iv) failed to declare a prejudicial interest at the complainants dismissal appeals panel, (v) improperly influenced decisions (vi) had used his position to get the complainant dismissed as Town Clerk. The complainant believes that Councillor Clark acted in this manner because the complainant had taken actions against a member of the public who was a friend of Councillor Clark for parking violations and assault. The complainant has stated that he took actions against the member of the public on the instructions of the then Town Council. The reply from Standards Board stated that after investigation the complaint would not be referred to the Ethical Committee as they did not believe a breach of the Code of Conduct had occurred. Councillors who had received complaints commented that the content was largely similar to the example read out.

9 – Approval of Payments – list available from Clerk’s office (includes amendments not shown on published list) – BI asked BG to explain the payment to Barkers, BG explained this included finalising last year’s accounts. Proposed for acceptance by MB, sec by RR, a.i.f.

10 – Resolutions from Councillors – None.

11 – Correspondence –

(a) From Mr M Williams – request under the Freedom of Information Act for details of the current budget, which BG has now supplied, and copies of the bank statements at the beginning and end of the financial year. BG explained that the end of year are not yet available but as soon as they are the copies will be supplied. BG suggested that the Finance Committee consider introducing charges for responses to queries under the F. O. I. Act that take in excess of 30 minutes. PC reminded the Council that there exists a charge of 50p per photocopy sheet which was introduced by the previous Council.

12 – Planning Applications –

(a) Physiotherapists shop signage – JP prop no obj, sec by BI, a.i.f.

(b) 20 Victoria Road – no objections proposed by AS, sec by MB, a.i.f.

BG has details of an application by Wainhomes which will go on the next agenda, AS asked that the original plan be available for comparison prior to discussion.

13 – Planning approvals – available from Clerk’s office.

14 – Planning refusals – None.

15 – Planning applications withdrawn – None.

16 – Committee reports –

(a) Amenities Committee – Minutes proposed for approval by PC, sec by PL, a.i.f. – Roster for grass-cutting suggested at every 2 weeks – BI asked re Helstone Green, PC commented re JP's offer to cut on a voluntary basis as a temporary measure but he will seek a local resident to deal with this on a regular basis. PC prop that JP provide initial cuts on a voluntary basis, sec by BI, a.i.f. With regard to the 'wild area' in Enfield to be cut twice per year by an outside contractor (dates to be agreed in accordance with growing season). AS proposed that during season there be a fortnightly cut except to 'wild area' which will be twice per season, sec by BI, a.i.f. RR then gave a report re the park and an open meeting attended by local bodies and general public. It was felt that the location and size of the bandstand was 'not fit for purpose' and relocation should be considered. With regard to the play area, costing was undertaken about a year ago at £140,000 for a 'spectacular' level of proposals. BL reminded those present of the meeting to be held on April 9th re cash help for rural communities and AS commented on the recently announced funding available for parks. Re the sports field area – if the bandstand is relocated with provision of electricity the area could become 'multi-purpose'. Paths are breaking down, seating has been refurbished but more needs to be done. Drains have not been maintained and there is possibly breakage resulting from the installation of Broadwood Bridge and the area is sodden. A plan should be drawn up with regard to the river-bank to accompany the plan for the play area. BI asked if RR had also considered the extension to Broadwood Path which was also sodden. AS recalled that a County official had promised that 'shellings'/'scalpings' would be made available to assist with drainage. MB asked that RR formulate proposals specifically for the play area and PC recalled that CTC was to approach the Army for help with the project as a training exercise for recruits. MB proposed that the Amenities Committee present a strategy report to full Council for approval, sec by AS, 8 in favour, 1 abstention (RR).

17 – Reports from outside bodies –

(a) Town Forum – no report.

(b) CDCDT – meeting next week.

(c) C.A.R. – MB reported that the fund-raiser to be held on Saturday 5th April is sold out.

(d) Youth Club – no report.

(e) Chamber of Commerce – PL reported that T Tague had asked for clarification re the discretionary route. PL proposed that BG contact County Councillor J Comber, sec by RR, 8 in favour, 1 abst.

(f) Mayor's report – BL sadly reported the death of former lady-Mayor Dorothy Merritt, he will attend the funeral service in an official capacity on 10th April. He attended the presentation of awards at Sir James Smith on 19th March. He officially opened the refurbished charity hospice shop in Market Place on 31st March. He will be attending County Hall on 11th April for a civic reception in honour of RAF St. Mawgan.

(g) Other reports – Police Liaison meeting 19th March – Neighbourhood Watch now has 400 schemes in North Cornwall with 18,800 households signed up. Camelford crime figures for 2007, total crimes 1,347 (breakdown of figures available from Clerk's office). BL commended Cormac for the speed and quality of their work at the demolished bus shelter. BG commented on the document from 'One Cornwall' which is also available on their website.

(h) Clerk's report - (i) Re Electoral review – meeting on 10th April at NCDC offices 7pm. (ii) 'Foyer' project – dates to be considered are 15th, 23rd and 30th April at 10.30am and 6th, 7th and 14th May also at 10.30am. – BL, PL and RR (possibly also JP) to attend to see how the Bodmin project operates. PL suggested that Councillors formulate relevant questions in good time. (iii) Re floodlights

at football pitch – there are currently no plans for lighting but this may come later. (iv) From Mrs Brenda Oliver – re fence in Churchfield – suggestion from Mrs Oliver that 50 meters of fencing is required. AS suggests that cost comes from ground maintenance budget, BG explained that the necessary labour would be provided by the Probationary Service. AS suggested the names of appropriate suppliers of materials. JP proposed, sec by PL, that this go ahead, a.i.f.

18 – Newsletters & Circulars –

- (a) Standards Board news-sheet.

19 – Items for meeting of 17th April –

PL had been approached re the lack of parking provision in Mount Camel. BL stated that this was outside the remit of CTC and that in the first instance residents should contact Highways Dept.

- (a) From BI – Xmas lighting financing.
- (b) From JP – Camelford volunteers.
- (c) From PL – Churchfield car park survey.
- (d) From MB – Plants at Co-op corner.

----- End of notes -----