

MINUTES of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of **Bodmin Town Council** held on Thursday 22 January 2009 at 6.30 p.m. in the Shire House Suite, Shire House, Bodmin.

PRESENT: The Mayor, Councillor R J Micek, presiding; together with Councillors C R Bell, A J Coppin (arrived 6.36 p.m.), E T Denholm, OBE DL, M Denholm, M E Dominey, A Duffin, M J Griffiths, F M Hancock, J H Hartill, L G J Kennedy, P Kerridge, R Solomons, L A Spear, K W Stubbs and H G Vanderwolfe.

IN ATTENDANCE: Mr P O'Callaghan (Town Clerk), Mr S Facer (DCE), Mrs A McAuley (RFO), Ms L Hancock (Executive Assistant) and Mrs J C Perrins (Committee Clerk).

CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS & APOLOGIES: The Town Clerk advised the meeting that Councillor A J Coppin had apologised in advance as he expected to be a few minutes late.

The Mayor made several announcements:

1. There had been three recent bereavements -
 - Mrs Mary Davies died early on 22 January 2009. Mrs Davies was well known for her voluntary work with various groups and the Christmas Day Luncheon for the homeless and those who would otherwise be alone at Christmas. Mrs Davies will be sadly missed by the town and as soon as more information regarding the funeral is available Members will be advised.
 - Mr Foster Dennison of Vancouver, Canada. Mr Dennison was well-known throughout the town and a service is being held to commemorate his passing on 1 February 2009. In place of floral tributes anyone wishing contribute is asked to make a donation to Vancouver Naval Association.
 - The funeral of Mrs Joan Parsons, wife of Mr R A Parsons former Mayor of Bodmin 1964/65 is to take place on Friday 23 January 2009. The Mayor, Councillor R J Micek will attend to represent Bodmin Town Council.

The Mayor informed that cards had been sent to families expressing the Councils' thoughts and condolences at this time.

2. The Mayor advised the meeting that BTC had been unable to finalise the Precept for the year 2009/10 until more detailed information in respect of the final build costs of the PCSC were available. At the recent FS&PM meeting the Town Clerk had been instructed to prepare papers regarding the Precept, based on a best estimate, which was carried out. However, following information received from the Quantity Surveyor earlier in the week, the Mayor had instructed the Town Clerk to call a meeting of the PCSC Members. Given that the relevant financial information was still being worked up by the Quantity Surveyor, a further meeting had been arranged for the afternoon of 22 January 2009.

The purpose of the meeting of PCSC Members was to make recommendations in respect of:

- The PCSC build; and
- The final proposals for the Precept for the year 2009/10.

The Mayor informed the meeting that the Council's Officers were made aware of the PCSC build estimated costs at 11.15 a.m. on 22 January 2009. These estimated costs took into account the structural engineering requirements following the geotechnical survey of the site.

Following a long detailed discussion, the PCSC Members were of the opinion that the Mayor should recommend to Council that this project is put on hold until such time as the financial differences can be addressed and the current economic climate eases.

The Mayor expressed his understanding regarding the importance of the project to Council Members, all partners and the public. It was anticipated that many services would have been housed in this facility and as a council BTC would now attempt to meet the needs of as many of those organisations as possible.

The Mayor advised Council Members that this recommendation would have implications on the Precept which would require further discussion later in the meeting. He stated that the Town Council has never been secretive regarding any business activities. The town is one of the last to set its Precept and the importance of the PCSC project was recognised by other authorities as a key development in North Cornwall.

The item relating to the Priory Community Support Centre Project will be considered / recommendations heard and voted upon by Members later in the meeting.

3. The Town Clerk informed that following the meeting earlier in the day he had an opportunity to work through the budget with the RFO.

The Town Clerk advised that the budget is likely to be in the region of 10.91% increase – 9.51% increase on a Band D equivalent property equating to an increase of around 0.33p per week but the detail would need to be worked through later in the meeting as it may contain contractual information which would not be appropriate to consider in a public meeting.

C/2009/001 **PUBLIC REPRESENTATION SESSION** – PC Adam Barbery was in attendance and presented himself to the meeting for Members to make any queries they may have. No questions were asked.

No Members of the public were present.

C/2009/002 **Minutes of the Finance, Staffing & Performance Management Meeting held on 15 January 2009**

The Minutes of the Finance, Staffing & Performance Management Meeting held on 15 January 2009 were approved and passed for signing.

C/2009/003 **Item referred from FS&PM (Estimates) Meeting held on 7 January 2009 (Item FSPM/2009/002 refers) that the Council proceeds with the construction of the Priory Community Support Centre Project, as the services that such a building would deliver are considered to be of particular importance to the townspeople, especially given the current economic climate; and that the Town Clerk and RFO be instructed to secure the necessary loan sanction and borrowing**

The Mayor informed the meeting that earlier this week he had been asked to make a public comment in reply to a statement made by a Member of this Council. Even before being contacted by the press the Mayor had been made aware of the situation that had arisen by fellow Councillors who were appalled to be accused of obsessive secrecy and implied deception of the public who they serve.

The Town Clerk advised that, as stated earlier, this Council, like all others, was not in a position to make a public statement on the Precept until all the facts had been considered.

Matter *deferred* to **Confidential Committee** Section of meeting.

C/2009/004

Budget 2009/10 – To formally agree:

- a) **Total Expenditure to cover operational costs;**
- b) **Transfers to and from reserves, including earmarked reserves, and;**
- c) **The Precept for the coming financial year.**

Matter *deferred* to **Confidential Committee** Section of meeting.

C/2009/005

Boundary Review – Receive E-mail and report from ONECornwall in respect of the Boundary Review; in light of that information and previous consideration of this matter at the Council's One Cornwall Liaison Working Party (Item OCW/08/018 refers) formulate a response to the Boundary Committee for England

Copies of the ONECornwall Boundary Review Report and correspondence submitted to the Boundary Committee by Councillor K W Stubbs had been circulated.

The Town Clerk referred Members to the ONECornwall Boundary Review Report and advised that the Bodmin Community Network was detailed within item 4.

Within discussion, Members considered the Bodmin Community Network information contained within item 4 including the recommendations. Members supported the view that although there is some electorate inequality between the rural and urban wards, it is preferable to keep Bodmin Town distinct from the surrounding rural parishes. The recommendation within 4.3 to include the Berryfields Estate as a whole within one electoral ward was also supported.

The Town Clerk thanked Councillor K W Stubbs for sharing his correspondence to the Boundary Committee with the Council and asked Councillor P Kerridge if he was able to share his comments in relation to the suggested alternative boundaries (4.3).

Councillor P Kerridge responded that unfortunately he did not have a hard copy of his response with him but he would attempt to recall the main points. Councillor Kerridge stated that he had chosen saints names that he felt were appropriate to the town and to retain the Berryfields Estate together in one ward. When collating information for his suggestion Councillor Kerridge advised that he did not have access to electoral numbers. He also felt that it would be a good idea if part of Town End could be in the East Ward as this would provide a closer Polling Station (St Mary's Hall) for electorate in that area.

Councillor Stubbs advised Members that the information he had used relating to electorate numbers had been obtained from the Website where it is publicly available.

The Town Clerk asked Members for any additional comments / recommendations relating to the documents before them. Councillor K W Stubbs was commended for the work completed in relation to the new electoral arrangements for Cornwall.

In view of preceding discussion, and in anticipation of a growing workload for Councillors due to changing Council Status it was proposed that:

- ONECornwall Boundary Review Report – Item 4.1 should stand;
- Information and suggestions contained within Councillor Stubbs' correspondence to be utilised by the Town Clerk with clarification/ amendment as required:
 - ◆ Alternative boundaries for 3 divisions in Bodmin to serve both Cornwall Council and Bodmin Town Council –

Bodmin East	3243
Bodmin Central	3648
Bodmin West	3732
 - ◆ Within 3 divisions use the ward names –
 - Bodmin St Petroc
 - Bodmin St Mary
 - Bodmin St Guron
 - ◆ If boundaries permit the division of the town into three wards an equal number of Councillors be allocated for each ward – 6 Councillors per Ward (18 in total)

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be instructed to write to the Boundary Committee for England with the information contained in the above proposal, and whilst recognising the merit of coterminous unitary and Town Council wards, BTC would strongly recommend that stability at Town Council level at a time of massive local government reorganisation (District and County level) far outweighs any minor confusion for those electors at the margins of wards. As such BTC would strongly recommend reorganisation of ward boundaries to take effect at unitary level in 2009 but to defer implementation at Town Council level to 2013.

Due to the confidential nature of the next business it was **RESOLVED** to go into Committee. Please see separate sheet.

The meeting concluded its confidential discussions and **RESOLVED** to return to open Committee.

C/2009/011

Formal agreement of the Budget 2009/10:

Copies of the Budget for 2009/2010 (Version 3 – blue) had been circulated. The Meeting considered the items within the Budget as detailed above.

Following discussion, the Budget for the Financial Year 2009/2010 was **RESOLVED**, including:

- a) Expenditure to cover operational costs of £1,156,803
- b) Transfers to and from Reserves, including earmarked reserves – as follows:

Movements In –

- Shire Hall Loan Repayment Fund - £16,000
- Internal Borrowing – for small Van - £3,000
- Internal Borrowing – for new Mower - £5,000
- Replenish Contingency Reserve - £15,000

Movements Out –

- QPS Printing and Distribution - £1,700
- Court Room Experience Projector - £2,000

- c) The Precept for the coming financial year of £882,550 representing an increase of 9.51% on a Band 'D' – equivalent to 33p per week on a band D property.

PCSC Project – to note that the above budget is based on putting the PCSC project on hold for the time being, to allow time for the Town Clerk and RFO to revisit the construction costs and the funding package for this project.

C/2009/012

Councillor R J Micek commented on recent items in the press and requested that any Member of Bodmin Town Council that had concerns aired them during meetings, and not in the columns of the local newspaper.

The meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.