



## PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### **MINUTES OF PENZANCE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE COMMITTEE MEETING IN THE WHARFSIDE CENTRE CONFERENCE ROOM ON TUE 6 NOV 2012**

#### **Present:**

Dick Cliffe (DC)(Chairman), Stephen Richford, John Garrison (JG), Janet Mogford (JM), Margaret Cass (MC), Sally Bodinar (SB), Barbara Hanik (BH), Malcombe Lawrence (ML), Marian Bennett –FRIST (MB)

#### **Item 1. Apologies**

Christine Edwards

#### **Item 2 . Approval of the Minutes of the Previous Meeting.**

Postponed to next meeting given a delay in producing the minutes.

#### **Item 3. Matters Arising**

The Chairman had the following outstanding actions: Circulate guidance on 'A' board use.

The new Chamber website was now up and running on [www.penzancechamber.co.uk](http://www.penzancechamber.co.uk). Changes to pages on [www.penzance.co.uk](http://www.penzance.co.uk) were still outstanding (the Chamber would retain a one page presence on the site with links to the new site).

#### **Item 4 Applications for Membership**

There were no new applications for membership. JB had visited a number of potential new members and received some positive responses but applications had not yet been received.

#### **Item 5 Correspondence**

The Chamber has commented upon a number of street trading applications, both new ones and renewal. None were controversial.

Mrs J A Howes - LI12\_007673

Mr Cameron Bennett - LI12\_007704

Mr Nicholas Lennon trading as the Little Tea Caravan (on the Prom) - LI12\_008118

The Chamber had received requests from Golowan and Cllr Mario Fonk to resist a proposal by Cornwall Council (Parking) that would prevent the Golowan Festival competing the right to hold a funfair on St Antony's Gardens Car Park. Instead Cornwall Council would retain this right for this car park and all other Council car parks. Revenue obtained would be retained by Cornwall Council. The proposal was due to be considered by Cornwall Council's Leadership Team on Monday 22 Oct. Visit Cornwall were coordinating responses against it. The Chamber submitted a letter of objection via Cllr Andrew Wallace (Car Parking Panel Chairman) copied to Visit Cornwall, Cllr Fonk and the Golowan Director. Cornwall Council Leadership Team decided to leave arrangements as they were (no change) given tumult caused by the Cornwall Council 'coup' (voting out Alec Robertson).

## **Item 6. Closure of BIH Service / IOS Transport Issues**

**6.1. BIH** The BIH service had closed on the 31 Oct as scheduled. The Chairman had visited the Heliport for the final helicopter departure. The event was well attended. Although the end of the service was inevitable given accumulated losses, it was an emotional occasion.

**6.2. FRIST Update.** The Chairman welcomed Marian Bennett (FRIST Campaign Coordinator) to the meeting and she briefed the Committee on the background to FRIST and its recent activities. The campaign had gained significant traction over the previous two months. FRIST had met with Norman Baker, Transport Minister on 1 Nov and presented its case. The Minister was not going to cede a subsidy until all other commercial options had been explored and failed. This was not an unexpected response. FRIST and the islanders generally were grateful for the continuing support from the business community in Penzance for improved transport links between the islands and the mainland.

**6.3. Penzance Harbour.** Penzance Town Council had confirmed in a letter to the Minister that it did not know enough about Cornwall Councils proposals, and the justification for them, to give an opinion on the acceptability of rock armour protection for South Pier.

**Chairman's Note.** Rock armour is approved for the out two thirds of South Pier under the 2009 Penzance Harbour Revision Order. It is accepted by English Heritage as a 'necessary evil'. No further approvals are required just funding. The work, is believed to cost ~2.5 million and is eligible for ERDF funding. Ideas proposed by objectors for off shore barrages to protect the whole seafront are orders of magnitude more expensive and outside the scope of any worked that the DfT could justify funding. Major flood defence works are the responsibility of the Dept of the Environment. With Penzance only rarely flooding compared to other parts of the UK there was no realistic prospect of any major scheme being funded for Penzance for decades. Cornwall Council has recently commissioned studies (on going) to determine the condition of South Pier. Studies from 2010 (Halcrow) confirm a dangerous level of overtopping on South Pier was a danger to vessels berthed against it, buildings on the Pier and staff. The IOSSCO wants to see the issue addressed but has no preferences regarding the solution Cornwall Council adopts to achieve it.

## **Item 7. Sainsbury's new Penzance Store.**

The 'Restricted Matters' planning application for the new store had been approved by the Strategic Planning Committee on the 25 Oct. The Chairman had written to all of the members

layout the case for supporting the application. This application which covered detailed design matters was not controversial and was approved with no member voting against it (there was one abstention).

The remaining legal challenge to the initial planning application for the new store had been withdrawn and the sale of a large part of the Heliport site to Sainsburys completed. This meant the project was free to proceed.

According to the Section 106 agreement funds for the Town Council (£249,500) had to be paid before the store started trading (likely late 2013). The Chairman had been told they might be paid earlier than the legal deadline but this had not been confirmed in any document.

## **Item 8 . Penzance Town Team Update**

Town Team Partners Scheme. The local MP had signed the Governments pledge to support the Penzance Town Team as a Town Team Partner and this was understood to entitle the Town to a £10,000 grant. The award of the grant had not been confirmed and was being investigated with help from Cornwall Council.

Note. Written confirmation was received on the 20 Nov from Dept Communities & Local Government.

Discovery Map Meeting. Town Team members supporting the Discovery Map Project met in the Wharfside Centre (Manna's Diner) on 11 Oct. Veryan Jones (Cornwall Council) attended. Before the Penzance Map project could be launched the Town Team needed the Town Council to agree to hold the funds, the Discovery Map tool kit needed to be finished and the experiences of other towns understood (sop Penzance could learn from their mistakes).

(Chairman's Note. The Discovery Map Tool kit has been delivered. Cllr Ruhrmund has worked with the Council and obtained agreement for the Council to hold funds. Arnaud Ruetsch had contacted other towns about their recommendations. The launch has been agreed for 11 Dec at the Queens Hotel (7.00 pm for 7.30 start).

Town Centre Market. The outline plan for taking forward the Town Centre Market was agreed at the Town Team meeting on 9 Oct. The Government £10,000 grant which came with the MP's pledge to support the Town Team had been allocated to the Town Centre Market project. This represented only 33% of the estimated cost of a full implementation of the market plan. It was agreed the Market Working Group's plan should be for the full plan but deliverable in stages with the first deliverable with no more than the £10,000 available from the grant. The electrical and water utilities needed to be identified for the full scheme even if a large part had to be implemented later when funds were available. The name of the market was to be "Penzance Town Market". It was agreed that the market should focus on selling local produce and locally manufactured goods (target radius proposed was 30 miles). The size of the market was to be 25 stalls (initially at least). This was an increase of 7 on the current Farmers Market. The cost of extra stalls (in the style of the current Farmers Market stalls) was £650/stall. The preferred market day was Saturdays and the initial frequency was identified as monthly (last Saturday of the month). This could be increased later as required. The target date for the start of Penzance Town Market was Easter 2013.

Exchange Gallery Meeting (8 Oct 12). The Chairman had meet with Mr James Green, Director of the Newlyn Art Gallery & The Exchange and Mr Charles Hancock its Chairman about what could be done to improve Penzance's performance. There was a shared agreement that the

Town had much more potential than it was currently realizing. A number of ideas were discussed some of which are being explored further.

Penzance BID. Josyanne Thatcher, Cornwall Council's BID Manager, had advised that BID preparation would not start as originally planned in November (due to delays with funding ) but with the completion of the Heliport having recently taken place the funding of the scheme appeared secure. A new timetable for delivering the Penzance BID was awaited.

**Item 9. Parking.**

This item was deferred to the next meeting. BH commented on the lack of transparency in changes to parking and noted that it appeared that on street parking concessions that applied out of the tourist season in Mousehole had been withdrawn without consultation.

**Item 10. Public Toilets.**

Deferred to the next meeting.

**Item 11. AOB**

SB stated that Chapel Street had ended up in a shortlist of 3 streets in the nation for an award for excellence in urban living. At a time when the Town was often subject to criticism it was pleasing to see its gems acknowledged nationally.



D Cliffe

Chairman

28 Nov 2012