



Truro Civic Society

Charity No. 204788



Minutes of a Meeting held by the Truro Civic Society on Wednesday 21 March 2012 at 7pm in the Municipal Buildings

PRESENT

Caroline Jones (Honorary Treasurer)
Colin Elliott (Honorary Vice Chairman)
Councillor Armored Carlyon – in the chair
Councillor Reg Bowyer
Daphne Worraker
Di Russell
Edwina Elbers (Honorary Secretary)
June Bowry
Margaret Sellwood
Neil Scott
Robin Holdaway
Robin Sellwood
Roger Shuttlewood
Sandra Trehela
Simon Trehane
Tony Herring

1) APOLOGIES

Bert Biscoe (Honorary Chairman)
Gill Widdison
John Crowther
Ken Brand
Murray Smith
Olive Ball
Peter Blake

2) Approval of the Minutes from the Meeting held 15 February 2012
The minutes were approved.

3) Matters arising
Robin Holdaway enquired whether any details about the installation of the Joseph Emidy plaque had been confirmed. Reg Bowyer informed Robin that the planning officers are yet to decide.

4) Reports
a) Chairman's Report
Neil Scott proposed to discuss the eastern district centre at this point. Neil feels disappointed and frustrated about the whole process. He feels that decisions have been made beforehand, that factually inaccurate information has been presented by the applicants and that information presented by Truro City Council has not been taken seriously. The attitude of the current government towards development was discussed and Roger Shuttlewood added that he felt the responsible politicians were running “amok”. The treasurer had received a reply to the letter she sent to Eric Pickles (the secretary of state), in the reply it says that statutory planning procedures need to be applied by local authorities as planning applicants also – the treasurer has written again pointing out that the local authority had not adhered to this. The possibility of asking Mr Pickles to call in the application was again discussed – Our new vice chairman, Colin Elliott pointed out that applications can only be called in on matters of national importance and that this application could probably only meet the criteria in 2 points: prematurity and endangering the town centre. The vice chairman also mentioned that the suggestion of registering part of the land as a common had been discussed on the Save Truro website. The members agreed that threats like this application need to be countered with a robust

local plan – Armorel Carlyon added that there is a conflict between the Core Strategy and the Neighbourhood Plan. Armorel feels that due to the varied agendas of the different parties engaged in compiling the plans, a solution is still some way ahead. The members have written individually (in their private as well as professional capacities) to their MP Sarah Newton and also to Eric Pickles to voice their concerns regarding this planning application. Neil reported that local businesses have also responded to the threat and written to Ms Newton and Mr Pickles. Different ways of encouraging the public to write in with their views were discussed (eg cut out template in the West Briton or a petition). It was also mentioned that the convergence funding for Truro might be in danger of being siphoned away to support the development – it was suggested that the society write to Cornwall Council to ask how much of the European funding would be used for the eastern district centre.

b) Treasurer's Report

The treasurer thanked Adam Keogh at Francis Clark with Winter Rule LLP, chartered accountants, for preparing the society's receipts and payments accounts free of charge. The society currently has £2438.00 – the treasurer is thinking of moving the money to an account with a better rate of interest, please contact her if you have any suggestions. £100.00 have been donated to Totally Truro to support the launch event for The Drummer statue. £50.00 have been donated to the Save Truro website. £25.00 have paid for a parking ticket incurred by a Civic Voice speaker. £52.00 have been received through gift aid. The rest of the expenses are towards presents for guest speakers and the accountants, etc. Please contact the treasurer for a copy of the paperwork with the full details. The society presently counts 41 members, of which 2 are corporate members and 2 life members. The treasurer thanked the members for their continued interest and support. Armorel Carlyon took this opportunity to thank the treasurer in return.

c) Conservation Committee's Report

The committee is still experiencing procedural difficulties but is now fortunate to have enlisted the mayor to help improve the situation. The mayor has promised to meet with Bert Biscoe in the near future to discuss.

5) Neil Scott and Totally Truro

Please find Neil's report enclosed or contact the secretary for a copy. The treasurer thanked Neil for all his work.

6) Any other Business

The website is still waiting for contributions – the treasurer and the chairman are going to meet to discuss this next week. Neil Scott suggested that articles for the website should also aim to celebrate Truro and not just focus on things that need improving. Armorel Carlyon suggested to link up the society's website, Totally Truro and Save Truro.

Sandra Trehwela raised concerns about the quality of decoration and maintenance of the houses on the stretch coming from Station Road towards the town centre into Ferris town. Sandra wonders whether the enforcement officer could do anything about this.

Colin Elliott, our new Vice Chairman, has provided a little background information about himself, which we enclose here. 'I am 51 years of age. I moved to Truro from London in 1991. I am married with three children of my own, Jessica (17), Joshua (15) and Daniel (12) (all of whom attend or have attended Bosvigo and Penair schools) and two stepsons aged 33 and 29. I am a barrister and currently joint head of KBG Chambers (which is based in Plymouth and Truro - and is a merger between the former Godolphin Chambers in Truro and Kings Bench Chambers in Plymouth). My practice is split between family finance disputes and disputes concerning land (eg boundaries, rights of way etc). I have an interest in archaeology and local history (starting a foundation degree in archaeology at Truro College a few years ago which unfortunately I had to give up due to pressures of work and family). I am a member of the following local organisations: the RIC; the Cornwall Wildlife Trust; and the Cornwall Archaeological Society.

I feel very fortunate in having been able to live, work, and bring up a family in Truro, and I am passionate about preserving the special character of Truro for future generations in the face of the numerous threats from unsympathetic developments which are looming on the horizon.'

7) Date and time of the next Meeting

The next meeting will be held in the Municipal Buildings on Wednesday 25 April 2012 at 7pm.

Neil Scott thanked Armorel Carlyon for chairing the meeting. The meeting was closed 8.15pm.