

MOUNT EDGCUMBE JOINT COMMITTEE

Friday 29 October 2004

PRESENT:

Plymouth City Council Members

Councillors Mavin, Coleman, Smith, J. Fox, Finn, Lock and Stark.

Cornwall County Council Members

Councillors Mrs. Murray, Crago, Mrs Heard, McTaggart and Preston.

Co-opted Members

Councillor Gregory and Mrs. Spring.

Apologies for absence

Cornwall County Council Members

Councillors Smale and Mrs Richards.

Co-opted Members

Sir Richard Carew-Pole Bt. and Mr D. L. Richards.

The meeting commenced at 10.45 am and concluded at 12.45 pm.

1. Declarations Of Interest

The following declarations of interest were made in accordance with the Code of Conduct –

Councillor Gregory	Item 12 (Personal)
Councillor McTaggart	Item 12 (Personal)
Councillor Mrs Murray	Item 12 (Personal)

2. Minutes

Resolved that minutes of the meeting held on 7th May, 2004 (ME 01 04/05) be confirmed as a correct record.

CHAIRS URGENT BUSINESS

3. Congratulations

The Committee offered their congratulations and best wishes to Councillor Mavin for his forthcoming wedding.

4. Outcome of Recent Weather Conditions

The Park Manager updated the Committee on the outcome of the recent severe weather, as follows:

- trees had fallen across Earls Drive, in the formal gardens, and in Penlee woods which had caused a little damage to the roof of the Naval building;
- roof tiles on the west side of the house had lifted causing a major leak.

Extra staff had been drafted in over the weekend to repair storm damage.

(In accordance with Section 100(B)(4)(b) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Chair brought forward the above items for consideration because of the need to inform Members.)

5. Budget Monitoring

The Directors for Lifelong Learning and Corporate Resources submitted a report (ME 2 04/05) presenting an update on the financial position of the Joint Committee, identifying variations to the Original Estimate and a discussion on 2005/06 budget planning.

Resolved that -

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) it be agreed that although it was noted that the criteria for budget setting for 2005/06 for both Authorities had not yet been agreed; both Constituent Council be informed of the need to maintain their financial contributions to the Mount Edgcumbe at the existing levels, in real terms, in 2005/06 as any reduction in the level of support could threaten the success of the major bids the Joint Committee is making for grant support from Objective One and SWRDA;
- (3) congratulations and thanks be expressed to the Park Manager and his staff for a successful financial outcome for the past three years.

6. Seasonal Staff Extension of Contracts

The Director for Lifelong Learning submitted a report (ME 3 04/05) proposing to extend the contracts of three seasonal members of staff for a further three months.

Resolved that the Officers be authorised to extend the contracts of the two seasonal rangers and one seasonal gardener for a further three months.

7. CATA Membership

The Director for Lifelong Learning submitted a report (ME 4 04/05) on the proposal to join the Cornwall Association of Tourist Attractions.

Resolved that –

- (1) approval be given to the application to join CATA starting in the financial year 2005/06, subject to enquiries being made regarding the possibility of being included in the earlier brochure;
- (2) the Park Manager be authorised to sign the application form;
- (3) the Park Manager be authorised to attend meetings of CATA on the Committee's behalf.

8. Car Park Review

The Director for Lifelong Learning submitted a report on the review of Car Parking and Charges at Mount Edgcumbe Country Park, providing –

- (i) a review of the car parks at Mount Edgcumbe;
- (ii) a comparison of charges in existing Pay and Display car parks with District Council owned car parks;
- (iii) estimates of costings to install and operate Pay and Display car parking at the two free Mount Edgcumbe car parks, including advice that the capital cost could not

be contained within the forecasted additional income unless the extra car park duties required at those remote sites were contained within the existing ranger duties through rescheduling work priorities.

Resolved that –

- (1) Pay and Display charges be kept at their current level;
- (2) concessionary ticket costs be increased from £15 to £18 for a full year and pro rata for part thereof;
- (3) car park charges be not introduced at Maker and Rame Head;

9. **Progress Report**

The Director for Lifelong Learning submitted a progress report (ME 6 04/05) outlining progress made in the various operational targets set in the operation management plan, giving an analysis of visitor numbers to the House and House usage, and advised that –

- (1) ten coach trips had been cancelled due to the inability of the cruise ships they were on to get in Plymouth due to bad weather;
- (2) increased publicity, together with better management and presentation, had contributed to increased visitor numbers;
- (3) the application to renew the marriage licence was in progress;
- (4) two main outdoor events in the summer, i.e. the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and Mount Edgcumbe Hospice's Classic Car Rally and Fayre and the Military Vehicles Trust display, had proved to be very successful.

With regard to the Classic Car Rally and Fayre referred to above, the Committee was informed that this was an event run by volunteers and it was a concern to the two organisations involved that it would become unsupportable by them if it became a financial burden.

Resolved that –

- (1) the report be noted;
- (2) congratulations on the success of their events be offered to –
 - the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park and Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Hospice;
 - the Museum Development Officer (Plymouth);
 - the Chair of the Military Vehicles Trust;
- (3) the Officers be requested to organise a publicity campaign which aimed to encourage the public to be flexible and tolerant with regard to the Classic Car Rally, an event which supported good causes.

10. **Property Action Taken Under Delegated Powers**

The Head of Economic Development and Urban Regeneration submitted a report (ME 7 04/05) on action taken by officers under delegated powers.

Resolved that the report be noted.

11. **Restoration of Tapestries**

The Director for Lifelong Learning submitted a report (ME 8 04/05) outlining the case for applying for Heritage Lottery Funding grant to restore the Mount Edgcumbe Tapestries and

developing an educational programme for the House.

Resolved that -

- (1) authority be given to Officers to apply for the Heritage Lottery Fund grant;
- (2) an allocation of a total of £7500 from the Joint Committee's Collection budget over three financial years, starting 05/06, be agreed.

12. Correspondence Received

The Committee noted the correspondence received but were unable to comment as the issues raised were outside of their remit.

(Councillors Gregory, McTaggart and Mrs. Murray declared a personal interest in the above item.)

13. Substitutes - Cornwall County Council

The County Solicitor (Cornwall County Council) submitted a report (ME 10 04/05) indicating that it had been agreed at a meeting of the Cornwall County Council's Executive that appointment of nominated substitutes on the Joint Committee, from the same party group and from an electoral division within the Districts of Caradon or North Cornwall, could now be permitted.

Resolved that the report be welcomed and noted.

14. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

Resolved that, under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following items on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 9 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act.

15. Outbuildings Report (E9)

The Director of Planning Transportation and Estates submitted a report (ME 12 04/05) on Outbuildings Grant Work and plans were provided to view at the meeting.

Resolved that -

- (1) the plans be approved;
- (2) the Officers be authorised to cost the plan and report the costings to a special meeting of the Joint Committee which would be held on Friday, 26th November, 2004.

16. Grazing and Cremyll Ferry Progress Report (E9)

The Director of Strategic Projects and Service Change submitted a report (ME 11 04/05) outlining the progress of property matters within the Country Park since the last meeting and seeking approval with regard to the letting of grazing land within the Park.

Resolved that –

- (1) the current position regarding the Cremyll Ferry and Slipways be noted;
- (2) approval be given for the letting of the grazing land directly to Mr Turner upon the basis outlined in the report;
- (3) a further report be submitted to the next (special) meeting to be held on 26th

November.