

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Friday 18 February 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor Trubody, Co Chair in the Chair.
Councillors Austin, Delbridge, McDonald, Pearn MBE and Riches (substitute for Councillor Preston).

Co-opted Representatives: Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt, Cdr Crocker and Mrs Spring.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Flashman, German, Martin Leaves, Holley, Preston, Reynolds (Co Chair), Smith and Vincent and Co-opted Representative Mr T Savery.

Also in attendance: Nick Butcher (Head Gardener/Ranger), James Coulton (Assistant Director for Culture, Sport and Leisure PCC), Charlie David (Operations Manager East CC), Wendy Eldridge (Senior Accountant PCC), Louise Goad (Group Accountant PCC), David Jenkin (Accountant CC), David Marshall (Business Development Mount Edgumbe House and Country Park, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery) and David Owens (Assistant Head of Service Waste and Environment).

The meeting started at 10.45am and finished at 12.30pm.

Note: At a future meeting, the committee will consider the accuracy of these draft minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes of that meeting to confirm whether these minutes have been amended.

32. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the code of conduct, Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt, declared a personal and prejudicial interest as he owned chalets along the coast.

33. MINUTES

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 10 December 2011 are signed as a correct record.

34. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

35. 2010/11 MONITORING UPDATE

The Director for Community Services, Director for Corporate Support and the Head of Environment and Heritage Services submitted a joint update report on 2010/11 monitoring.

The Joint Committee was advised that –

- (a) the overall net year end forecast overspend had increased from £262k to £307k;
- (b) the forecast had changed since last reported to the Joint Committee in September 2010, due to a final catering stock take at the end of trading, which had identified a worsening commercial trading position; the adverse variations were as follows –
 - Stables £11k
 - Orangery £21k
 - plant sales £8k
 - Cremyll shop £5k
- (c) although the trading position of the Cremyll shop had worsened, staff employed within the shop provided a presence within the park which negated the need to employ additional staff out of hours;
- (d) the breakdown of the net year end overspend of £307k was as follows –
 - £172k existing house and park operations;
 - £103k commercial trading activities including catering;
 - £22k special events;
 - £11k plant sales.

In response to a question raised, the Joint Committee was advised that the adverse weather conditions during the summer period had not helped the park's trading position; having identified the issues, the costs should have been reduced more quickly and the business adapted accordingly.

Agreed that the Joint Committee notes the estimated year end overspend of £307k.

36. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act, 1972, the press and public are excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of confidential/exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 Schedule 12A of the (Local Government Access to Information) Act 1985, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

37. **UPDATE ON BUSINESS PLAN (E3)**

James Coulton (Assistant Director for Culture, Sport and Leisure) and David Marshall (Business Development Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park and Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery) provided a presentation which updated the Joint Committee on its business plan.

Agreed that an update on the business plan is provided to the next Joint Committee meeting.