

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 25 November 2011

PRESENT:

Councillor Trubody, Co Chair, in the Chair.

Councillors Mrs Beer (Co Chair), Mrs Foster, Pearn MBE, Penberthy, Peter Smith and Vincent.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Austin, Bragg, Browne, Flashman, German, Holley and Preston and Co-opted Representatives Mr D L Richards and Mr T Savery.

Also in attendance: David Bennett (Accountant PCC), Ian Berry (Park Manager PCC), Nick Butcher (Head Gardener/Ranger PCC), Charlie David (Strategic Waste and Landscape Manager), David Marshall (Business Development Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery PCC) and Tony O'Connor-Smith (Senior Accountant PCC).

The meeting started at 9.45 am and finished at 10.55 am.

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.

22. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest made by councillors in accordance with the Code of Conduct.

23. **MINUTES**

Agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2011 are confirmed as a correct record.

24. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

25. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12**

The Director for Community Services and the Assistant Head of Service, Waste and Environment submitted a report on the revenue budget monitoring 2011/12, which highlighted the following main areas –

- (a) a deficit of £7,425 had been identified which would need to be addressed; this represented a decrease of £1,949 since the last monitoring update in September;

- (b) there were a number of variations that had been identified which included –
- Mount Edgcumbe House
 - ▶ salary costs – a post had been deleted (£3.9k favourable);
 - ▶ management action had curtailed spending in order to address an operating deficit (£1.2k favourable);
 - ▶ income had increased on the forecast due to additional functions being booked (£1.9k favourable);
 - Mount Edgcumbe Park
 - ▶ there had been a reduction in overtime (£2k favourable);
 - ▶ the charge for pot holes had been absorbed within current budgets (£4k favourable);
 - Mount Edgcumbe Trading
 - ▶ income had reduced by £6.2k; this had been as a result of VAT not being paid on the hire of the Orangery since 2008/9 (VAT had now been backed);
 - ▶ £1.4k had been included in the forecast for events that had not taken place this season;
- (c) a number of projections had been identified which had a high risk of change –
- Trenninow chalet rent review;
 - winter retail trading and stock review;
 - the car parking price increase from 19 September 2011; (in the first six weeks the figures had backed up the 50 per cent income increase which had been forecast, although this would be dependent on the weather for the remainder of the financial year);
 - catering trading information from the operator.

The Joint Committee agreed –

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) that detailed financial information is provided at future meetings; due to the confidential and commercially sensitive information, this item will be considered under exempt business.

26. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100A(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 exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part I Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act, 2000.

27. **UPDATE ON THE BUSINESS PLAN (E3)**

The Director for Community Services, Director for Corporate Support and the Assistant Head of Service Waste and Environment submitted an update report on the Mount Edgumbe business plan.

The Co Chairs expressed their concern at receiving this report late. The Park Manager assured the Joint Committee that every effort was made to provide reports in a timely manner, however, in order to provide a comprehensive and meaningful report, it had not been possible to do so on this occasion.

Agreed that –

- (1) the report is noted;
- (2) an options report will be submitted to the Joint Committee on 3 February 2012, identifying the role of a consultant, in providing a brief, indicative costs and an understanding of how the costs would be met;
- (3) the Mount Edgumbe Officers' Working Group looks at resources in both constituent authorities which would meet the objectives of the brief and the costs associated with it.