

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 24 February 2012

PRESENT:

Councillor Trubody, Co-Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Austin, Mrs Beer (Co-Chair), Mrs Bowyer (substitute for Councillor Mrs Foster), Browne, Flashman, Haydon (substitute for Councillor Vincent), Holley, Pearn MBE and Penberthy.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Mrs Bragg, Mrs Foster, German, Preston, Riches and Peter Smith and Co-opted Representatives Mr D L Richards and Mr T Savery.

Also in attendance: 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), Gemma Pearce (Team Leader Democratic Support PCC), Tony O'Connor-Smith (Senior Accountant PCC) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 9.45 am and finished at 10.40 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.

28. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

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

29. **MINUTES**

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 24 February 2012 are confirmed as a correct record.

30. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

With the permission of the Chair, the Park Manager and the Strategic Waste and Landscape Manager provided an update on the organisational changes taking place within both Plymouth City Council and Cornwall Council.

The Joint Committee was advised that –

- (a) Plymouth City Council had reduced the number of its directorates from five to three (People, Place and Corporate Services);

- (b) Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park had transferred from the former Community Services directorate to the Place directorate and would be the responsibility of Assistant Director for Economic Development;
- (c) Tom Flanagan the Director for Environment, Planning and Economy would be leaving Cornwall Council; Michael Crich would be undertaking this role;
- (d) from 1 March 2012, Councillor German would become the portfolio holder for Localism, Sustainability and Devolution and Councillor Double would take on the portfolio for Environment, Heritage and Waste Management.

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

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

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

- (a) through the actions of management the operating deficit of £7,425 (reported to the previous Joint Committee meeting) had been addressed; a break even budget was forecast for 2011/12;
- (b) there were a number of variations that had been identified which included –
 - Mount Edgcumbe House (£6.5k adverse);
 - Mount Edgcumbe Park (£7k favourable);
 - Mount Edgcumbe Trading (£7k favourable);
- (c) a number of projections had been identified which had a high risk of change –
 - Trenninow chalet rent review;
 - car parking price increase from 19 September 2011.

The following responses were provided to questions raised by the Joint Committee –

- (d) a letter had been sent to the Chalet Owners Association from Humberts outlining the proposed rent increases;
- (e) the increase in car park charges had been benchmarked against the recent increase implemented by Cornwall Council, as follows – (75 pence for one hour, £2.25 over two hours and £4 for over four hours):

- 70 pence up to one hour
 - £2.70 up to four hours
 - £3.90 over four hours
- (f) the permit holders' car parking charges had increased from £22 to £55 per annum which was also in line with the Cornwall Council's car parking charges;
- (g) a business case could be carried out as part of the next car parking review, regarding charging blue badge holders for parking.

The Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

(Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt was not present for this item).

32. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE REVIEW OF 2011**

The Director for People and the Assistant Head of Service, Waste and Environment submitted a report on the review of Mount Edgcumbe 2011 which highlighted the usage of both the park and house, events and key works undertaken in 2011 that included –

- (a) the grant of heritage lottery funding (for the conservation of artefacts from the wreck of the Metta Catherine von Flensburg);
- (b) the formal opening of the relic gardens;
- (c) the restoration of the Ice House Bridge;
- (d) events at the park;
- (e) the importance of both the financial and volunteer support from the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park.

The following responses were provided to questions raised by the Joint Committee –

- (f) it was considered that the success of the Christmas fayre had been due to the variety of stalls and entertainment, the quality of the products/services and the location (the event had contributed £7,000 to the budget);
- (g) the 'Shred Events' 10k run had taken place in the park in January 2012; a fee was received per runner for participating in the run;
- (h) social events including a bbq were held each year, as a 'thank you' to the Friends of Mount Edgcumbe Country Park; work was currently being undertaken with the caterers to look at the feasibility of providing discounts for the volunteers;

- (i) work was also being undertaken to provide a 'volunteer package' and also an induction session; following the volunteers' conference that was held in January 2012, two volunteer co-ordinators had been appointed which would provide a point of contact for both the volunteers and management.

The Joint Committee agreed to –

- (1) note the report;
- (2) formally thank the Friends of Mount Edgumbe Country Park for their financial and volunteer support during 2011.

33. **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 items of business on the grounds that they involve 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.

34. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2011/12 (E3)**

The Director for People and the Assistant Head Service, Waste and Environment submitted a report on the revenue budget monitoring 2011/12.

The Joint Committee agreed to note the report.

35. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE BUSINESS PLAN (E3)**

The Director for People and the Assistant Head of Service, Waste and Environment submitted a report on the Mount Edgumbe business plan.

The Joint Committee agreed –

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) that officers bring to the autumn meeting a report which details options for business planning support to be funded from within existing budgets.