

Mount Edgumbe Joint Committee

Friday 19 July 2013

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Smith, Joint Chair in the Chair.

Councillors Austin, Mrs Beer, Ellison, K Foster, Mrs Foster, Haydon, Hobbs, Penberthy and Trubody.

Co-opted Representatives: Cdr Crocker, Mr D L Richards and Mr T Savery.

Apologies for absence: Councillors Candy, Frank, Hannaford and Vincent and Co-opted Representatives Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt and Mrs Spring.

Also in attendance: Ian Berry (Park Manager PCC), David Bennett (Accountant PCC), Nick Butcher (Head Gardener/Ranger PCC), Paul Martin (Principal Strategic Partnership and Policy Officer CC), Peter Marsh (Interim Assistant Director for Environment CC), David Marshall (Business Development Mount Edgumbe House and Country Park, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery PCC), Nicola Moyle (City Curator Museum and Archives PCC), Leigh Parker (Accountant CC), (Stephen Pickering (Consultant CC) Mark Porter(Public Transport Officer PCC) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer PCC).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.00 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.

Welcome

The Joint Chair took the opportunity to welcome new members to the Joint Committee.

1. APPOINTMENT OF THE JOINT CHAIRS

The Joint Committee noted the appointment of Councillor Peter Smith as Joint Chair and agreed the appointment of Councillor Hannaford as Joint Chair for the municipal year 2013/14.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by members in accordance with the code of conduct.

3. MINUTES

The Joint Committee agreed the minutes of the meeting held on 14 December 2012.

4. **CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS**

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2012/13 AND BUDGET 2013/14**

The Director for Place submitted a report on revenue outturn 2012/13 and the budget 2013/14 which highlighted the following main areas –

- (a) 2012/13 revenue monitoring variations;
- (b) 2013/14 budget;
- (c) latest forecast monitoring (high level);
- (d) annual return for the year (31 March 2013) (Audit Commission).

The Joint Chair took the opportunity to congratulate members of staff for the work that had been undertaken to significantly reduce the deficit and continue the good work.

The Joint Committee agreed –

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) that the accounts are recommended for approval for the annual small bodies return;
- (3) that the annual governance statement is recommended for approval for the annual small bodies return;
- (4) the amended 2013/14 budget.

6. **SERVICE REVIEW UPDATE**

The Interim Assistant Director for Environment (Cornwall Council), presented the update on the service review which outlined the following key areas –

- (a) background and journey to date;
- (b) immediate actions;
- (c) next steps.

Stephen Pickering had been appointed by Cornwall Council as a consultant to undertake work for Mount Edgumbe which included sharing expertise, review staffing structures and developing a capital investment plan.

In response to questions raised by the Joint Committee, it was reported that –

- (d) funding streams would be investigated once the plan for the Park had been drafted; it was also acknowledged that there was expertise within both authorities in securing funding;

- (e) discussions had yet to take place regarding improving access to the park, however it was evident from the events held within the park, such as the car rally, that visitors were able to access the location;
- (f) the appointment of Stephen Pickering (consultant) was not being funded from the Mount Edgcumbe budget.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

7. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE PROGRESS REPORT**

The Director for Place submitted a progress report for Mount Edgcumbe, which highlighted the following key areas –

- park and property areas;
- market research, marketing and public relations activity;
- events;
- weddings;
- development;
- commercial;
- staff.

In response to questions raised by the Joint Committee, it was reported that –

- (a) the council's insurance policy would not cover the cost of replacing the lead that had been stolen from the roofs of the Orangery, English Garden House and the French Conservatory; however, the damage caused by the flood to the Cremyll shop would be covered;
- (b) the stolen lead had not been watermarked, however the replacement lead would be identifiable and it would also be secured to the roof differently;
- (c) the Cremyll Ferry operators were working with other boat operators from the Barbican, Mount Batten and the Royal William Yard to provide ferry services to the park.

The Joint Committee wished to formally recognise the valuable contribution that the volunteers made to Mount Edgcumbe and agree to investigate the feasibility of awarding them a certificate in recognition of their work.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

8. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under section 100(A) of the Local Government Act 1972 to exclude the press and public from the meeting for the following items of business on the grounds that they involved 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.

9. **REVENUE OUTTURN 2012/13 AND BUDGET 2013/14 (E3)**

Further to minute 5, the Director for Place submitted a confidential report on the revenue outturn 2012/13 and budget 2013/14.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

10. **CREMYLL FERRY SUBSIDY REVIEW (E3)**

A report was submitted to the Joint Committee relating to the Cremyll Ferry subsidy review.

Agreed –

- (1) to allow the Cremyll Ferry contract to run until the contract review date in August 2015;
- (2) to undertake a review of the Cremyll Ferry contract and to report the findings at a future meeting of the Joint Committee.