

Mount Edgcumbe Joint Committee

Friday 18 July 2014

PRESENT:

Councillor Peter Smith, Joint Chair, in the Chair.

Councillor Hannaford, Joint Chair.

Councillors Austin, Candy, Churchill, Damarell, Ellison, Hobbs, Mrs Pengelly, Stark, Trubody and Vincent.

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

Apologies for absence: Councillors Frank and McDonald and Sir Richard Carew Pole Bt.

Also in attendance: Simon Arthurs (Lead Accountant PCC), Ian Berry (Park Manager PCC), Nick Butcher (Head Gardner/Ranger PCC), David Marshall (Business Development Mount Edgcumbe House and Country Park, Plymouth City Museum and Art Gallery PCC), Nicola Moyle (City Curator Museum and Archives PCC), Leigh Parker (Accountant CC), Steve Pickering (Consultant) and Helen Wright (Democratic Support Officer).

The meeting started at 10.00 am and finished at 11.05 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.

1. NOTE THE APPOINTMENT OF JOINT CHAIRS

The Joint Committee noted the appointment of the Joint Chairs, Councillor Peter Smith and Councillor Hannaford for the forthcoming municipal 2014/15.

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest made by members in accordance with the code of conduct relating to items on the agenda.

3. MINUTES

The Joint Committee agreed that the minutes of the meeting held on 28 February 2014 are confirmed as a correct record.

4. CHAIR'S URGENT BUSINESS

There were no items of Chair's urgent business.

5. REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14

The Strategic Director for Place submitted a monitoring report on the revenue budget 2013/14 which highlighted the following main areas –

- (a) overview of the monitoring variations 2013/14;
- (b) background 2013/14;
- (c) 2013/14 revenue monitoring variations;
- (d) future budget;
- (e) small bodies audit.

In response to a question raised by the Joint Committee, it was reported that problems with the caterers had led to the contract being terminated early and the sum of £7,500 being written off; the decision to write off this amount had been made to safeguard future wedding bookings.

The Joint Committee agreed –

- (1) to note the report;
- (2) that the accounts are recommended for approval for the annual small bodies return and to resurrect a risk register to be reviewed at least once a year;
- (3) the approval of the Annual Governance Statement for the annual small bodies return.

6. **OVERVIEW OF THE YEAR TO DATE**

The Park Manager provided an overview of the year to date, which included the following key points –

- the winter storms which had resulted in 150 to 200 trees being lost or damaged (the timber had been used to construct the new play area at the Barrow Centre);
- the spring floods;
- the Barrow Centre traders which included Upcycled Furniture, Disc Golf, Dog House, X Ray Art and Design, Scoot Coffee, Weaving Studio;
- events which included the wedding fair, WWI Day, Green Man weekend, smugglers market, three wishes faery festival, the car rally, the royal horse artillery, military vehicles trust and the Christmas Fair.

In response to a question raised by the Joint Committee, it was reported that one person had been prosecuted for stealing the lead from the Park.

7. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE MEANS BUSINESS UPDATE**

The Strategic Director for Place submitted a report on Mount Edgcumbe Means Business which provided an update on the transformational change review which had been originally reported to the Joint Committee in July 2013. The report highlighted the following key areas –

- letting of units at the Barrow Centre;
- general improvements;
- aggressive marketing;
- external stakeholders;
- visitor information service;
- Cremyll Lodge;
- phase two.

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

- (a) the difficulties with parking, at the Durnford Street car park in Plymouth, would be raised;
- (b) work was currently taking place to install wifi; it was anticipated that this would assist in attracting more conferences to the park.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

8. **EXEMPT BUSINESS**

Agreed that under Section 100A(4) 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 involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in paragraph 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act, as amended by the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

9. **REVENUE BUDGET MONITORING 2013/14 (E3)**

Further to minute 5, the Strategic Director for Place submitted a confidential report on the revenue budget monitoring 2013/14.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

10. **MOUNT EDGCUMBE CAR PARKING CHARGES (E3)**

The Strategic Director for Place submitted a report on car parking charges within the Park.

The Joint Committee noted the report.

11. **FAREWELL**

The Joint Chair, Councillor Peter Smith advised that this was Ian Berry's last Joint Committee meeting as he would be retiring after 28 years of service at the Park. The Joint Chair, on behalf of the Joint Committee took the opportunity to thank Ian for his work and wished him all the success for the future.