

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD ON WEDNESDAY 6TH JUNE 2018 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL @ 6.00pm.**

Minutes taken by Cllr Mrs Frances Day

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay (Chair), Cllr Mrs Frances Day and Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms

1} **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr Day, and seconded by Cllr Simms that Cllr Finlay should remain as Chairman for a further year. Appreciation was expressed of Cllr Finlay's expertise and hard work in this role.

2} **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies were received from Cllr Patrick Hughes.

3} **Declarations of interest**

- |     |                       |      |
|-----|-----------------------|------|
| (a) | <i>Pecuniary:</i>     | None |
| (b) | <i>Non pecuniary:</i> | None |
| (c) | <i>Dispensations:</i> | None |

4} **Public Participation/Questions**

Cllr Finlay had received a detailed letter from Mrs Susie Trenary expressing concern about the spread in Fowey of the quaking grass *Brizia Media*. Mrs Trenary's letter had included a map showing where the grass was most common. Cllr Finlay had emailed Cornwall Wildlife, seeking guidance, but had so far received no response. She had looked round Fowey and found the quaking grass to be most extensive in the area around the main carpark and Saffron Close and at the Primary School. However, it did not appear to be generally recognised as invasive, and it was decided to keep a close eye on its future growth rather than instigating removal at this time.

5} **Minutes of the meeting held on 29th March 2018**

It was then proposed by Cllr Day and seconded by Cllr Simms that the Minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chair as a true record.

6} **Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

None

7} **To receive the report of the Tree Warden (Cllr Day)**

*Cllr Day reported:* "The branches abandoned outside the Fowey Hall Hotel after the winter storms miraculously disappeared.

The orchard at the allotments was coming along well and the proposal to expand the area of the orchard was to be warmly welcomed.

A copper beech tree had been planted at Piggy Lane Triangle. Research has shown that Cormac were responsible, acting on behalf of Cornwall Council. This was apparently to replace a Monterey pine which was felled some years ago. This brought up a number of interesting points. Ashley Dowden, Arboricultural Officer from Cornwall Council's Invasive Plants and Arboricultural Service,

advised that the Monterey pines along Hanson Drive had been in decline for some years. The vegetation around their roots had been cleared so that the roots could be monitored for fungi growth and general health. In late summer further strimming would take place to reinspect the rooting environments. It was good that these trees are being monitored as they often shed branches and seem to be nearing the end of their lives, which is about 100 years.

8} **Allotments**

(a) *General update:* A meeting had taken place between Cllr Finlay, Town Clerk Sally Vincent and Jenny Marchant, Secretary of the RAS to see whether the Committee might relieve the Town Clerk of some of the administration of the allotments. It was necessary for the Town Clerk to continue with keeping the waiting list, administering tenancy agreements and collecting rent. All allotment holders must have their own insurance. At present, there was no waiting list and some vacant allotments.

(b) *Review of Health and Safety Arrangements:* Cllr Day had visited the allotments on behalf of the Council and identified a crumbly path just inside the main gate. Otherwise, the maintenance and vigilance of the RAS Committee were to be commended.

(c) *Update of disabled friendly plot:* The Home Farm Trust, a charity assisting people with learning difficulties, who had been allocated plot 2, had so far not started work there although the key had now been collected. There was an offer of a mini digger to assist them in the cultivation of their plot.

(d) *Delegation of some administrative tasks to the RAS:* As a result of the aforementioned meeting, it had been agreed that the RAS Committee would in future contact plot holders of poorly cultivated allotments and ask them to remedy the situation within 28 days. Should this not happen, their agreement would be terminated. This would enable the Committee to take measures to keep the vacant allotments in reasonable order until a new holder was identified.

9} **Old Grammar School Garden**

*Update on work in upper garden:* Cllr Finlay had held a meeting on 21st May at the Garden with Sally Pearce, the gardener and Ali Siddall of Arvorek Garden Design. It was agreed that Ms Pearce was doing an excellent job and the upper garden was much tidier and better tended than previously. A light path would be put through the upper garden in the autumn and the height reduced of some of the large shrubs. Some people opposite had offered to help with the garden, but were unhappy with the height of a couple of palm trees. Pruning these would be considered. A donation of £500 for general planting had been received and in addition more bulbs would be planted in the autumn.

10} **Contractors 2018/2019**

Lanhydrock Garden Services were not seeking an increase in their fees for the coming year. It was agreed they worked well and they should retain the contract for weed killing, grass cutting and maintaining the footpaths for 2018/19.

Cllr Finlay wondered whether the Fowey in Bloom sign at the entrance to Fowey was confusing and perhaps distracting to motorists. Cllr Day, as Chairman of Fowey in Bloom, would consult the

Committee and see whether it might be replaced with a simple sign beside the floral boat, reading just "Fowey in Bloom".

11} **Review Budget 2018/2019**

£8,500 budget had been allocated to the Environment Committee for 2017/18 and £7,813 had actually been spent. The budget for 2018/19 would remain at £8,500.

12} **To receive reports from members**

None received.

13} **Date of next meeting:** This was agreed for Wednesday 5th September @ 6.00pm, to be held in the Town Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed @ 6.52pm.