

DRAFT MINUTES

At a future meeting the council will consider the accuracy of these minutes, so they may be subject to change. Please check the minutes to that meeting to confirm whether or not they have been amended.

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HELD ON 6th FEBRUARY 2020 AT 10am IN FOWEY TOWN HALL

Present Cllr J Berryman (Chairman), Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr P Fassam

In attendance The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent

19/34 Apologies Cllr Mrs R Finlay (Mayor, *ex officio*)

19/35 Declaration of Interests

- a. Pecuniary – None
- b. Non Registerable – None.
- c. Dispensations - None

19/36 Public Questions

None

19/37 Minutes of Meeting of 28th November 2019

Proposed Cllr Cooke, seconded Cllr Fassam and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

19/38 Matters Arising (for report only)

19/29. Cllr Berryman noted that the SFCC accounts had yet to be received meaning that the agreed funding could not be released.

19/39 Review 2019/2020 Budget

The Town Clerk had supplied up to date income and expenditure cashbooks, including a budget tracking report prior to the meeting. Having studied these figures members noted that the Environment Committee was running towards the top of its budget but with no significant expenditure expected there should be scope within the budget to cover costs to the end of the financial year. The Town Hall and Quay Committee was running below budget and would be advised to expedite their planned maintenance/improvement works as budgets could not be carried over to the next financial year. Cllr Fassam confirmed that planned work included painting the railings on the quay, cigarette stubbers on the waste bins and some capital expenditure in the Hall. Cllr Berryman noted that he had been advised that it was intended to run the Lunch in a Bag scheme 5 days a week during the 2020 summer holidays; a grant application would be made in due course as FTC had no budget for this.

19/40 Fowey History Group

The Town Clerk confirmed that the History Group had booked the Town Hall from 28th April until 8th May, which would include staging a VE Day play in partnership with Fowey River Academy. The group had requested that FTC consider a grant towards their expenses and/or some flexibility in the hire cost of the Hall. Whilst fully supportive of the Group and their

plans to commemorate VE Day, members considered that they could not endorse any alteration in the hire cost of the Hall as this would create a precedent, which could cause significant difficulties in the future. However, Cllr Fassam proposed, Cllr Cooke seconded and it was RESOLVED that a grant of £200 should be made to the Group.

19/41 Town Quay

Cllr Berryman reported that the fendering on the quay was in need of urgent attention, particularly as the summer season would soon be starting. Polruan Ferry Company had already undertaken some work to prevent damage to their boats but more was required. Cllr Berryman confirmed that he was researching costs for using reconstituted rubber, rather than hardwood and that, together with the Mayor and Town Clerk, he was meeting with PFC the following week to discuss the work, as it was a condition of the ferry company's agreement to trade from the quay that they would undertake repairs such as this at cost. Cllr Berryman would report back to the full Council meeting in February. The Town Clerk noted that she had authorized urgent repairs to the steps to the beach as they had broken away badly in two places.

18/42 Town Quay Pay & Display Parking

Members noted that the Fowey Chamber of Commerce had requested that FTC abolish the parking charges on the quay. Whilst fully appreciating the Chambers' reasons for requesting this, members noted that the problem for the town council was that the TQ 'complex' was a very expensive asset to maintain and the income from the car park (£8,681.84 in the financial year 2018/2019) went some way to subsidise it. As an example the TQ toilets cost in the region of £10k per annum to run (without any admin costs) and FTC pay a significant amount to Cornwall Council in business rates for the car park, some £2,583.51 in the financial year 2019/2020. The Town Clerk confirmed that business rates would still be payable if the car park was free, as was the case at Squires Field and that charges in the car park had not risen since FTC assumed control. At the same time FTC did not receive any of the business rate income generated from the businesses in the town, as this went direct to Cornwall Council. Furthermore, the town council had to undertake urgent work to the fendering this year, which would run into many thousands of pounds and also to the stone steps leading to the beach. The surface area would shortly need resurfacing, another expensive exercise. The bottom line was that any income lost from the pay & display parking would have to be generated by raising the precept, which would mean a rise in the council tax paid by the residents of Fowey. Cllr Fassam noted that the car park was not intended to be a long stay facility, simply a convenience for people needing to visit the town fairly briefly and he also reminded members that FTC was investing money to improve the appearance of the quay with the introduction of planters, new waste bins, bunting etc. Cllr Berryman then proposed, Cllr Fassam seconded and it was RESOLVED that the request from the Chamber should be refused and that the parking charges should remain.

19/43 Christmas Lights

Members noted that the Chamber had requested that FTC take over responsibility for the provision of the Christmas lights from them. There was general support for this request but it was agreed that more information was necessary before a decision could be made. It was agreed that a decision should be deferred and in the meantime Cllr Berryman agreed to contact the Chamber to request more detail of the commitment involved and also the financial implications.

19/44 Church Clock

It was noted that full council had approved funding for the clock repairs but the Town Clerk had since obtained an up to date quote, which was significantly more expensive. The new quote was for £3009.00 plus vat and an additional £4,402.00 plus vat if it proved necessary to take the dial and hands to the workshop for full repair and overhaul. Despite the additional cost members agreed that the clock was an important part of the town and Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Cooke seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should commission the work and also place the clock under an annual service programme, costing £250.00 pa, plus vat.

19/45 Matters Considered Urgent by the Chairman

None

Meeting Closed 11.10am

Date of Next Meeting to be confirmed