

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 FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL

23/47 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr Mrs F Day,
Cllr A Dellow, Cllr Mrs R Finlay, Cllr C Gibbon, Cllr S Griffin,
Cllr A Harris-Guerrero, Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
10 members of the public (5 part)

23/48 Apologies

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr P Hughes
Cornwall Cllr Dr A Virr

23/49 Declaration of Interests

- α. Pecuniary – None.
- β. Non Registerable – None
- χ. Dispensations – The Town Clerk had extended a dispensation to Cllr Finlay to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey allotments until 2025.

23/50 Public Participation & Questions

Members of the public reported great concern about the relocation of the Go Cornwall bus stop from Safe Harbour to New Road Hill and confirmed that a petition objecting to this already had over 600 signatures. People considered that Go Cornwall had failed to consult the public over this change and older people who were reliant on buses could not walk up the hill to the new bus stop; it was a very dangerous route, very steep and sometimes with no pavements. The Town Clerk responded that it was her understanding that Go Cornwall had made the decision following a Risk Assessment identifying an unacceptable risk to the public from buses reversing into the Safe Harbour bus stop, but members of the public considered that buses had been doing it safely for 50 years and nothing had changed. In response to a suggestion from a member of the public, the Town Clerk confirmed that the relocation of the bus stop had no connection to the Fowey Masterplan, nor to the Gateway Scheme. Cllr Virr had suggested that FTC may like to invite the bus companies to attend the October FTC meeting to respond to concerns raised by the public; it was agreed that the Town Clerk should do this.

23/51 Minutes of the Meeting held on 12th July 2023

It was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

23/52 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

22/37. The Trustees of the OGS Foundation had asked for the following statement to be included in the minutes.

- No decision has been made as to the future of the garden. At present we are assessing all the options prior to the FTC lease renewal date.
- We are a charity and our remit is to use the funds available to us for the good of the local schoolchildren as set up in the initial bequests and all subsequent endowments made since.
- Therefore we need to ensure we are maximising all our assets. That is our responsibility as trustees of a charitable foundation.
- We give out considerable sums of money annually, both in terms of grants to individual pupils and also to the primary school and FRA to help with costs, such as the running of the minibus.

Cllr Finlay recorded that the OGS Garden, together with other open green spaces in Fowey, was an important part of the Fowey NDP.

23/53 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted
 Town Hall & Quay – no report
 Finance – no report
 Environment – no report

23/54 To receive reports from FTC Representatives on Other Bodies

None.

23/55 To Receive the Mayors Report

The last Mayor's report was in July; therefore, I have included items from the end to July to date.

On the 30th July I was delighted to be asked to speak about Fowey at a service led by Philip Mounstephen on the occasion of his last visit to Fowey before leaving to become Bishop of Winchester.

I had a busy schedule during Fowey Regatta week which included crowning the Carnival Queens, helping to judge the Traders Carnival, leading the Carnival along with my Consort and the Town Crier, judging the Sandcastle Competition and presenting the sailing prizes at Gallants.

During August and September, I have been co-ordinating the siting of the Rachel Sculpture at the OGS. I have also been working with members of the Environment Committee to organise the Environmental Awareness Day on Oct 21st.

On Tuesday November 21st there will be a concert at the Church organized by the Restormel Concert Band and Ryp an Mor a Cornish folk band, where the proceeds will be given to the Mayor's chosen charity, the community larder.

The unveiling of the Rachel Statue will be at 11.30am on 4th October in the OGS Garden.

23/56 To Receive the Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk reported

- She was hopeful that the new door to the disabled toilet on Town Quay would soon be installed. It was very unfortunate that Healthmatic had been so slow to organize the work, despite many email and telephone reminders. The vandalized lock on the gents would also be replaced.
- The blockage in the gents toilets had been caused by a pair of underpants, which had been flushed down the toilet, blocked the pump and tripped the mechanism. The issue had cost many hundreds of pounds to resolve.

- A lady had tripped over the SW Water manhole cover on the outer part of Town Quay and sustained nasty injuries, resulting in an ambulance being called. The defective cover had been reported to FTC a month previously by one of the boatmen and SW Water had been notified. However, when SW Water had inspected it they had found it to be acceptable, although they had put tape right around the surface of it. The Town Clerk had notified SW Water of the accident immediately but had received no feedback.
- Work by wuutilites to install the new gas pipeline across Squires Field would begin after Christmas. Stephens & Scown had been instructed to represent FTC and all expenses would be covered by wuutilities. She had met with representatives of SFCC to tell them about the planned work.
- She had also explained to SFCC the timetable for the refurbishment of the pavilion and had confirmed that new parking arrangements would be introduced as part of the scheme. Exact proposals had yet to be agreed but a space for an electric charging point and a disabled space would be included.
- Work to repair the hammers on the Church clock was scheduled for 1st October and the clock will be serviced at the same time.

23/57 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report.

Bus Service Fowey

Earlier this year some of the bus services ceased stopping outside the Safe Harbour. The stated reasoning was safety concerns regarding the need for the bus to perform a reversing three point turn in small space. Following concerns raised by residents I wrote to Cornwall Council's Transport team and received the following earlier this year:

“From Sunday 2nd April, Go Cornwall Bus Service 25 (and Service 24 that they cover in the evening), will not be serving Safe Harbour Hotel.

The below statement is from the Senior Commercial Manager explaining the several reasons behind this withdrawal:

A subject that has been well documented is the fact we occasionally bump into the pub which not only causes damage to our vehicles but also damage to the property which neither of us want.

Our drivers are of course highly trained but with people moving around which in itself is a high risk when reversing, lack of visibility especially in the dark and the fact buses are now significantly bigger than they used to be.

Fowey is a beautiful village and one many people want to visit. However, due to us using the Safe Harbour it limits the amount of people we can bring to the town as the seating capacity is smaller than a standard size single deck. The alternative stop for our passengers in Hanson Drive is only 0.1 miles or 200ish steps away from each other and for those who are not so easy on their feet at this time First Bus are still serving the Safe Harbour.

Another positive is residents who live at Tower Park and Hanson Drive are getting their bus service back which is one they lost many years ago, and Readmoney Carpark will be served which with a very short walk links into the SW coast park.

The governing factor to this withdrawal as you can see from the above is around safety and whilst it may seem questionable that one operator sees the stop as unsafe whilst another continues to serve it, we do have to acknowledge Go Cornwall Buses legitimate concerns- as confirmed, First Kernow Service 24 will continue to serve Safe Harbour.”

In response to the loss of the bus shelter I wrote to the Transport team to request a new Bus Shelter at the junction of New Road Hill / Hanson Road. I am pleased to report this request has

been approved and plans are in place to site a new bus shelter on the triangular piece of land at the bottom of New Road Hill. The plans are awaiting Highways approval and I have asked for this to be expedited.

I appreciate that the additional distance required for those previously living in proximity to the Safe Harbour might be challenging for those with restricted mobility. It is difficult to argue that the bus services have acted unfairly. They have voiced valid safety concerns, continued the regular services in and out of Fowey and now have opened the route to more residents living in Tower Park and the Readymoney end of town.

I would be grateful if any residents now unable to use the service following the change in terminus location due to mobility issues, please contact me so I can understand their particular situation.

Fowey Harbour Devolution

I am pleased to report that the legal agreements between Cornwall Council and Fowey Harbour Commissioner are now in their final stages and should allow assets such as Whitehouse Beach and the boat launch and storage area of Caffa Mill to be under the local ownership of Fowey Harbour Commissioners soon.

23/58 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £26,895.85 be approved.

23/59 Correspondence

Correspondence was left 'on the table' for Councillors attention.

23/60 Resolutions from Councillors

The Mayor proposed her resolution 'as part of the events being staged for Fowey Environmental Awareness Day, FTC covers the cost of a screening (£50.00) of a Cornwall Climate Care documentary highlighting the effects of climate change that are already being felt across Cornwall.' This was seconded by Cllr Gibbon and RESOLVED.

23/61 Squires Field Pavilion

Cllr Dellow reported the contract was almost finalised and work would begin after Christmas. The Town Clerk advised that Cornwall Council Library Service had offered some shelving units if FTC could collect them from Padstow. Cllr Patterson offered to ask her husband if he would be prepared to do this and this offer was gratefully accepted. Cllr Harris-Guerrero also offered the use of a trailer if required.

23/62 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke gave the following report.

We had a good meeting at the start of August where we finished reviewing the data from the surveys and decided how best to present the results. Improvements that were popular included: a pump track, a path around the entirety of Squires Field, updated play equipment (e.g. big slide, monkey bars, roundabout), more seating and a MUGA. There is also a desire to reinstate the football goals with the aim to return football to Squires Field.

After much debate we decided on producing a video for social media and then display boards to be situated at prominent points around the town. These will display the survey results and outline the phases of any improvements that we can make in order of priority and ability to obtain funding.

We are in the process of completing a full funding application to Cornwall Council as part of their Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund - this is due to be submitted towards the end of October. We are also looking at other avenues of funding which we can access.

Thank you to those people who submitted an expression of interest to join the working group through the survey - Cllr Rhianna Cooke will contact you in due course. Our next meeting is the 28th September.

We will look at the football nets stored in the pavilion with the view to making the reinstatement of the large football posts a priority with the first round of funding, following the removal of the previous ones due to defects. Cllr Dellow and Cllr Cooke will look at the football boots from the pavilion to see if they are any use for Fowey Primary School.

23/63 Alldays Fields

The Town Clerk confirmed that a response from CC was still awaited.

23/64 FTC Committees

It was proposed by Cllr Dellow, seconded Cllr Patterson and RESOLVED that Cllr Gibbon should be elected on to the Town Hall & Town Quay Committee.

It was proposed by Cllr Harris-Guerrero, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that Cllr Gibbon should be elected on to the Planning Committee.

23/65 Community Contributions Scheme

Whilst it was generally agreed that this could be a good scheme given that a lot of owners of holiday let properties do not pay council tax/business rates, it was noted that Cornwall Council was looking at changes in legislation. Cllr Finlay considered that if a scheme such as this was introduced it must be government led and apply to all tourist areas in the country. Cllr Simms agreed to investigate the idea further but it was agreed that the expense of contributing to a feasibility study was not justifiable for FTC at present.

23/66 Town Gateway Project

Cllr Finlay reported that, together with the Town Clerk, she had met with the Project Leader and Project Designer and discussed small changes to the scheme in light of the survey results. The main change was the introduction of a white line to delineate the edge of the road in front of the houses on the left hand side of Lostwithiel Street. CC Highways had completed a Road Safety Audit and work was scheduled to begin on 8th November and be completed at the beginning of December before the Fowey Christmas Market. A Radar Class Speed Monitoring Exercise had also been carried out on New Road Hill; results were awaited.

23/67 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Day raised concerns that Royal Mail were not delivering post every day as they should be doing; it appeared that staff shortages were being blamed for this.

It was noted that Park Road Post Office had been closed for about 3 weeks. This was apparently due to IT systems failing.

Date of Next Meeting 18th October 2023

Meeting Closed 8.35pm