

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 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th JANUARY 2016 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

15/144 Present Councillors Mrs K Alexander, G Asker, Cllr Mrs A Boosey, T Delves
Mrs C Eardley, D Hughes, D Willmore

In Attendance The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
PCSO Lloyd Paynter (part)
2 members of the public (part)

15/145 Apologies The Mayor, Cllr Mrs R Finlay (family commitment), The Deputy Mayor,
Cllr J Berryman (holiday), Cllr Mrs L McCartney (family commitment)

In the absence of the Mayor it was proposed by Cll Delves, seconded Cllr Alexander and RESOLVED that Cllr Boosey should take the Chair for this meeting.

15/146 Declaration of Interests

- α. Pecuniary – None
- β. Non Registerable – Cllr Willmore declared a non-registerable interest in any matters concerning the new Wainhomes development at Hillhay
- χ. Dispensations – The Clerk had extended a dispensation to Cllr Delves to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey Wainhomes development. The Clerk had extended a dispensation to both Cllr Finlay and Cllr Eardley to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey allotments.

15/147 Public Questions/Police Report

Public Questions – None

Police Report – PCSO Paynter gave the following report

Having searched the Police Computer I found a total of nine crimes recorded since the date of my last report in early December.

The crimes can be categorised as follows;

Assault/ABH	After investigations no further actions were taken.
Theft from a Shop	This relates to another shoplifting from a local retailer, it is on-going
Make off Without Payment	This was later no-crimed.
GBH- Section 18 Offence	This is ongoing.
Assault/ABH	This crime is linked to the above ABH and is on-going.
Drive Motor Vehicle Alcohol above limit	The person has been charged with an offence at Polkerris. Court pending.
Theft in a Dwelling	This was investigated and filed as undetected.

Criminal Damage to Property	This relates to damage to the Public toilet door at Town Quay. Undetected.
Criminal Damage to Property	The offender was given a Conditional Caution.

Further analysis of the above crime show that five of the recorded reports were at only two locations. Sadly many of this type of crime are the result of domestic arguments, often as the result of one or more parties drinking too much. I want to reassure people that Fowey remains a very safe place to live and, taking the above in to consideration there were effectively only four separate incidents, one of which was later no-crimed.

The Criminal Damage to the toilet door on town Quay is, yet again, another annoying incident that I feel will only be dealt with effectively by introducing CCTV.

In a previous report I mentioned a crime of “Engaging in Penetrative Sex with a girl 13-15”. Naturally this caused some concern around the Town but it was fully investigated and as a result no further action was taken. Some of the reported crimes look horrendous, but as with everything, they have to be properly and thoroughly investigated.

I have had several complaints about poor/inconsiderate parking both in the Town and at Hill Hay. I have acted on the Hill Hay situation and spoken to the site foreman about ensuring that his contractors are more considerate to residents when leaving vehicles on pavements and obscuring junctions. Things seem to have settled for the time.

Regarding the Town, often the issue can only be dealt with by Highways or the Civil Enforcement Officers. Police Powers these days are very limited and it is noticeable that certain people are taking advantage of this situation. It is not something that we, the Police, can change, however, I will be speaking to the CEO’s to make them aware of the offenders!! We all have to try and work together!

PCSO Paynter then queried the position with regard to his use of the Town Hall office as a base, following the policy changes regarding St Blaise police station. The Town Clerk confirmed that members had already approved this request and that wifi access was now available in the Town Hall. Cllr Eardley would liaise with Lloyd with regard to keys etc. Cllr Hughes reported that the meeting of full Cornwall Council on 26th January would discuss the introduction of more dog wardens and the adoption of a Public Spaces Protection Order: Dog Owners – Means to Pick Up. If approved this would mean that a person in charge of a dog in areas accessible to the public will be required to prove they have the means to pick up after that dog.

15/148 Minutes of the Meeting of 9th December 2015

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

15/149 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

Allotments – The Town Clerk reported that she had reallocated the four vacant plots.

St Catherines Lights – As no invasive works were planned it now appeared that Historic England had agreed that a SMC is not required. Cllr Berryman had been informed by Chris Biggs that work would begin on site, weather permitting, on 18th January

Cllr Willmore left the room for the next agenda item .

Wainhomes

The Land Registry documentation for the transfer of the two Open Spaces had been received for signature.

A resident of Hillhay considered that a new build behind his property was not compliant with approved plans in respect of finished floor levels. Cllr Hughes agreed to follow this up.

Cllr Willmore returned to the meeting

15/150 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Planning - noted.

Town Hall – no report.

Environment – no report

Finance – no report.

15/151 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Forum. Cllr Willmore reported there had been a Forum meeting the previous Monday but there was nothing of note to report.

15/152 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor had submitted her report.

- On 12th January 2016 members of the Town Council and the Town Clerk met with the Cornwall Council Library/One Stop Shop team to discuss the viability of Fowey Town Council taking over Fowey Library. The team had prepared an impressive pack of data on Fowey Library and the One Stop Shop; Fowey Library has had declining numbers over recent years, although the decline in library usage is a national issue with the development of e technology. In the 2011 census there were 1523 householders in Fowey, with 28.7% being classed as “empty” so it is little wonder that the number of borrowers from Fowey Library is only 529.

The costs of Fowey Library are as follows, the building’s annual costs are £32,888.78, this includes rent, electricity, gas, rates, water etc, (I have the complete breakdown if anyone wishes to see this). The building is leased under a complex leasing arrangement that expires on 22/1/2102, which means rent would have to be paid. The staffing costs are £27,960.06 which makes an annual total of £60,848.84 with the only income from some fines and photocopying, which total £990.64. On top of this sum there would also be some admin costs dealing with staffing, bills etc.

The costs of taking on Fowey library by FTC would in effect double our precept. As a town we have already seen an increase in our precept over the last four years as we have taken over devolved assets such as the Town Hall, Town Quay, toilets and soon Squires Field. Unfortunately these returning assets, with the exception of the Town Quay, have brought very little income with them and need to be paid for one way or another. In reality FTC simply cannot afford to assume responsibility for the Library/One Stop Shop service without CC simultaneously agreeing to the transfer of ownership of a profit-making asset to the town council. To this end it was suggested that CC transfer the ownership of the Caffa Mill car park to the town, to enable FTC to consider taking over the Service.

- FTC is monitoring the concerns of residents in Windmill in respect of large delivery vehicles driving to the industrial estate. There has been damage to parked cars, which is obviously concerning in this area which has a primary and a secondary school, residential housing as well as elderly accommodation and also damage to pavements. There will be a meeting at the end of January between myself, Councillor David Hughes, PCSO Lloyd Paynter and businesses in the Industrial Estate to try and come to a reasonable accommodation.
- Would members please get back to me with their thoughts on the Open Spaces assessment, together with any suggested amendments. I will then collate a response.

15/153 To receive the Town Clerks Report

- She had issued a scaffolding licence to St Austell Brewery for the area outside Food for Thought
- Keir would be undertaking pump repair works on the quay for approximately 2 weeks

15/154 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Hughes reported

- Since the last meeting, Cornwall Council met in Extraordinary Session to approve the revised submission of the Local Plan. Members expressed misgivings about the revised total housing target and in particular the allowance for second homes. We were assured by officers that, with these changes, it was probable that the Inspector would approve the Plan and that failure to approve the Plan would almost certainly mean that a Government version of the Plan would be imposed on us, probably with higher targets and excluding many of the specific local policies designed to protect Cornwall and respond to local conditions. In these circumstances, Members voted by a substantial (cross-party) majority to approve the revised submission. If all goes to plan the Plan will be approved and operational before the end of the year.
- I have today been at a meeting of the Planning Policy Advisory Committee where we agreed to recommend, subject to some amendments, Cornwall Council's response to a Government consultation on proposed changes to national planning policy. A group of town and parish Councillors attended this part of the meeting before going off as a group, led by a Senior Planning Officer, to prepare a response on behalf of the parishes.
- Members were highly critical of most of the proposed changes, which would, in our opinion, be highly disadvantageous to most working people in Cornwall. We were particularly critical of the government's move to "starter homes", whose sales price would be capped only for 5 years, and which would not have a "local" tie. It was recognised that, because of low average earnings and seasonal employment, coupled to abnormally high "open market" house prices, the pressing demand in Cornwall was for social rented accommodation and the proposed policies would discourage this.
- There was also concern that the proposed policies would put pressure on sites in the more attractive areas of the county rather than meeting local needs.
- The final version of the response will highlight these points and press for a complete rethink of the proposed government policy.
- The meeting also recommended that the Cabinet support Supplementary Planning Documents on AONBs, the World Heritage Sites, Historical Environment and Environmental Growth. These will be out for public consultation in the next few months and will eventually be attached to the Local Plan to expand and explain its policies.
- There is a high level of across-the-board consensus that "national" planning policies do not fit the specific needs of Cornwall and its people and Cabinet Members and Officers are working hard, both in public and behind the scenes to make Westminster aware of this. Unfortunately, it would seem that they are not receiving the support which they should have from our local MPs.
- There had been a budget meeting the previous Monday to assess the impact of the latest Government Statement on Cornwall. Thankfully it appeared that it would not be as great as in some other places and no worse than had been anticipated by Cornwall Council.
- The Boundary Commission had advised that it wanted a Boundary Review before the 2017 elections but following representations from Cllr Pollard had agreed to delay this

until 2021. However, Cornwall Council had been given until March 2017 to make proposals as to the future number of Cornwall Councillors.

- The Level Crossing on the A390 at St Blazey would be closed 24 hours per day between 22.30 hours on 29th January and 05.00 hours on 8th February, despite objections from residents, businesses and Cornwall Council. It appeared that the Railways Act gives Network Rail the authority to override Cornwall Council's objections.

15/155 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Willmore and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £7,245.77 be approved.

Copies of the Budget Tracking Report had been circulated to members before the meeting. Members considered a request from St Blaise Town Council that FTC make an annual contribution to the upkeep of the St Blazey Police Station, which had just been purchased by St Blaise TC. Members noted that precept figures and percentages quoted in the letter appeared to be incorrect. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded Cllr Eardley and RESOLVED that the request should be refused given that FTC was having to assume responsibility for several expensive properties within the parish, which were being devolved from Cornwall Council and also that the town council had already made provision for the police to use office space within Fowey Town Hall, incorporating the provision of wifi, electricity, heating, use of the kitchen and any other related costs..

It was proposed by Cllr Delves, seconded Cllr Willmore and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should attend the SLCC Practitioners Conference in February and that the cost should be met from the training budget.

15/156 Correspondence

Email correspondence had been circulated for Cllrs attention

15/157 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

15/158 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Asker confirmed that the next meeting was scheduled for 9th February at the Safe Harbour.

15/159 Squires Field

The Clerk confirmed that she had been doing all she could to bring this matter to a conclusion and had, earlier in the day received confirmation from Scott Sharples (CC) that he and Guy Thomas (CC Devolution Team) had met and discussed the outstanding work required to get the transfer completed. Scott would be working from home on Thursday to create space to finish the report and get it into the sign off system and if the people needed to sign were all available, it normally takes 10 days to two weeks to go through the system on that front. Once approved, the legal team would complete their task, which Scott understood was well advanced.

15/160 Town Quay

Big Gig Weekend 2016. It was proposed by Cllr Asker, seconded Cllr Willmore and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should issue a Licence for the event but on the basis that 1. The Chamber made a minimum donation of £200 towards the increased running costs of the Town Quay public toilets 2. The Chamber undertook to cover the cost of any vandalism to the toilets throughout the Weekend 3. The facilities would close at 10pm.

General Update. The Town Clerk reported that she had received a donation for a memorial seat on the quay, which she had ordered.

Cllr Willmore proposed, Cllr Delves seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Town Hall Committee (in conjunction with the Portfolio Holder) should investigate the possibility of installing a light (possibly motion activated) outside the Gents toilets to help prevent vandalism.

15/161 Questions under Standing Order 21

None.

It was proposed by Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Eardley and RESOLVED that the Press & Public should be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Press & Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 because of the confidential nature of the business to be conducted under the agenda items Town Quay Leases & Licenses