

## Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> April 2016

**15/213 Present**

The Mayor	Cllr Mrs R Finlay
The Deputy Mayor	Cllr J Berryman
Councillors	Cllr Mrs K Alexander Cllr G Asker Cllr Mrs A Boosey Cllr T Delves Cllr Mrs C Eardley Cllr D Hughes Cllr D Willmore

**15/214 In attendance**

The Town Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent  
PCSO Lloyd Paynter (part)  
Tasha Davis (Community Link Officer)  
4 members of the public

**15/215 Apologies** Cllr Mrs L McCartney

### **15/216 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2015**

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

### **15/217 Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

None

### **15/218 Annual Report of the Town Council – Cllr Mrs R Finlay**

2015-2016 has been a very busy year for the Town Council. The role of parish and Town Councils has expanded as the Localism Act of 2012 has seen the devolution of “assets” from County Councils to local control. This has been a challenging process for all concerned. The process of devolution is far from a precise science and when the general public hear about the return of a local beauty spot or much needed toilets in a tourist town, managing expectation with what can be realistically delivered, is not easy for small councils like Fowey.

Secondly, in a time of austerity, when we are all tightening our belts, there are difficult financial decisions which have had to be taken. As a Council, we need to make decisions based on the interests of the town and make certain the decisions are financially sound. We all have to ask ourselves some difficult questions, not only can we afford the returning asset, but can we afford the running costs and the increased workload on our part time town Clerk?

Do we get a better service as a town and parish by having the assets returned? Well I think we do. We can respond far more quickly than CC because we live here; as far as the toilets are concerned the Town Council can and does respond within the day to any complaints we get to do with damage or any other problem with the toilets. This is

usually by one of our councillors physically going down to the toilets and checking out what the problem is. We try to fix anything small with our caretaker or by phoning up a builder to sort the problem.

While on the subject of toilets 2015 saw the refurbishment of Caffa Mill and the Town Hall toilets which we are delighted with. Cllr Delves project managed the refurbishment of the toilets and on behalf of Fowey Town Council I would like to thank him for all his hard work.

The Town Hall (also a returned asset) is a well-used space for hire by all sorts of groups throughout the year and managed by the hard working Town hall committee led by Cllr Carol Eardley who not only is refurbishing the interior of the Town Hall but is also making certain this splendid Grade (II) building is repaired and looked after. An exciting new project is being looked into by our newest Councillor Giles Asker - a proposed Farmers Market.

After a very long wait, hours of meetings with CC officers and expensive legal work Squires Field has now been transferred to Fowey Town council control; this well-loved area comprises of the old Bowling Club pavilion and lawn, a sports pavilion, a football pitches children's playground, car park and recycling area. This is an exciting period for many people in Fowey because it means at last there will be a proper Community centre for all ages to enjoy. Any enquiries to do with the use of Squires Field, please contact Cllr Berryman who is the portfolio holder.

Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan has been in existence since January 2015 and we have achieved a lot in just over a year. Towns and parishes are recommended to create a Neighbourhood Plan for their area as it allows locals to influence how our neighbourhood develops in the future. It has to be community led and the Plan, when written will have statutory status and have more weight than previous planning documents like the Parish plan.

My thanks to all committee chairs for their hard work during the year and to all the Councillors for their diligence and commitment during what has been such a busy year.

In the next eighteen months, the Town Council will see a lot of change of personnel and I would urge anyone who might be thinking of applying to become a member to get in touch. The Town Council is an important part of our community in Fowey and I am proud and honoured to be Mayor, but the town Council is only as good as the people who are part of it. We need to represent all sections in our community, all ages should be represented here – it is not a 'closed shop', please get involved.

Finally, can I give a big vote of thanks to our Town Clerk, Sally Vincent who works very hard on behalf of the Town Council and the people of Fowey. The Town Clerk has dealt calmly with the increasing workload of the Council from the day to day issuing of parking permits and allotment licences, to dealing with the far more complex legal and financial concerns which come from an increasing portfolio of public buildings held by the Town Council.

### **15/219 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey**

This will be the last Annual Report I will deliver, as I have been overwhelmed with technology, and paperless planning needs someone much more computer savvy than me, and with better eyesight too!

I seem to have been involved in planning committees for years and years, both with Fowey Town Council and Restormel, but things change and I don't. The Town Clerk gave me a 'stress toy' which you squeeze in moments of tension and I have nearly

squeezed the life out of it!

It has, as usual, been a very busy year as far as planning applications are concerned, some complicated and some more straightforward. The Stationmasters House seems to be progressing, and I am hoping that when finished it will live up to expectations - the poor building was turning into a bit of an eyesore. We are all looking forward to seeing the completed restaurant on Town Quay, scaffolding is not a very pretty sight, but totally unavoidable in this case. We have disagreed with the planning department on a few applications this year, but it is a fairly pointless exercise, unfortunately, but by and large there has been agreement with them.

I would like to thank the members of the Planning Committee for their very hard work, their kind support of the Chairman and their tolerance when I have the occasional rant about things and I wish the new chairman good luck and my full support.

### **15/220 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay**

It has been another successful year with the work of the Environment Committee and I would like to thank my fellow members for their commitment and hard work over the year.

There are four different aspects to this committee

**The Local Maintenance Partnership** which is a partnership between the Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council covering footpaths

**Fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way** in the Parish have a total grant of £626 to be cut once in the year. We have to wait until nesting birds have fledged before we can allow our contractor to cut. This usually generates a number of cross phone calls and emails and this is the reason why there is a wait.

**Grass cutting around the Town** is part paid through an Agency Agreement with Cornwall Council., CC pay for four cuts per year and Fowey Town Council pay for five cuts. So the town grassed areas, designated to be cut, is cut nine times per year at a total cost of £2,600.17.

**Weed killing**, CC do not pay for any weed killing around the Town, again Fowey Town Council weed spray twice a year at a cost of £1,410.00

The committee would like to thank our contractor Lanhydrock Garden Services who have worked hard for the Town over the past year.

**2. Old Grammar School Garden** this popular and well-loved garden had been left for a number of years with no change to the planting or any improvement to the layout. In 2014 Fowey Town Council made the decision to improve the Lower garden. May 2014 phase 1 of the redesign of the lower garden using local garden designer Ali Siddall began. This first phase saw change to the pathways; new beds were planted with decorative grasses and seaside planting. Phase 2 of the redesign in 2015, saw the creation of new beds with space for sleeper seating and phase 3 in 2016 will see this design echoed on the other side of the garden.

The upper garden, which is a more traditional garden design, saw a lot of clearing work from volunteers from Heaven Scent in the autumn of 2015. Over 50 daffodil bulbs were planted and 100 snowdrops to create a spring interest next year. We were very pleased to receive a community grant of £400 from Cornwall councillor David Hughes to buy tools, a tool store and compost for the upper garden.

**3. Fowey In Bloom** One of the aims of the Environment Committee is to keep regular contact with the Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and to monitor Fowey TC's grant of £500 to them.

This group took part in Cornwall in Bloom in 2015 with 72 entries of which the Town Centre displays were judged “excellent”. This very small group of volunteers help create a colourful and cared for town from spring through to the autumn which our visitors and locals appreciate. This small group need more volunteers and help from businesses with things like watering during the summer and on behalf of the Environment Committee we thank them for the work they do.

**4. Allotments** the One Acre field was handed over in December 2013 and work did not begin, due to the poor weather, not until March 2014. Between March and April last year there were a number of working parties to clear the field of brambles, gorse, trees and eventually to create the plots. The first season was very good considering how late everyone was in starting to dig their plots. Sadly we lost one of our most enthusiastic ‘allotmenters’, Martine Luke, last year – we will be planting a tree in her memory.. David Burdikin has taken over the reins of Chairman of the Readymoney Allotment and takes his role very seriously. He supports all those new to allotments and regularly takes part in the health and safety walks on a monthly basis during the growing season. The Orchard is thriving and is well established.

#### **15/221 Annual Financial Report – Cllr David Willmore**

Fowey Town council finances are in a strong position; we have had to raise the precept to help cover the short fall in services that used to be covered by Cornwall Council.

Again we have put another £10,000 in to the ‘sinking fund’ to be used in any unforeseen circumstances to maintain the Town Quay and the Town Hall.

We have set out the Finance Committee Responsibilities which include setting the yearly budget for the Town Council, receiving and reviewing interim budget positions from FTC committees, setting and renewing the Town Quay leases and licences, monitoring and reviewing the Council’s Earmarked Reserves, calculating the Clerks Honorarium and marking it as an Earmarked Reserve, monitoring the Council’s accounts on a regular basis, managing staff salaries/job descriptions/grievances, overall financial control of Town Council assets including Quay/Town Hall, Squires Field & Car Park, Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets, receiving and reviewing Risk Assessments from FTC Committees, appointing portfolio holders for all significant FTC responsibilities, with a remit to work closely with the Town Clerk and Chair of Finance and report back to council meetings as required.

Squires Field has now completed and we have the Town Quay and Caffa Mill Toilets up and running. Sadly the gent’s toilet on Town Quay has been vandalised on numerous occasions which is costing us money, having to pay out for repairs.

All of the various committees that make up the Town Council have worked very hard to keep to their budgets, which they have done; As usual the annual accounts will be available for the public to see very soon.

I would like to thank all the members of the finance committee for their hard work over the last year.

#### **15/222 Report of the Town Hall Committee – Cllr Carol Eardley**

During the last 12 months a Policy on how the Town Hall should be managed has been written and adopted, together with Roles and Responsibilities of the Town Hall Committee. Under these Roles and Responsibilities, the Town Hall Committee has a duty of care to the Grade II listed building, the services offered and our customers. We are doing our best to ensure that our customers, the hirers of the Hall, have

pleasant and safe surroundings in which to hold their events.

We are continuing with the refurbishments – new entrance and stair carpet, replacement of all the old and heavy tables, some redecorating, new window dressings, although still to be finished, repair of the Hearing Loop and re-installation of the telephone line in the Office. The programme continues slowly but a difference is being made to the overall look which we hope will encourage more people to use the Town Hall. So please think about holding your birthday parties or special events here. Our hiring rates are very reasonable!

To comply with the changes in the way Cornwall Council Planning Department is providing information for applications, we have also had to purchase a projector and screen which, when installed, will be available for use by other users of the Hall. I will add here that we were given a grant by Cornwall Council to purchase this equipment.

When it was announced that St. Blazey Police Station was to be closed we offered our PCSO Lloyd Paynter, and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, the use of the Town Hall Office for the monthly Surgeries they hoped to hold. We were delighted when they accepted and held the first Surgery on the 9<sup>th</sup> March. The second was held today and the next is 11<sup>th</sup> May, 2.30pm to 4.30pm.

We are also delighted to have agreed the loan of the Covington Chair, which had been gifted to Fowey Borough Council by Stenton Covington's widow, to the Trustees of Fowey Museum. It is now sitting resplendent in the Regalia Cabinet in the Museum for all to see.

Finally I would like to say thanks to Cllrs. Lesley McCartney and David Willmore, my fellow Councillors on the Town Hall Committee, and our Caretaker Caroline Lewis and her partner Russell Maclaren. Thanks must also go to the Troy Players, the organisers of the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and the Craft Fair co-ordinators for their continued use of the Hall.

### **15/223 Police Report – PCSO Lloyd Paynter.**

As per normal the type of crime reported over the past year covers many categories. For the purposes of this report I have included the period from 1<sup>st</sup> May 2015 to 8<sup>th</sup> April 2016 inclusive, so almost eleven and a half months. This year we have seen a nett figure of 85 crimes recorded, ironically the same figure as the previous twelve months.

The Crimes for 01/05/2015 to 08/04/2016 inclusive are as follows are as follows;

10	Theft/Theft by Finding	8 Undetected 1 Restorative Justice (Detected) 1 Custodial Sentence (Detected)
13	Criminal Damage to Property	4 Undetected 1 No further action taken 2 Youth Cautions iss. (Detected) 6 are On-going
8	Burglary Dwelling/Other	6 Undetected 2 are On-going
1	Vehicle Interference	1 Undetected
5	Assault/ABH	2 No further action taken 3 Undetected
6	Common Assault	1 Restorative Justice (Detected)

		2 No further action taken
		3 Undetected
8	Theft from a Shop	1 On-going 3 Detections 4 Undetected
2	Theft (Other)	1 Undetected 1 On-going
3	Dog not under proper control	1 Undetected 1 No further action taken 1 VCO Issued. (Detected)
1	Theft from the person of another	1 Undetected
5	Criminal Damage to a Vehicle	5 Undetected
1	Theft of a Conveyance other than M/V	1 On-going
3	Drunk and disorderly in a Public Place	2 Penalty Notices Iss.(Detected) 1 Youth Caution Iss. (Detected)
2	Assault a Constable	1 Penalty Notice Iss. (Detected) 1 Undetected
1	Send Communication/Offensive	1 PIN Notice Issued (Detected)
1	Sexual Assault on a Female	1 Undetected
1	Engage in Penetrative Sex, Girl 13-15	1 No further action taken
2	Section 18 GBH	2 On-Going
1	Drive a m/v above limit	1 Charged (Detected)
1	Theft in Dwelling	1 Undetected
2	Possess a Controlled Drug	2 Cannabis Warnings (Detected)
4	Theft from a Motor Vehicle	2 Undetected 2 On-going
1	Wound/Inflict GBH (Without Intent)	1 Undetected
1	Theft of a Pedal Cycle	1 On-Going
2	Use Threatening/Abusive Behaviour	Restorative Justice (Detected)

### Recorded Crime analysis

Again, for the purpose of these statistics I have used figures from 1<sup>st</sup> May to 30<sup>th</sup> April for 2013/2014 and 2014/2015. The past twelve months is not a complete year as, owing to the date of the AGM, I have used a cut off date of the 8<sup>th</sup> April, allowing me suitable time to prepare this report.

	2015/2016	2014/2015	2013/2014
<b>Crimes Recorded</b>	85	85	58
<b>Detections</b>	19	25	8
<b>% of Detections</b>	22.3	29	14

A further 8 crimes were investigated and subsequently “no crimed”.

Considering that, during February and in to early March, there were a rash of crimes in a two weeks period, what were looking like very good figures were somewhat compromised. Many of the crimes for that period are still under investigation (on-going) and I am confident that they will ultimately be detected. This will naturally increase our percentage of detections should this be the case.

As you are all aware, the situation regarding St Blazey Police Station remains unclear

as I prepare this report, hopefully matters will be sorted soon? I fully intend to spend time operating from the new office in Fowey together with a new “hand held device” which I hope will be a time saving commodity and reduce my dependency on the office computers. Once again, thank you to everyone at the Town Council for your support and kindness in making the Police Office available.

Our Policing Team remains much the same as last year with me as your designated PCSO, PC Andrew Barnicoat as Beat Manager, PS Innes Dowlen as Team Leader and Inspector Gard as Sector Inspector.

The Police Surgery will continue in to the summer months and will be open between 1430 and 1630hrs on the second calendar Wednesday of each month in the Police Office. I aim to look at reviewing times and dates later in the year depending on demand/usage, but hope that it will become a well-used facility.

I would like to clarify that the method for reporting crime is via our 101 Call Centre. I am aware that there is currently a review of the service which will hopefully improve waiting times. It is sometimes disturbing to hear that people have become frustrated with waiting times and have subsequently ended their call rather than wait for the operator. I fully understand the frustration, however to give us a chance to solve issues, we do need to know about problems rather than find out months later. Please be patient and I am sure improvements will have the desired effect. Of course, as has always been the case, in an emergency, please call us on 999.

#### **15/224 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – *Cllr David Hughes***

The past year has been a difficult one for Cornwall Council as it has striven to maintain the services which the public expect from a local authority whilst receiving ever-decreasing funding from Westminster and government restrictions on the amount which can be recouped by increases in council tax. In the past six years, the council’s revenue has been reduced, in cash terms, by some 30% whilst facing increased costs due to inflation and to added commitments arising from government “initiatives” and legislation. This has inevitably resulted in significant redundancies and we should be very grateful for the commitment and professionalism of officers which has enabled the council, so far, to minimise the impact on front-line services.

Whilst there are still those who regret the transition to a Unitary Authority, it should be recognised that, happening when it did, Cornwall Council has been able to adjust more effectively to the more straightened circumstances than most authorities in the country. The fact that we now work on a four-year budget has enabled us to plan ahead, reducing the impact and uncertainty of cuts.

We are fortunate in Cornwall that, although the majority of councillors are members of political parties, our council is not highly politicised and the majority of us see our first allegiance as being to the people of Cornwall. This has been of great importance in allowing us to reach consensus solutions to the problems facing the county.

Cornwall is proud that it was accepted as one of the first authorities in the country to be afforded some degree of devolution of power, the first non-metropolitan one; and furthermore without having to agree to having an elected mayor. This should help deliver better integrated health and care services, have control over the allocation of development funds to ensure that they are used for local benefit and to allow us to develop a coordinated and useful public transport system. We are still pushing for the government to give us greater control over our Planning system in order that it better meets the needs and aspirations of the people of Cornwall, which the national, urban-centred system patently does not.

The Local Government Boundary Commissioners have required us to review our Council electoral boundaries as many of our current divisions exceed the accepted variances from an average numbers of electors per division. We have decided to combine this with a “governance” review, which will consider the role of councillors and the optimum number. Any changes will come into effect at the 2021 election. Work has already started and there will be a number of public consultations during the process, which I would encourage everyone to contribute to.

It has not been easy acting as an intermediary between FTC and the people of Fowey and Cornwall Council in these difficult times, particularly in the “devolution” of services which Cornwall Council is no longer able to support such as toilets, libraries, allotments or Squire’s Field and I must give special thanks to the Town Clerk, whose efforts on behalf of the people of Fowey have gone far beyond what we have any right to expect. I will continue to try to get essential work done on road repairs, planning and other Cornwall Council services but would ask for patience as the resources, both financial and human, are stretched to the limit.

I congratulate the Mayor and her team on the impressive progress which they have made with the Neighbourhood Plan and would urge everyone to give them their active support. This is not just another “paper exercise”. When completed and if supported in a referendum, this will become a document with significant “planning” weight and will allow the people of Fowey to have a significant say in shaping the town into the future.

Many thanks to everyone who has given me support and encouragement over the past year. It really does make a difference when one is seeking to represent ones constituents in the administration.

### **15/225 Public Participation**

**Mrs Willis** queried the status of the Readymoney and Main car park toilets. The Town Clerk responded that, to the best of her knowledge, both facilities would be open until the end of April but if nobody came forward to take over responsibility for them Cornwall Council was then likely to close them. Having taken on the Caffa Mill and Town Quay facilities the Town Council just didn’t have the funds available to run them unless Cornwall Council devolved another income generating asset to the town to pay for them. The situation was extremely difficult but FTC was actively trying to identify a way of retaining the facilities and was still in talks with Cornwall Council about possible options. The Town Clerk noted that Cornwall Council was quite prepared to devolve the properties to a community group, such as the Chamber of Commerce, which had happened in other parts of Cornwall, but, to date nobody had expressed an interest in taking them on..

**Julie Talbot** queried if FTC had made any progress in appointing a new Town Crier. The Mayor responded that, despite FTC making it known that the vacancy existed, nobody had yet put their name forward. Clearly a more robust approach was needed.

**Julie Talbot** noted that it was nice to see a more open view of Polruan from the town quay now that the Food for Thought awnings had been removed and asked what would be done with the space now the business was under new ownership. The Mayor confirmed that the new owners were hoping to lease some open space from FTC, which would bring in some much-needed funding towards the upkeep of the Town Hall and Town Quay. The idea of a glass canopy on lightweight metal supports had been supported by FTC as it would not be too obtrusive, but the CC Conservation Officer had objected to the proposal. Hopefully an acceptable design would be



identified in the near future

As were no further questions the Mayor thanked everybody for attending and invited all present to join the NP Steering Group for a glass of wine.

**Meeting Closed      7.55pm**