

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 15th MARCH 2017 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

16/158 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs R Finlay
Councillors Mrs A Boosey, D Hughes, P Hughes, Mrs L McCartney,
C Stansfield (part), D Willmore

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
2 members of the public
1 member of the press

16/159 Apologies

Cllr Mrs K Alexander, Cllr G Asker, Cllr J Berryman
PCSO Lloyd Paynter

16/160 Declaration of Interests

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

16/161 Public Participation & Questions/Police Report

Public Participation & Questions

Frances Day reported that the top part of the Parade was in a very bad state, with the surface damaged by tractors. The Mayor confirmed that responsibility for the Parade rested with Cornwall Council and this had been an ongoing problem over several years. Cornwall Council had agreed to install a concrete pad across the path where the tractors crossed to access fields but this had yet to be done. Cllr D Hughes undertook to speak to the appropriate officers at Cornwall Council but he urged members of the public to take registration numbers and photographs of any vehicles causing damage and send them to Cornwall Council; the more that people complained the more likely it was that Cornwall Council would address the problem but they also needed evidence.

The issue of parking in North Street was raised by a householder who was having difficulty accessing her property because of illegally parked vehicles outside. She considered that the 'no parking' repeater signs were badly sited and should be repositioned. Cllr D Hughes confirmed that he had agreed to follow this up with Highways.

Cllr Stansfield arrived.

Police Report – PCSO Paynter had supplied the following report

There were 4 recorded crimes in February.

1 x Exposure under the Sexual Offences Act 2003. This is historic and relates back to the 1970's, On-going.

2 x Burglaries. One was at the college and is under investigation. The other was at a restaurant in the town and is very much the “Talk of the Town”. Investigations are very much on-going at this time but I think it is fair to say that the perpetrators clearly carried out their homework prior to the event. If anyone saw any suspicious activity from the hours of 0030 and 0500 on 25th February we would like to hear from you. If you can help please call 101 and ask for DC 14424 Ren Buckland, who is the investigating Officer. Any help gratefully received.

1 x Criminal Damage. Damage was caused to a property by a local man who has been charged for the offence.

I hope to re-start the Police Surgeries from May. I will get new some posters printed and distribute them within local businesses.

16/162 Minutes of the Meeting of 15th February 2017

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

16/163 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

Allotments – The Mayor reported

- The AGM of the Readymoney Allotment Association had been held the previous evening.

St Catherines Lights

- No report.

TQ & Caffa Public Conveniences

- No report.

16/164 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Planning - noted.

Town Hall – no report

Environment –noted

Finance – no report.

16/165 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

No reports

16/166 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported

- I was invited to St Colum Major’s annual Hurling event last Tuesday, along with other Mayors across the county and the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall we were given reception with an archived film from the early 60’s showing the rough and tumble of the Hurl. Also attending the Hurl was our own Fowey resident Denis Ellory who won the Hurling event in 1950 and is one of the oldest living survivors of this event.
- On Thursday 9th March, the Town Clerk, Deputy Mayor, John Berryman and myself met with Mr Tom Riddle to discuss his application to become the Town Crier of Fowey. In his own words, ‘I am a retired Cornish man living in Fowey. I am not a Fowey boy; I was born in St Blazey in the bed, but I went to Fowey School and worked for Imerys for 36 years. Currently I volunteer at Lanhydrock.’ Tom emailed me today to confirm he would like to take on the role for a trial period of three months.

16/167 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk reported that

- Fore Street would be closed on 30th March for work to be carried out at the old Lloyds Bank building. There would be 2-way lights with a traffic convoy system operating from Varco's Corner to Town Quay and delivery access to Albert Quay, which would be closed for parking and used as a turning area.
- She was delighted to record that the Energy Ombudsman had found in FTC's favour following her complaint about British Gas. Cllr D Hughes asked that a vote of thanks to the Town Clerk for this excellent outcome be formally recorded in the minutes

16/168 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr D Hughes gave the following report.

Local Government Boundary Review

Following public consultation, reports from Cornwall Association of Local Councils and other parties, surveys of Members and several sessions of a Council Working Group, some of which I have attended and spoken at, Cornwall Council has submitted its final recommendation to the Local Government Commission, with the support of an overwhelming majority of the Council, including members of all political groups.

Following advice from the Commission, a figure of 99 members was proposed. This was at the highest end of the "indicated" acceptable range and was selected since it offered the best fit with existing parish and Area Network boundaries.

I have stressed throughout that reducing representation by 20% or more is going to put severe strain on the resources of town and parish councils, disproportionately so on the smaller and more rural ones. I have asked that urgent consideration is given to increasing support from the Council, perhaps by "beefing up" the Area Network system. If re-elected in May, I shall be pushing this hard as, without extra help, I fear that these areas will become second-class citizens relative to the better-resourced large urban areas.

Planning

I am pleased to report that, after some teething problems resulting from poor communications between the Inspectorate and individual Inspectors, the policies and objectives of the Local Plan are starting to have a significant influence on appeal decisions. It is also gratifying to note how Inspectors regularly refer to the policies of Neighbourhood Plans when they are in place.

One area which has caused some difficulty is in defining "infill" and "rounding-off", which the Local Plan refers to, particularly in villages and rural areas. At the Planning Policy Committee last week we spent some time critically discussing proposed guidance notes on this subject; clear definitions (with examples) should be publicly available in the near future. This will be particularly helpful in assessing proposed developments in villages like ours.

WainHomes Application behind the Tristan Stone

As some members already are aware, the application by WainHomes to build on the piece of land originally designated as a "park-and-ride facility" behind the Tristan Stone has been refused on delegated powers. This is an early "victory" for the Local Plan as this classified the land in question as "development in the open countryside" which is required to be "affordable" led and over significant public benefit, especially as it is within the Area of Outstanding Beauty. I have reason to believe that WainHomes will appeal this decision and, if this happens, I shall be looking for support from the community to the Appeal Inspector

Inconsiderate Parking in Passage Lane

In spite of repeated pressure, I regret to say that I have still had no response from the Cabinet Member for Transport, Cllr Bert Biscoe. I have stressed to him the urgent need to have measures in place before the "season" gets under way. I shall continue to do all within my power to get action taken and would urge councillors and members of the public to e-mail Cllr

Biscoe on bertbiscoe@btinternet.com or phone Cornwall Council on 03001234100 and express their concern about the lack of action on this serious hazard, both for road-safety and potential blockage of emergency vehicles.

Council Tax

At the Council Meeting on 21st February we set a budget incorporating an increase of 1.97% (the maximum under Government rules) plus a levy of 2% ring-fenced for adult social care. Although, in theory, we could have imposed a levy of 3%, because of the way in which the addition levy rules are calculated, over the 3 years of the scheme, the benefit to the council's finances would be insignificant relative to what we have agreed but would have thrust an increased burden on council tax payers in the current year.

Because of the on-going reduction of Central Government support grants, even with the approved tax increase, the Council is going to have to make further "economies" of some £36 million next year. This will inevitably result in reductions in staffing levels and a concentration on services which the Council has a statutory duty to provide, with fewer resources available for non-statutory obligations

European City of Culture Bid

In spite of the comments above, Cornwall is not "shutting for business. Indeed, if we want to improve we must do everything within our power to attract income and investment to the county, both to provide employment and to increase revenue from business rates since this is how the Government expects us to finance Cornwall in the future.

It was in this context that the Economic Development team proposed investing some £325,000 in underwriting an initial bid to become the European City of Culture 2023. Evidence from those cities which have held this title in the past suggests a "multiplier" of at least ten times the sum invested as a result of their success, and even on money invested in the initial bid stage. This evidence is backed up by the results of the highly successful "Man-Engine" project last year and the Olympic Torch progress through Cornwall, both of which were highly successful, both in attracting visitors and raising the profile of Cornwall globally.

The bid has to come from the Authority using money from the existing Regeneration capital budget to underwrite the bid; as such, the money used could not be used for revenue expenses such as school transport or pot-hole repairs. However, the team are working hard to attract commercial investors in the project and have already got support of over £100,000, with interest growing.

I look back to those who decried Cornwall using "public money" to the Tate at St Ives and the Eden Project. These investments have been highly successful, both commercially and in putting Cornwall on the international stage and it is a long time since I have heard any serious criticism of those decisions.

We must hold those involved up to close scrutiny as the project develops and make sure that money is well spent. However, for the long-term good of Cornwall, I believe that we should give the project a cautious welcome and avoid it being damaged by becoming a political football judged by a flurry of opportunistic sound-bites. I should stress that this is my personal view, not that of any group.

The Mayor and Cllrs Boosey and P Hughes noted concerns about the European City of Culture bid. Cll Boosey also noted concerns about Cornwall Councils use of resources in times of austerity.

16/169 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Willmore, seconded Cllr Boosey and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £13,249.45. be approved.

Copies of the Budget Tracking Report to 28th February 2017 had been circulated before the meeting.

16/170 Correspondence

The correspondence list had been circulated and was left 'on the table' for Cllrs attention.

16/171 Resolutions from Councillors

The Mayor moved her resolution '*FTC shall review and amend Standing Orders to reflect the CALC Model Document, including the recommended amendments to the section on the Code of Conduct and Dispensations.*' Seconded by Cllr D Hughes and RESOLVED unanimously..

16/172 Neighbourhood Plan

The Mayor reported that she had met with the CC Landscape architect and she explained the process of the LLCA stage 2, which was a major piece of work where the boundary of Fowey settlement is surveyed to determine its sensitivity to future development. The land would be surveyed by the Landscape Architect and she would write a report. Each parcel of land would then be graded to its sensitivity. However it was a costly process, and the whole consultation and report would probably be around £8,000. The Mayor had asked her to take back the very different nature of Fowey to a senior planner at CC to assess if the study should be undertaken. Members generally felt, however, that this would be an essential exercise.

16/173 Squires Field

Cllr Berryman had reported that he had not heard back from the 3 companies he had contacted re tarmac. He would follow up on his return from holiday and might also contact Cormac as at least they respond and appear keen for the work

16/174 Town Quay

Cllr Berryman and the Town Clerk had met with SW Water at the harbor office and had been advised that major difficulties had been encountered with the construction of the coffer dam, due to incorrect plans being held of the original construction work. Because of time constraints it had therefore been agreed that the work would be postponed until the end of the summer – probably early October – when a different type of coffer dam would be constructed to allow access to the pipework.

A fender had broken loose from the Town Quay wall; the Town Clerk recorded grateful thanks to both Simon Rickarby and the Harbourmaster for stepping in and promptly reinstating it. The parking ticket machine had been malfunctioning, although it was hopefully now operational. The Town Clerk had ordered new, waterproof tickets and was liaising with Cornwall Council to connect a mains power supply to the machine, which would hopefully provide a long-term solution. Additionally there was now a facility on site enabling the public to purchase a ticket via telephone.

16/175 Main Car Park & Readymoney Toilets

The Mayor reported that a lease for the toilet block at Readymoney appeared to be agreed between the prospective tenant and Cornwall Council. This would enable the tenant to utilize half of the building as a café/beach shop on the basis that she provided public toilet facilities in the other half. The current position appeared to be that Cornwall Council would use the rental income to open the Main Car Park facilities for summer 2017 and the authority would remain responsible for the sea wall and negotiating a lease with SW Water for their use of the adjacent

building. FTC had been notified of the arrangements as it had previously expressed an interest in acquiring the freehold title of the whole site.

16/176 Traffic Regulation Orders

The Town Clerk reported that there had been only one comment from the public following the publication of FTC's proposals for TRO's in the town under minute 16/156 and this had been supportive. The Mayor therefore proposed, Cllr McCartney seconded and it was RESOLVED that the following schemes should be put forward.

- (a) Squires Field, double yellow lines (on the highway) along the front of the parking area, to join with the lines coming up from Polvillion Road and stopping at the commencement of the pavement.
 - (b) The road to Menabilly, from the exiting yellow lines to the church and the commencement of the 'No Parking' sign, possibly a limited No Parking Order to cover 1st. May to 30th September.
 - (c) The double yellow lines along Passage Lane to continue from the Caffa Car Park end until the road widens sufficiently for a central white line (approximately at the electricity sub-station) on both sides of the road
 - (d) Cllr D Hughes to ask Highways to investigate the possibility or redesigning the parking outside Barclays Bank to accommodate two legally-enforceable disabled bays.
- Cllr D Hughes suggested that the North Street signage should be included if appropriate and this was agreed.

16/176 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting and Annual Meeting of the Council/Mayor Making

APM. 19th April @ 7pm. The Community Land Trust, SW Water and Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust to be invited to give 10 minute presentations and answer questions from the public and Councillors. The NP Steering Group would put information on display and be available to answer questions following the meeting. The Steering Group would also provide refreshments.

Annual Meeting of the Council 17th May @ 7pm

Mayor Making 25th May @ 7pm (note rearranged date)

16/177 Questions/Reports from Members (taken at the discretion of the Mayor)

It was confirmed that the Squires Field signage had been ordered.

Dates had been published for Code of Conduct training. The closest venue was the Council Chamber at St Austell One Stop Shop between 2pm and 4pm on 11th September. Other venues were available on different dates if Councillors could not attend this one. The Town Clerk reminded members of their obligation to attend one of the sessions and early booking would ensure they would secure the venue of their choice.

Date of Next Meeting

Council 19th April 2017 @ 6.30pm
APM 19th April 2017 @ 7pm

Meeting Closed

8.17pm