

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting
held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 19th April 2017

16/192 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 D Hughes Cllr P Hughes Cllr Mrs L McCartney Cllr C Stansfield Cllr D Willmore

16/193 In attendance

The Town Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent
PCSO Lloyd Paynter (part)
Steve Cross, SW Water
Michael Galligan, SW Water
Simon Rickarby, Kier
Phil Confue, NHS Foundation Trust
Andrew George, Cornwall CLT
Tasha Davis (Community Link Officer)
74 members of the public

16/194 Apologies None

16/195 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 23th April 2016

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

16/196 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

None

16/197 Annual Report of the Town Council – Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay

2016-2017 has been another busy year for the Town Council. I wrote last year about the challenges facing not just our Town Council but those up and down the country since the Devolution Act was passed in 2012 and the changing nature of Town Councils.

The Neighbourhood Plan is making us ask questions about where we want Fowey to be in the next twenty years, what sort of Housing do we need? Will there be sufficient infrastructure for new residents? Are we a sustainable town? In other words is Fowey a place where there are jobs and houses for young families? Will we have a secondary school? A hospital? We are having to get used to the loss of our high street banks, our main PO – but how well does the Town serve the needs of a town of 2,500 people? Some of these decisions are beyond the remit of a Town Council but not for the

dialogue we should be having with our residents. Communication however is a problem; how do we connect with all the different groups in our community? Firstly by making certain all these different groups are represented democratically on the Town Council.

One of the returning assets to Fowey Town Council is Squires Field. The Community Centre was formally opened last July by the Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall. During the year it has been a pleasure to see how well the committee has taken this building and created a valuable community asset which is now used very day of the week. This is an absolute success story.

Parking Concerns over inconsiderate parking in Passage Lane have continued this year. I have had numerous phone calls and emails from members of the public concerned about the numbers of local workers who are choosing to park here and walk into town causing dangerous obstructions. FTC believe there is a real hazard caused by this inconsiderate parking to the provision of blue light services, to passing traffic and to heavy vehicles to the port which are too big for the Imerys supply road, that yellow lines should be painted from the current yellow lines (just beyond Rawlings Lane) and up to Lescrow. This will form part of a Traffic Order for Fowey which will include yellow lines by the side of Squires Field; a seasonal no parking sign to stop holiday makers parking on the single track road at the top of Polkerris; and disabled parking bays surveyed and realigned so they can be properly enforced.

Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan: In just over two years the steering group is very pleased to be now writing draft policies for Fowey Parish Neighbourhood Plan. This is an achievement to be proud of. NDP's have to be community led and so far through the involvement of residents at exhibitions working groups there have been over 150 people actively involved in sharing their views and opinions. Over 300 people have also completed a major questionnaire about how they want Fowey to develop in the next 20 years. As soon as these draft policies are completed they will be available for residents' scrutiny.

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.

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.

15/198 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr David Willmore Esq

When I took over from Cllr. Anne Boosey, by the way hers were very big shoes to fill – Anne used to have a 'stress-toy' given to her by the Town Clerk, when it was handed onto me it was a very sad looking 'stress toy, completely used up, having had the life squeezed out of it.

The last year was another busy and frustrating one, we seem to be piggy in the middle, we have at times been at odds with Developers, residents, and Cornwall Council, we

try to do our best for the town which we all love. The Station Master's house is very nearly finished, it is look good.

My thanks go to all the members of the Planning Committee for their hard work and support.

16/199 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. Unfortunately due to personal circumstances, Councillor Eardley was unable to continue with her valuable work in the Council and resigned from the Town Council in August.

There are four different aspects to this committee

1. The Local Maintenance Partnership/and Agency Agreement, which are partnerships between the Fowey Town Council and Cornwall Council.

We look after fourteen Gold Public Rights of Way in the Parish have a total grant of £688.46 to be cut once in the year. We have to wait until nesting birds have fledged before we can allow our contractor to cut.

We also have an Agency Agreement in respect of grass cutting around the Town. 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.

CC do not pay for any weed killing around the Town, but Fowey Town Council weed sprays twice a year at a cost of £1,410.00 pa

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. The Lower garden is in its final phase of development. Work on this final phase will begin in May and will see new planting in the oak sleeper beds and the final oak seating will finish off the work in the special garden.

3. Fowey In Bloom: one of the aims of the Environment Committee is to keep regular contact with the volunteer Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and also through a grant from TC of £500.00 .Again this group took part in Cornwall in Bloom in 2017 with many 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: this community resource continues to grow from strength to strength. This s year the Readymoney Association has been involved with a joint project with the West of England University to look at how gardeners in Fowey are affected by changing climate and what methods they use to try to overcome drought periods. This coming year the RAS are intending to create a plot which would enable a person with disability the opportunity of growing fruit and vegetables. The Apple Orchard which was planted in Jan, 2015, with old Cornish varieties is thriving. The apple trees had their first pruning last spring and we hope to be able to pick some apples in the autumn.

16/200 To receive the Financial Report – Cllr John Berryman Esq

Some of you may have noticed in the Finance minutes that we have raised the precept by 14.25% for year 2017/18. This is to cover the short fall in services that used to be paid by Cornwall Council and to meet our ever increasing demands on assets recovered from Cornwall Council. As a Council our areas for raising money are very limited, the main source being the precept. We continually explore ways of earning funds and to that extent as a Council we are costing work to be done at Squires Field whereby we could offer a limited number of reserved parking spaces, similar to those in Market and Webb Street. We have been asked and will grant a reserved space for the very popular Community Bus. Our aim is to make as many returned assets cost neutral as possible. The Community Centre is one such case, the football pavilion is another, but I am afraid we will never succeed with the Public Conveniences they remain an expense which we as a Council were asked to maintain by the townspeople of Fowey.

A considerable amount of my committee's work is done by the Environment and Town Hall committees as they both have their own budgets and are responsible for their own spending, we check on their budgets on a regular basis. The Town Quay however comes under our responsibility and going back to raising money, we will at some stage have to consider the parking charges. We try to achieve full compensation for any work carried out on the quay by outside agencies but at the end of the day there is nothing we can do to prevent the work taking place, not that we would ever try.

We have set out the *Finance Committee Responsibilities*, which are posted on our web page.

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

16/201 Report of the Town Hall Committee – Cllr David Willmore Esq

We are continuing with the refurbishments, replacement of all the old and heavy tables, some redecorating, the new window dressings are now in place, the Hearing Loop has been refurbished and we now have Wi-Fi 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. It is ideal to hire for all events wedding receptions etc. Our hiring rates are very competitive with other establishments in the town, we have also had to purchase a projector and screen which, when installed, will be available for use by other users of the Hall.

Our PCSO Lloyd Paynter, and the Neighbourhood Policing Team, use of the Town Hall Office for the monthly Surgeries.

Finally, I would like to say thanks to Cllrs. Lesley McCartney and Giles Asker, my fellow Councillors on the Town Hall Committee, and our Caretaker Caroline Lewis and her partner Russell Maclaren, who does a fantastic job with all our request for repairs and refurbishments.

Thanks, must also go to the Troy Players, the organisers of the Fowey Festival of Arts and Literature and the Craft Fair coordinators for their continued support and use of the Hall.

16/202 Police Report – PCSO Lloyd Paynter.

This year the Annual Crime report includes reported crime for the period 1st April

2016 to 31st March 2017.

	2016/2017	2015/2016	2014/2015
Crimes Recorded	89	85	85
Detections	21	19	25
% of Detections	23.6	22.3	29

So, in conclusion, we have seen a small increase in reported crime for the past year. A further 8 crimes were investigated and subsequently no-crimed.

There are 16 of the recorded crimes included in the figure for this year which are still under investigation which we obviously hope will result in detections.

The crimes reported for the year 1st April 2016 to 31st March 2017 are as follows;

11	Assault/ABH	7 Detected 3 On-Going 1 Detected
1	GBH	1 On-Going
16	Criminal Damage Prop/Vech	4 Detected 1 On-Going 11 Undetected
1	Wound/InflictGBH with Intent	1 On-Going
4	Theft from Shop	3 Undetected 1 On-Going
3	Theft from Motor Vehicle	3 Undetected
3	Burglary Dwelling	2 On-Going 1 Undetected
1	Burglary other than a Dwelling	1 Undetected
7	Common Assault	4 Undetected 2 Detected 1 On-Going
2	Theft/Theft by Finding	2 Undetected
2	Use threatening/Abusive Words	1 Undetected 1 On-Going
1	Production of a Class B Drug	1 Detected
2	Make off without payment	2 Undetected
2	Drive whilst Unfit through drink	2 Detected
9	Theft (Other)	4 Undetected 3 On-Going 2 Detected
1	Take Vehicle without consent	1 No further action (Undetected)
1	Drive M/VAcohol above limit	1 No further action (Undetected)
2	Possess Offensive Weapon	2 Detected
1	Agg Vehicle Taking	1 No further action (Undetected)
1	Theft from Meter	1 Undetected
1	Possess a Knife/Blade	1 Detected
1	Theft in a Dwelling (not Machine)	1 Undetected
9	Send Letter/Communication/ Threatening message	6 Undetected 2 Detected 1 On Going
1	Possess Controlled Drug Class A	1 Detected

1	Pilot/Master Seaman On Duty Under Influence of alcohol	1 Detected
1	Robbery	1 Detected
2	Owner/Person in charge of a dog Dangerously out of control	1 Detected 1 Undetected
1	Exposure SOA 2003	1 Undetected
1	Harassment/ Breach of Civil Inj	1 On Going

General Public Re-assurance

During the past year PC Barnicoat and myself have been working very closely with the local Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator and Housing Officers to deal with individuals who cause unnecessary alarm and distress to others. This may involve general anti-social activities or issues which affect close neighbours. Currently we have two people in Fowey on the ASB ladder. One person has been served with a Stage Two warning and a second person has been given an Acceptable Behaviour Contract which is effectively a Stage Three. The ASB process is very effective and generally works very effectively as the individuals become well known to Multi-Agency workers who can ultimately make them accountable for their actions.

Door Knocking (and running)

Sadly I have recently had to speak with a group of young people regarding them seeing fit to carry out regular door knocking and running. Surprisingly I found that the children involved were in the 12 to 14 year old age group, I had thought they would have grown out of that stage! Young people perceive this to be good fun: however, it can be very concerning for the elderly and the more vulnerable amongst us. Different people's circumstances can leave them very much on edge and the young people do not realise that it can trigger a far more serious reaction than is necessary from the recipient. This naturally renders the young people themselves at the mercy of the anger of the person being harassed. The young people on this occasion were easy to find and have been warned about their activities, the parents are also aware. I hope my message has reached the right spot but please, rather than suffer, give me a call and it can be sorted.

St Blazey Police Station

Within the past year our team was delighted to be given the opportunity to remain working out of the old St Blazey Police Station. The St Blazey Town Council purchased the building from the Police and we are now working from part of the building. Our facility is small but still enables us to have an essential presence in St Blazey. There are four of us based at the building, PC Barnicoat is still the Neighbourhood Beat Manager and I am one of three PCSO's remaining. PCSO Merrikin is currently on maternity leave. Acting Sergeant Jon Hamley is currently the Temporary Neighbourhood Team Leader and Inspector Gard is still in charge of the St Austell Sector.

Reductions in PCSO Numbers

As many of you will already know, an announcement has been made that the Police are looking to reduce the number of PCSO's from 350 down to 150 over the next four years. Naturally this has caused a lot of uncertainty for many of my colleagues as, for many of us, our futures are very much in the balance. Many of the public enjoyed the recent report on Spotlight television who filmed me on the beat. It was great to receive some very positive feedback on both the programme and how much the public appreciate seeing me in the town, thank you.

Police Surgeries

I had mixed results with the Police Surgery during the past year. Upon its launch it was well supported but during the winter months, somewhat expectedly, visits dropped off. In January I made the decision to suspend the monthly surgeries and look at re-instating them, possibly from May. I am still a great believer in the surgeries as it gives the public the opportunity to visit a Police Representative on a face to face basis if they have any concerns.

Good news ☺

It is fantastic to hear that the Red Arrows will be returning to Fowey this Regatta week. Obviously this will result in a massive influx of vehicles entering the Town. Last year cones were not deployed along Polvillion Road which caused unnecessary chaos. I will be making recommendations to the Carnival Committee suggesting that proper consideration is given to parking provision.

Parking Issues

I am still very concerned about the situation regarding cars “running away” in the Main Car Park. Local residents have complained that several vehicles have ended up crashing through the bottom hedge. I attended several incidents last year whereby handbrakes had failed or simply not been put on correctly. Despite previously raising the issue with Cornwall Council, they have failed to put up warning signs which would certainly create more awareness. My concern is that we could have a very serious situation in the Car Park and appropriate warnings would be a very appropriate control measure.

Whilst on the subject of parking, it is disappointing to see that the situation at Passage Lane has not improved - indeed I think it has worsened. I think this is very disappointing for all of us but, for sure, the problem of obstruction and inevitable confrontation will continue to occur this year. I sincerely hope that Cornwall Council sees fit to try and address the concerns previously raised.

And finally; the way to contact the Police is still via 101 or through the Devon and Cornwall Police Website. <https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/>

16/203 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr David Hughes Esq

The past year has been difficult for Cornwall Council as the effect of Central Government funding cuts is starting to affect “frontline” services such as road maintenance, libraries and social services. Increasingly we are seeing services which we have taken for granted being cut back or removed completely. Overall, whilst it is easy to pick on details, I believe that the Council has not done a bad job of reducing the impact on the public, not a little, thanks to the dedication and hard work of our Council staff. Unfortunately, unless the Government has an unexpected change of heart, we can only expect things to get worse in coming years. We have been told to expect further cuts of about one third in funding in the next three years.

For me, the greatest achievement of the past year has been getting the Cornwall Local Plan approved by the Inspector and adopted. Those of us on the Planning Policy Committee and our officers spent many hours working on the plan to ensure that it complied with the many essential criteria laid down by the Government, having to accept a higher level of new-builds and lower levels of affordable housing than many of us would have wished.

Unfortunately, the Inspector made it clear that, without accepting the alterations, there was no way that the Plan would be accepted. Without a Local Plan in place the National Planning Framework would be the basis for decision making, giving

virtually carte-blanche to developers. The harsh reality is that we have to abide by government policy and, however much we “huff and puff” and sign petitions, until we have a national government which is prepared to devolve real power to local authorities and listen to local concerns, there is no chance of this changing.

However, the new Local Plan does give Cornwall far more power than we have previously had to oppose developments which do not comply with its policies. In the three months that it has been in effect we have seen far more refusals of applications and our success rate on appeals has improved from 60% to 80%. Even more significantly, because Neighbourhood Plans are an integral part of the policy, Inspectors are now prepared to give significant weight to them in their decisions.

Locally, it is important to note that WainHomes latest attempt to extend their development at Hill Hay was refused without having to go to committee, using the powers in the new Local Plan Policies

The Fowey Neighbourhood Plan is making real progress thanks to the efforts of a small but committed group of people. I would urge all local residents, of all ages, to play an active part in its development. This is your opportunity to help shape the way our community develops over the next 20 years. We cannot “ban” any future development but we can influence where development should take place and shape the nature of that development in terms of scale, design, housing mix etc. With the Local Plan in place, Neighbourhood Plans are significant planning documents which must be considered by Inspectors at appeal.

The inconsiderate parking in Passage Lane is an on-going problem, with the potential to have very serious consequences in the event of an emergency in the docks or the northern part of town. Working with the emergency services, Imerys, Harbourmaster, Town Council and concerned local people over the past 6 months, I have been putting pressure on Cornwall Council to put in place an appropriate Traffic Order. This would permit the placing of double yellow lines and enforce compliance. Unfortunately, due to the complicated and expensive bureaucratic procedures imposed by national government, in spite of promises at the highest level that the matter will be given high priority, I regret that, as of today, I can give no assurances as to when this will happen. I shall continue to apply pressure until I am successful.

When the Traffic Order is agreed, I hope that we can include in it provision to prevent parking in front of Squire’s Field Car Park, which is causing real problems for car park users . We also hope to include the restricted parking by the bank, which is currently unenforceable and is causing significant distress, particularly to disabled drivers.

The problem of anti-social parking around schools is of huge concern to many local residents, not just here but across Cornwall. As a result of a Motion to Council to which I was a signatory, a study is under way into how the situation might be improved. An early finding was that much of the signage was not legally enforceable and measures are in hand to rectify this. Another part of the problem is that, as a response to Government cuts, the number of Enforcement officers had been reduced. To deal with this specific problem it has been agreed that more officers will be recruited. However, the reality is that the only way in which the situation will improve is if individuals act in a more responsible, less antisocial manner. Peer pressure can make a big difference in this. Rather than say “someone should do something about this”, groups of parents/carers could approach “offenders” politely pointing out the danger and nuisance which is being caused. Undoubtedly some of those approached will respond rudely but, a bit like smoking or drink-driving, little by little the message

will get through.

Having successfully worked with the Town Council to transfer Town Quay and Caffa Mill toilets to us, we have worked very hard to find ways of keeping Readymoney and Main Car Park toilets open. What appears to be a workable solution has been found for Readymoney and I am pleased that Main Car park toilets should remain open for the summer whilst a long-term solution is found.

I share the concerns of most people in Fowey at the ongoing closure of Fowey hospital. It is incomprehensible that, when Treliske and Derriford are under such pressure, in part due to “bed-blocking”, with patients needing only basic nursing care occupying expensive “acute” beds, we have a facility in Fowey unoccupied which could allow such patients to recuperate close to their friends and family.

I will continue to try to work with the NHS and local pressure groups to reinstate use of Fowey Hospital. We are victims of Central Government’s chronic under-funding and lack of understanding of local needs and pressures. Unfortunately, there is very little that Cornwall Council, or its representatives, can do directly about this other than apply pressure on the government and our MP’s to re-think their misguided policies and priorities.

We are very fortunate to live in a place with a strong sense of identity and community with many unsung heroes and heroines who work selflessly and often unseen to keep it vibrant. In Fowey, we are very fortunate to have a particularly hard-working and dedicated Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Town Council. Together, we have been able to achieve a great deal for our community. It has been my privilege to serve the community over the past 15 years as a councillor of one sort or another and I thank all those who have helped me. If re-elected, I make only one promise: to do my best and do my duty.

16/204 Presentations and Public Participation

Steve Cross gave a presentation on the ongoing work being undertaken in Fowey by **South West Water**. An electronic copy of his presentation is available on application to the Town Clerk.

Julie Talbot noted the lack of communication by SW water despite promises of improvement, which she considered had failed to materialize and stated that residents at the Caffa Mill end of the town had suffered and continued to suffer unacceptable disruption, noise, odours and inconvenience. Simon Rickarby gave a commitment that the planned work would finish on time and invited Mrs Talbot to contact him with any future problems. Steve Cross undertook to get an update on the works out by Friday 21st April.

Phil Confue explained that the **Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation Trust** had taken over the running of Fowey Hospital in April 2016. The hospital itself was owned by NHS Property Services, which was based in Leeds. Initially the Trust had identified several defects to the building and had carried out building and improvement works to rectify the problems. However, an Environmental Health inspection had then found that food hygiene was not up to standard and this had been followed by an infection control audit, which had identified that significant work was needed and this would cost a minimum of £750K. Consequently the hospital had been closed until this could be undertaken. Cornwall Partnership NHS Foundation only had a 2 year contract so The Clinical Commissioning Group would have to commit to the remedial work and, to date, they had not done so. He was not saying that the hospital would be closed permanently but engagement was needed with the local community

to ascertain priorities and whether the unit could possibly be used as a Social Care Hub, with multi use of the building. The current situation was that the building was unsafe as a bed based unit but could be safe for other uses i.e. physiotherapy.

Meetings would be taking place over the next few months.

Cllr Boosey stated that it was disgraceful that information had not been available to the public before, giving rise to rumours and speculation. Phil accepted that the Trust could have done better on this front.

Andrew George explained that the **Cornwall CLT** was a charitable body committed to helping local people build genuinely affordable homes; 200 had been built in the last 10 years, with the latest ones at St Teath costing 56% of market value. These homes would remain affordable in perpetuity and were designed to be energy efficient with rooms 10%-20% larger than the government space standard. Mr George stated there was no better time for communities to consider forming a Community Land Trust to build affordable homes in their area, with the newly adopted Cornwall Local Plan and emerging Neighbourhood Plans making life much more difficult for developers.

The Mayor invited all present to join the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group for refreshments before leaving. Members of the SG were available to answer questions and various exhibits were displayed at the rear of the Hall.

Meeting Closed 9.45pm