

## **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 REMOTE EXTRAORDINARY FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON FRIDAY 12<sup>th</sup> JUNE 2020 AT 10.00am VIA ZOOM**

**MEETING ID: 780 5894 6895 PASSWORD: 2VQGRJ**

#### **20/18 Present**

The Mayor Cllr Mrs R Finlay,  
The Deputy Mayor Cllr J Berryman,  
Councillors Mrs R Cooke, P Fassam, S Griffin,  
P Hughes, Mrs L Simms, Mrs C Woodside

#### **In Attendance**

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr A Virr  
8 members of the public

#### **20/19 Apologies**

Cllr Mrs F Day

#### **20/20 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. The Town Clerk had extended a dispensation to Cllr Fassam to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey allotments.

#### **20/21 Public Participation & Questions**

None

#### **20/22 Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2020**

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

#### **20/23 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

None

#### **20/24 To receive the Mayors Report**

The Mayor suggested that FTC may wish to nominate two people for the Covid-19 Awards – Roy Newport and Heather Hunt – to recognize the amazing work they were doing for the Fowey community.

#### **20/25 To receive the Cornwall Councillors Report**

Cllr Virr gave the following report

Covid It has been reassuring to see the prevalence of Covid cases remaining low in the South West compared to the rest of the Country. The number of cases at The Royal Cornwall

Hospital has dropped dramatically over the past couple of weeks. Thanks to everyone for their efforts in staying at home, social distancing and supporting the isolated. Particular thanks must go to the Fowey Isolation Group and the traders who have altered their way of working and kept us all fed. Looking ahead it is now time for businesses to start opening up and we should be ready to welcome back visitors over the summer if the infection rate can be kept under control in through June / July. If we don't have visitors to Fowey this summer this would be devastating for local businesses with a three winters in row hit.

Fowey Pedestrianisation Thanks to the Chamber and FTC for meeting up with me on Microsoft Teams and in person in Fowey to consider steps that could be taken to enhance the visitor experience in Fowey whilst social distancing is still required. Many thanks to the Mayor for putting together the helpful paper outlining the options and next steps. I would personally particularly like to see the pedestrianisation of the roads around the Town Hall and Town Quay. This would open the space up to be used as a continental style open air seating / café area. It would be lovely to see the area beautified with planters and trees. In the medium term I would support the pedestrianisation of the main high street after consultation with residents and businesses. The improvement to air quality, safety for pedestrians and the facilitating social distancing would be a positive balance to the inevitable inconvenience to some.

Fowey Hospital It is with great frustration that I must report that CPFT have not been replying to my correspondence and request for a decision on whether the old library site could be extended into Caffa Mill Car Park. I have written every month since the beginning of the year. Please can I request that FTC and myself write a joint letter to demand an urgent meeting with Phil Confue to understand their intentions, given their public declaration previously to support an NHS Nursing Home in Fowey.

Esplanade Wall I have been campaigning for the work to recommence on the Esplanade Wall. This project has over run and, at times, has seemed painfully slow. Thank you for the patience of the local residents who have had to put up with the disruption. I am pleased to see the workman back on site and steady progress now being made.

Main Car Park Loos I have written to CC to inquire when they will open the loos at the main car park and for them to share their guidance for the safe hygiene of public loos in the era of Covid 19 in order to assist FTC in the opening theirs.

#### **20/25 Accounts for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr Fassam, seconded Cllr Woodside and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £8,397.03 be approved.

#### **20/26 Resolutions from Councillors**

None

#### **20/27 Reopening of Fowey**

Members had received and noted the very comprehensive report prepared by the Mayor covering possible options available to FTC to promote the re-opening of businesses in Fowey. The following initial thoughts were voiced.

1. The suggestion of full pedestrianisation of the town was premature given that the position in respect of parking in Berrills Yard and Albert Quay had not been clarified.
2. Whilst the survey carried out by the Chamber was acknowledged it would take a significant amount of time to organize an in-depth survey of all interested parties; was the Chamber survey, which had necessarily been undertaken very quickly, sufficient to base decisions on?

3. If FTC agreed on partial pedestrianisation of Trafalgar Square, Town Quay, Market Street and Webb Street it would need to be decided if tables and chairs should be allowed on the quay if there was sufficient space to accommodate social distancing and, if so, how many and for which businesses – just the ones adjacent to the quay? Would this penalize other businesses in the town? If social distancing were to be reduced to 1 metre this would help the situation significantly.
4. Whilst many would advocate full pedestrianisation of the town FTC was being asked to make rushed decisions.
5. Town Quay was the only open space in the town where the general public could access and observe social distancing.
6. Improved signage, whilst not perfect, could well be the way forward in the short term.

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that the meeting should be closed to allow members of the public to participate.

Members of the public, *inter alia*, made the following points.

1. The streets would be much busier with pedestrians due to shops limiting the numbers of people allowed inside.
2. Cllr Virr queried if FTC would support partial pedestrianisation whilst accepting that this would prejudice some businesses
3. A Chamber representative confirmed that the key point of the survey they had undertaken was to investigate a temporary solution during the Covid-19 restrictions to try to get people back on Fowey high street. 310 responses had been received to date with 83% in favour of full pedestrianisation.
4. Cllr Griffin noted that it should be possible to control traffic entering the town to some extent without a TRRO and some safe zones could be identified for public refuges.
5. It would be helpful if A frames etc. were removed from the pavements and scaffolding was not permitted in the town during the summer months, as had been the case in the past.

Cllr Woodside proposed, Cllr Simms seconded and it was RESOLVED that the meeting should re-open.

The Town Clerk confirmed that if pedestrianisation (partial or full) was approved essential vehicles could still access the town. These would include, *inter alia*, emergency vehicles, those of residents living within the restricted area, the Town Bus, people with parking facilities in the restricted area, some utilities, some deliveries.

The Mayor cautioned that if she was to submit an application to the CC Community Fund it needed to be submitted before close of business that day.

Cllrs voiced the following observations

1. Cllr Fassam cautioned against relying on the Chamber survey

2. The Mayor noted that if shops, pubs and restaurants concentrated on takeaway food then it was inevitable that people would gravitate to the quay to eat it.
3. Cllr Berryman stated that FTC could decide to restrict vehicular access to Trafalgar Square, Market Street, Webb Street and the Town Quay but not allow additional tables and chairs on the quay.
4. Cllr Fassam stated that not allowing tables and chairs would help with social distancing as there would be more space for members of the public to circulate safely.
5. Cllr Virr considered that if FTC did not support limited pedestrianisation then the council would be prioritising cars over the public. He considered that there should be no permit parking in Webb Street and Market Street to allow for additional tables and chairs. The whole area could be made much more attractive with planters and suchlike.
6. Cllr Fassam responded he took exception to the suggestion that FTC was prioritising cars, there was no parking on the quay during the summer months and the council had worked very hard to make the quay area attractive with the provision of planters, new waste bins, bunting etc.
7. Cllr Virr clarified that he had been referring to Webb Street and Market Street, not the quay.
8. The Town Clerk clarified that the permit holders in both Webb Street and Market Street had licenses permitting them to park there until at least 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021 and FTC was not in a position to offer any alternative provision.

The Mayor asked members if there was a proposal for full pedestrianisation of the town between certain hours between June and September. There was no proposal forthcoming

Cllr Hughes proposed that FTC support part pedestrianisation allowing businesses to put tables and chairs on the quay. This proposal failed to find a seconder.

Cllr Berryman proposed that FTC should request a TRRO for the pedestrianisation of Trafalgar Square, Webb Street, Market Street and Town Quay. This was seconded by Cllr Woodside and RESOLVED. Cllr Fassam abstained from voting. Cllr Berryman then proposed, Cllr Woodside seconded and it was unanimously RESOLVED that FTC should request a 24 hour TRRO until 30<sup>th</sup> September for the pedestrianisation of Trafalgar Square, Webb Street, Market Street and Town Quay.

Members then considered the question of allowing tables and chairs on the quay.

1. Cllr Berryman considered that it would not be possible to make any firm decisions without a site meeting.
2. Cllr Hughes noted that businesses were really struggling and needed all the help they could get from FTC if they were to survive. Covid-19 could well be around for the next 12 months. FTC needed to explore all possible options and adjust to ever-changing guidance and scenarios.
3. Cllr Fassam stated that FTC could not be rushed into a decision, he agreed with Cllr Berryman that a site meeting was essential.

Cllr Berryman then proposed, Cllr Simms seconded and it was RESOLVED that businesses adjacent to the Town Quay should be allowed to have an agreed number of tables and chairs on the quay but only if this could be achieved safely to meet Covid-19 restrictions and without unacceptably restricting public access. Cllr Fassam, Cllr Griffin and Cllr Woodside abstained from voting. It was agreed that a site meeting would be held to ascertain the possibilities on 15<sup>th</sup> June.

A decision on re-opening the public toilets was deferred until the Town Clerk had attended a webinar on 15<sup>th</sup> June on possible safe ways of doing this.

The Mayor agreed to submit the application to the CC Emergency Fund and include provision for signage.

**20/28 Questions/Reports from Members (taken at the discretion of the Mayor)**

None

**Date of Next Meetings**

Planning to be confirmed

Council to be confirmed

Meeting Closed 11.38am