

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 MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD VIA ZOOM ON  
MONDAY 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE @ 10.30am.**

Minutes taken by Cllr Mrs Frances Day

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms (Chair), Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke, Cllr Mrs Frances Day, Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay, Cllr Scott Griffin and Cllr Patrick Hughes.

1} **To receive apologies for absence**

There were no apologies for absence.

2} **Declarations of interest**

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|---------------------------|--|
| <b>(a) Pecuniary:</b>     | None   |
| <b>(b) Non pecuniary:</b> | None   |
| <b>(c) Dispensations:</b> | A dispensation had been extended to Cllr Finlay to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey allotments. |

3} **Public Participation/Questions**

There were none.

4} **Minutes of the meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2020**

It was proposed by Cllr Finlay seconded by Cllr Griffin and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record, with one amendment under item (10) in that it should be clarified that the 2019/2020 budget had been increased to £18,000 from £8,500 to reflect the increased responsibilities of the Environment Committee, and then subsequently increased to £20,236 for the current year.

5} **Matters arising from the Minutes not on the Agenda**

There were no matters arising.

6} **To receive the report of the Tree Warden (Cllr Day)**

It was good news that there had been no controversial planning applications relating to trees in the past few months. One advantage of lockdown was that we have all had more time to appreciate nature, and the birdsong has been fantastic. Awareness of the importance of trees in helping to keep pollution under control seemed to be increasing, and if we could emerge from the coronavirus situation with greater appreciation of a less polluted world, and how to achieve it, that would be a bonus.

One Council decided to plant 75 trees to commemorate the 75th anniversary of VE day. This was an inspiring idea, but might be challenging for us to follow suit. They would really all need to be planted close together to make the desired impact.

There are free trees on offer from the Tree Council Branching Out fund, which would work in liaison with young people or schools, but at the moment it would be difficult to progress. Cllr Simms offered to contact the Pre School, the Primary School and Fowey River Academy to see if they were interested in taking this further.

7} **Specific areas of responsibility**

Reports on the following specific areas of responsibility were received as follows:

- *Old Grammar School Gardens: Cllr Finlay:* The wall at the bottom on the left hand side still needs replacing. Two quotes were needed and Cllr Griffin offered to obtain a second one.
- *Piggy Lane Triangle: Cllr Finlay:* Gardener Sally was keeping the area in good order. The direction sign was in need of refurbishment and Cllr Finlay offered to ask Russell if he could see if he could revive it.
- *Pretty Bus Stop:* There had been an attempt to cut down some of the foliage, but this had been prevented. Cllr Hughes would discuss with Jane Tinsley, who did the decoration at the bus stop, to see what she felt was required. There was concern about the roof which may mean the vegetation needed to be removed in due course.. Lanhydrock Garden Services might be asked to carry this out.
- *Allotments: Cllr Finlay:* An inspection was due the following day, and consideration be given to the provision of bee hives. Cllr Griffin would speak to local bee expert Ged Gilchrist for his advice.
- *Fowey in Bloom: Cllr Day:* The Fowey in Bloom Annual General Meeting and Coffee Morning had both been cancelled. However, it had been possible to obtain plants from Hay Nurseries to replant the pots and tubs around the Town. There were some left for an informal plant sale, which raised £343 for Fowey in Bloom. We have decided that none of the various social distancing alternatives which might have enabled the garden competition to go ahead were entirely satisfactory. This means there will not be a presentation of awards event in the autumn. Proposed Judge Sharon Moses from Radio Cornwall's Garden Line has agreed to come to give a talk, maybe with refreshments instead, depending on how the coronavirus situation is by then. She has also agreed to be our Judge for a garden competition next year.
- *Local maintenance partnership (footpaths): Cllr Finlay:* There had been complaints about the footpaths around Menabilly and Tregaminion. These had been now been cut by Lanhydrock Garden Services, but without the normal footfall it was inevitable that all the footpaths would become more overgrown than usual.
- *Agency agreements, weed killing/grass cutting: Cllr Finlay:* Also to be maintained by Lanhydrock Garden Services, bearing in mind the Committee's wish to find greener solutions to controlling weeds.
- *Squires Field green areas/children's playground: Cllr Griffin/Cllr Cooke:* Andy Harper from Playground Solutions had quoted for essential repairs of the playground @ £1,370. Agreement was proposed by Cllr Hughes and seconded by Cllr Finlay. It was RESOLVED that this quotation be accepted.

#### 8} **Squires Field Playground**

Cllr Cooke and Finlay had had a meeting with Kompan who had suggested various alternatives to the preferred option emerging from the public meeting of multi use games areas. The meeting had been extremely helpful and further public consultation was now felt desirable. Kompan representative Stephen had been made aware that the Council's objective was to obtain the best value equipment for many different types of equipment. One idea was an exercise equipment area for both teenagers and adults.

#### 9} **Environmental Growth Plan**

A sub-committee of Cllr Simms, Finlay and Berryman had met to take this forward. Ideas discussed included informal green areas with meadow planting, with paths around the edges, rewilding, bee hives at the allotments, a seed project and greater community involvement. The issue of alternatives to weed killing with chemicals was ongoing. Cllr Finlay pointed out that Fowey Town Council was already aware of environmental needs with the Cornish tree orchard at the allotments being one example. Cllr Finlay would try to obtain copies of a useful booklet for Councils on taking forward the environmental growth plan. It was suggested that this topic should feature on all future Environment Committee agendas.

#### 10} **Budget**

A budget for 2020-21 of £20,236 had been approved for the Environment Committee. Cllr Simms had circulated a summary of the accounts. Expenditure at the end of 2019/20 had been £16,917 against a budget of £18,000. Expenditure so far in this financial year included a payment of £2,495 to Cornwall Council for maintenance and health and safety at Squires Field.

#### 11} **To receive reports from members**

There were no reports from members.

#### 12} **Proposed dates of next meeting**

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2020 @ 10.30am, by Zoom if social distancing was still in force at that time.

There being no further business, the meeting closed @ 11.22am.

