

## **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 FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY 14<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER 2022 AT 7pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL**

#### **22/104 Present**

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms  
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr P Hughes  
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr Mrs F Day,  
Cllr Mrs R Finlay, Cllr S Griffin,

#### **In Attendance**

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

#### **22/105 Apologies**

Cllr A Dellow, Cllr A Harris-Guerrero, Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

#### **22/106 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 until 2025.

#### **22/107 Public Participation & Questions**

None

#### **22/108 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 16<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

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

#### **22/109 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

None.

#### **22/110 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees**

Planning – minutes noted  
Town Hall & Quay – no report.  
Finance – minutes noted  
Environment – no report.

#### **22/111 To receive Reports from FTC representatives on other bodies**

No reports

#### **22/112 To receive the Mayors Report**

The Mayor reported;  
On 20<sup>th</sup> November I represented Fowey Town Council at the Legal Service held at Truro Cathedral. This service was attended by HM Judges, Magistrates and representatives of Civic and Legal Bodies in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly.

On the evening of 2<sup>nd</sup> December the official viewing of the Safe Harbour Art Project took place. The art looks stunning and has definitely brightened up the location. Thanks go to Claire Hoddinott and Gretchen Viehmann for making this happen.

Our Landmark Tree, a copper beech, was recently received by Cllr Day and planted in Squire's Field thanks Paul Finlay and Sandy Finlay. I am arranging for a commemorative plaque to be made.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> December I attended a brilliant Town Carol Service in St Fimbarrus Church. Thank you to members of the Church, musical director Andy Virr and everyone involved.

### **22/113 To receive the Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk reported:

- A request had been received for the salt bin at Polkerris to be refilled. This had been referred to CC Highways, who had responded quickly. A further request had been received for a salt bin to be sited at Tavern Barn but CC had advised that the provision of salt bins had been devolved to town and parish councils. Whilst this was partly correct, the actual position was that CC had contacted towns and parishes several years previously and advised that they would no longer be offering this service and giving towns and parishes the opportunity to take it over; FTC had not agreed to do so due to budgetary constraints. Cllr Virr confirmed that CC still filled bins annually and did additional fills in very severe weather, as had been the case recently, but would not respond to individual requests for new bins, such as the one at Tavern Barn. Whilst members recognized the importance of road safety in icy conditions, they considered that they could not justify the expense of installing and filling bins as there could potentially be a big demand for them if a precedent was set. Cllr Hughes suggested that one solution could be for FTC to purchase a load of salt and make it available for people to collect.
- CC Highways had asked what wording FTC would like on the replacement sign by the FIB floral boat at the entrance to Fowey. Members agreed that this should be like for like – Welcome to the Ancient Town of Fowey.

### **22/114 To receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor**

Cllr Virr gave the following report

Varcoe Bench I have had an approach from the Varcoe family for a new memorial bench on All Days Field. The Countryside Team are not supportive of erecting a new bench. I would welcome the views of Town Councillors.

Public Art Lostwithial Street I was delighted to support the community art scheme realised by Fowey Academy. Thanks to Highways, Clare Hoddinott and Gretchen for their enthusiasm and artistic skills.

Xmas Market Weekend It was heartening to see the success of the Christmas Market again this year. The town was very busy and the local businesses benefited from the increased foot fall. Parking was a considerable issue on the Saturday due to the huge volume of visitors. I welcome the opportunity for a formal debrief later this month.

Christmas Lights Switch On The annual Christmas Lights Switch On was again well attended by the community. I was delighted to lead the singing outside the church before the lights switch on. For next year consideration needs to be made which organisation is overall responsible for the co-ordination of the evening. It was a struggle to find help with erecting and decorating the Christmas Tree – thanks to the volunteers who came along.

Town Carol Service Fowey Church hosted the annual Town Carol Service this week. It was well attended by the community and included a primary school choir and a soloist from Fowey Academy. I was delighted to conduct the Fowey River Singers and St Austell Brass Quintet.

Hanson Drive Parking Consultation The proposed all year-round parking restriction for Hanson Drive is currently out for consultation.

Road Surface outside Lantic Road I am pleased to see the road surface outside Lantic Road has been renewed after the multiple digging up of the road by utility companies, something I had petitioned Highways to complete.

Entry to Fowey Sign The Welcome to Fowey Entry Sign has been lost – I have asked Highways to replace the sign with the same design.

Tavern Barn Road Surface Works A section of Tavern Barn will be repaired / resurfaced in March next year. I have liaised with the residents to agree the design of the works.

Thanks Please can I pass on my thanks to the Town Councillors for all their hard work over the past year. Your tireless efforts greatly benefit our community. Thanks.

#### **22/115 Accounts for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £24,358.64 be approved.

#### **22/116 Correspondence**

Correspondence was left ‘on the table’ for Councillors attention.

#### **22/117 Resolutions from Councillors**

None.

#### **22/118 Squires Field Pavilion**

Cllr Dellow had supplied a suggested floor layout and some quotes. Cllr Finlay queried why the office had been moved to the rear of the building as she considered it would be far better positioned at the front as somebody working there could monitor the entrance. There was general agreement with this view, although Cllr Griffin pointed out that there may be a valid reason for this change.

#### **22/119 Funding Applications**

Members discussed the funding application received in respect of the Safe Harbour defibrillator. Whilst members fully appreciated the importance of the availability of defibrillators, it was recognized that there were quite a lot throughout the town and Cllr Griffin stated that it would not be viable for FTC to undertake to maintain them all. Cllr Simms considered that when groups were fundraising to install defibrillators the running costs and not simply the initial purchase price should be factored in, as had been done at Polkerris. Members agreed that running costs would realistically need to be achieved through local fundraising but that if this was undertaken FTC would consider a donation towards costs on a case by case basis.

#### **22/120 Budget 2023/2024**

Cllr Berryman presented the budget proposals agreed by the Finance Committee and confirmed that the Committee had tried to keep costs as low as possible in a difficult financial climate. He added that the budget had been calculated taking into account the income generated from the licenses issued to the KOP and the RBL for the use of the quay between May and September and had resulted in a 7.8% increase. However, if the licenses were not granted the increase

would have to be 10%. He then proposed, Cllr Hughes seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should request a precept of £165,717.00 from Cornwall Council.

### **22/121 Fowey Christmas Market**

The Mayor recorded that the Fowey Christmas Market was again very successful thanks to Andrew Weaver from LESW, Andy Virr, the Town Crier and local volunteers. The Town Hall Craft Market for Local Makers was also excellent, with the Saturday session particularly busy with the addition of a tea and cakes café run by Cllr Yvette Patterson and members of Fowey WI. Special thanks to Cllr Patrick Hughes for all his hard work in organizing this. A general discussion then followed on the future of the Market with members making, *inter alia*, the following observations.

- Some Fowey businesses had felt that the organizer had used unacceptable pressure in trying to get them to sponsor the event.
- The whole weekend had been great, the street entertainers brilliant, wonderful atmosphere.
- The shops were packed, a lifeline for the traders at this time of year.
- The event gave small clubs and charities an opportunity to make money.
- The Town Hall Market had been very successful, with money raised in the café going to SFCC. Another year it could be useful to have a couple of local drink producers on the stage to attract a wider audience.
- Although the event caused some disruption to local residents, particularly due to the sheer number of visitor vehicles, most people and businesses would be very upset if the Market did not continue.
- Some other local markets are run by volunteers but this would not work in Fowey; only a few people are willing to get involved in community events.
- Huge thanks to Tony Bartlett and his Team, for organizing the Christmas lights. Amazing work and very special for the town.
- Co-ordination of things such as Father Christmas required. Would volunteers come forward? Should FTC be involved? Chamber of Commerce? Church?
- Mixed opinions on the way forward. There would be a ‘wash-up’ meeting with LESW on 20<sup>th</sup> December and options would be explored then.

### **22/122 Masterplan**

Cllr Finlay reported that the Town Team had met the previous day to discuss the Masterplan process and any outcomes. Lessons had been learnt from the exercise and five different project areas had been identified

- Caffa Mill
- Whitehouse
- Town Quay
- Town Gateway
- Church Garden

If work in any of these identified project areas is taken forward an application to the Shared Prosperity Fund will be required and this will necessitate a great deal of work. The Team were unsure if it would be better to make separate applications for individual projects or to make a shared application; Cllr Virr agreed to set up a meeting with the officers at County Hall dealing with the funding to ascertain the best way forward.

**22/123 Questions/Reports from Members**

In response to a query from Cllr Day, it was agreed that the possibility of a Hedgehog Highway should be referred to the Environment Committee.

**Date of Next Meeting**      18<sup>th</sup> January 2023      **Meeting Closed**      8.30pm