

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 15th FEBRUARY 2023 AT 7pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL

22/146 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr P Hughes
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs F Day, Cllr A Dellow,
Cllr Mrs R Finlay

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
7 members of the public

22/147 Apologies

Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr S Griffin, Cllr Mrs Y Patterson
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

22/148 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.

22/149 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public posed several questions to the meeting.

1. Why was additional expenditure required on the Church/Town clock when it had recently had a major overhaul? This was for repairs to the strike hammer identified in the annual maintenance work commissioned by FTC and which had not been done as part of the overhaul.
2. Why was FTC looking to co-opt additional members and not calling an election? In respect of the current two vacancies, these seats were still unfilled following the 2021 election so there was no requirement for a further election. An election could have been called by 10 members of the public following the resignation of Cllr Woodside but no such request had been made. Arrangements for this had been in the hands of the Electoral Office but notices had been placed on the FTC website and the notice boards outside the Town Hall and on Town Quay. FTC had then been advised to co-opt to fill the vacancy, which had been done.
3. What projects in the Masterplan were being taken forward? Currently CLUP funding applications had been submitted by FTC for the Town Gateway scheme and by FHC for the Whitehouse improvements but, even if they were successful, at this stage it did not mean they would necessarily go ahead. Ownership of land would drive other projects i.e. Cornwall Council at Caffa Mill, the Diocese for the Churchyard.
4. Why was the pavilion at Squires Field being changed from a football changing area to a Community Hub/Library/IT facility? Plans for this had been in hand since the closure of Fowey Library and Fowey Junior Football Team had relinquished their lease of the pavilion as the Club had been unviable, even though FTC had chosen to waive the rent in the same way as had been the case with SFCC. The Squires Field Working Group were investigating the possibility of refurbishing the old Scout Hut by the playground for changing rooms.

5. Was the Town Clerk a member of the Town Team? No, not in the same way as FHC, Forum, Cllr Virr, Cllr Finlay (FTC representative), Fowey Chamber. The Town Clerk's role was to act as a liaison between the Team and the consultants and to give advice as required.

6. Why had Cllr Virr advised that Cornwall Council was seeking to sell Alldays Fields when the property was given to the people of Fowey? FTC had already raised this argument with CC but unfortunately legally, if not morally, CC owned the property as a result of the Local Government Act, which passed the ownership to Restormel and subsequently to CC. Other members of the public raised concerns about this situation, one stating that 'in his opinion CC were intent on destroying local landmarks.' However, CC had now contacted FTC and asked if the Council wished to acquire the property. This would be discussed later in the meeting, although it was likely that CC would not simply devolve the property and would expect to sell it to FTC. A member of the public repeated that the property had been given to the People of Fowey but that if there was a cost involved in reclaiming it she would lead a fundraising campaign and was confident that a significant sum could be raised. Cllr Finlay posed the question 'would the public present prefer the property to be owned by FTC or the National Trust' and Cllr Berryman pointed out that there was no vehicular access to the site and if it was owned by FTC there would be a cost involved for Fowey residents to cover. The general feeling was that the National Trust would be acceptable provided the site was protected in perpetuity for the People of Fowey, as had been the clear intention of Mr Allday the donor. Whilst not anticipating Councillors decision regarding the question posed by CC, which would be made later in the meeting, the Town Clerk suggested that the public should return to the next Council meeting in March, by which time hopefully CC's position would be clarified.

22/150 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 18th January 2023

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

22/151 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

22/152 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted

Town Hall & Quay – no report

Finance – no report

Environment – no report.

22/153 To receive Reports from FTC representatives on other bodies

No reports

22/154 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported:

The Community Levelling Up Programme was set up by the Government in November 2020 to invest in local infrastructure to help tackle deprivation, level up communities and support economic recovery. Two applications were recently submitted by Fowey Town Council to the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Good Growth Fund, which is part of the Levelling Up Programme, for improvements to the Town Gateway at the junction of New Road Hill/Hanson Drive/ Lostwithiel Street and for public IT provision at the renovated Squires Field Pavilion. Thank you to Town Clerk, Sally Vincent, and Cllr Ruth Finlay for the time and effort they put into

completing and submitting application forms by the deadline date of January 31st. We eagerly await the decisions!

I have include a call for nominations for the Spirit of Fowey Awards, which will be presented at the 2023 Mayor Making celebration, in my column in the Fowey News. Please let me know asap if you want anything else included.

22/155 To receive the Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported:

- The railings had arrived for Webb Street car park and notices had been fixed in the waste bins there advising owners to remove them or they would be removed by FTC. Cllr Berryman and Bob would now erect the railings.
- Together with the Mayor, she had met with representatives of the allotment association to discuss various issues.
- Two applications for Levelling Up funding had been submitted to Cornwall Council before the closing date of 31st January, one for the Town Gateway and one for the library and provision of public IT facilities at Squires Field pavilion.
- There had been problems with the door to the disabled toilet on Town Quay and the coinpay/cardpay system was not working. Bob had repaired the door frame, which had allowed the door to close but he had reported it was quite rotten and ideally needed replacing. For the moment the facility had been closed as out of order.
- A smart meter had been installed in the pillar serving the pay & display machine on Town Quay; hopefully this would resolve the issue of npower issuing huge estimated bills.
- A lady called Helen had contacted her to say that she had been clearing out her fathers effects and had found a 1937 Coronation Fowey souvenir programme and his Fowey Coronation mug. Her father had been born and lived in Fowey and Helen had asked if FTC would like to have both items. The Town Clerk had accepted gratefully on behalf of FTC.

22/156 To receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report

Cornwall Mayor & Devolution Deal I have been speaking with residents about the proposed Mayor for Cornwall and Devolution Deal. Please can I encourage residents to look at what is being offered – 390 million pounds new investment for the Duchy – including a 30-year guaranteed 370 million investment fund, 500k to develop a Cornwall Transport Plan, 8.7 million brownfield investment fund to support Cornwall's Housing Strategy (addressing the additional costs of using brownfield sites for housing schemes), 7 million to support affordable housing development and 3 million for heritage schemes. The Mayor would replace the current council leader and would be directly elected by residents. Initial additional costs of running the mayoral office would be supported by the government and future costs would be sought from central government in keeping with other mayoral locations. Mayors throughout the country provide a strong voice for their area and would be an internationally meaningful position to talk up our area and attract investment. I recommend it to the residents of Fowey.

Community Network Highway Schemes I met with traffic officers to discuss the results of the public consultation for the proposed all year-round parking restrictions on Hanson Drive – it was good to hear of the overwhelming support for the scheme. I look forward for the lines being painted shortly.

Gas Works Station Road Thanks to Wales & West Gas Utilities for their efficient work upgrading the gas mains and connections to properties on Station Road. It was good to see the project finishing ahead of time and for their safe management of the traffic. The reopening of the road is welcome.

Bishop Philip It was good to welcome Bishop Philip at Fowey church last month. Thanks to all the residents who attended this service to demonstrate the community support for the church.

22/157 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Hughes and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £ 7,275.61 be approved.

22/158 Correspondence

Correspondence was left 'on the table' for Councillors attention.

22/159 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

22/160 Squires Field Pavilion

Cllr Dellow reported that some final amendments/agreements were required to the architects drawings and he would arrange a site meeting as soon as possible to finalise these. The refurbishment work would then need to go out to tender and he asked the Town Clerk to confirm the correct process. The Town Clerk responded that she may need to consult Steve Sandercock, who had covered this aspect of the Masterplan process, and members agreed that this should be done if it proved necessary.

22/161 Lets Talk Cornwall

Members expressed concerns about the real advantages of having a Mayor for Cornwall and considered that there were, conversely, some real disadvantages and some facts had been misrepresented by Cornwall Council. Following discussion, it was agreed that it was unacceptable for such an important decision to be made by a few Cornwall Councillors and it was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded Cllr Hughes and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should respond to the consultation objecting to the proposal and requesting a referendum

22/162 The Coronation of King Charles 111

The Mayor was pleased to report that Fowey History Group are preparing to put on an exciting exhibition in celebration of the Coronation of King Charles III at Fowey Town Hall on Thursday 4th and Friday 5th of May. The group has been collecting information about what Fowey was like in the 1950's and the show will include personal memories and photographs of the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. They are also producing a commemoration booklet which will be available to buy at the exhibition. What an excellent start to the coronation weekend! Fowey Town Council is organising a celebration on the Town Quay on the evening of Friday 5th and there will be a Civic Service at the Parish Church on Sunday 7th. The Squires Field Community Centre are planning a celebration on Monday 8th details to follow.

22/163 Fowey Christmas Market

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had contacted Andrew at LESW following the January Council meeting and advised him of FTC's decision. Andrew had responded saying that margins were very tight and he would have to investigate as to whether he could continue with the Market. To date he had not confirmed his position, although she had tried to get an answer

prior to the meeting. Members agreed that FTC needed to know if he was going to continue as otherwise alternate providers would need to be investigated so the Town Clerk was asked to contact him again.

22/164 Alldays Fields

In response to the Cornwall Council consultation it was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that FTC should respond in the affirmative to the question ‘would the Town Council like an opportunity to acquire the property’ and the likely use of the asset would be public open space and possible rewilding/tree planting. Members also considered that CC should be reminded once again that Alldays Fields had been given to the People of Fowey.

22/165 Co-option of Councillors

The Town Clerk reported that she had received two expressions of interest before the closing date. Members agreed that the closing date should be extended to 15th March in the hope that additional applicants would come forward; the Mayor would put a reminder in her column in Fowey News.

22/166 Church/Town Clock

It was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded Cllr Hughes and RESOLVED that the expenditure required for repairs to the clock strike hammer be approved. Smiths of Derby had confirmed that this could be achieved before the Coronation.

22/167 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke had supplied the following report

We have been finalising the surveys for the community engagement phase - there is one for the general public and one more specific for the primary school/pre-school. We are just debating whether we need to tweak a third option for the secondary school; however we have worded them so they should make the collation of data straightforward. We have been putting posters up (kindly designed by Cllr Harris) in prominent areas asking people if they would like to be involved with the working group and advising that public consultation will follow soon. I was invited to a committee meeting at SFCC on the 6 February where I spoke about the working group and what we were trying to achieve. It was great to meet everyone and there was some excellent sharing of knowledge and suggestions for how we can revitalise the space. I also attended a Little Anchors social on Thursday 9 February where I was asked to speak about the working group and again there were some excellent ideas discussed. Our next meeting will be on Monday 27 February at 7:30pm.

22/168 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Berryman advised that he had invited 3 members of Lostwithiel Town Council to attend the Environment Committee meeting the following week to observe how the Committee operated. Cllr Hughes reported that the Museum electrical consumer unit needed replacing and a quote for the work had been obtained from James Dowrick. The Town Hall unit would also need attention in the near future and could potentially be replaced at the same time. It was agreed that this would be an agenda item at the next Town Hall & Quay meeting.

Date of Next Meeting

15th March 2023

Meeting Closed

7.56pm