

## **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 15<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2023 AT 7pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL**

#### **22/169 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, Cllr S Griffin, Cllr A Harris Guerrero,  
Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

#### **In Attendance**

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

#### **22/170 Apologies**

Cllr Mrs R Cooke

#### **22/171 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.

#### **22/172 Public Participation & Questions**

A member of the public posed the following queries.

1. What was happening about Alldays Fields? The Town Clerk responded that FTC's expression of interest had been lodged with CC.
2. What was the position regarding FTC's application for Levelling Up funding? The Town Clerk responded that CC had requested additional information, which had been supplied.
3. What criteria was used by FTC when co-opting Councillors? How did FTC decide who would be right for the position? The Town Clerk responded that applicants were interviewed and one of the questions always asked 'what strengths and knowledge do you think you could bring to the Council?'
4. Co-option was inappropriate, there should always be an election. The Town Clerk responded that if a seat/s was vacant following an election then legislation dictated that this should be filled by co-option; this was the case at present. However, if a serving Councillor resigned then the Electoral Office (not FTC) served notices advising that if ten parishioners called for an election then one would be held.
5. Why was the KOP allowed to control the Buttermarket, which was a public space? The Town Clerk responded that this had been investigated by solicitors several years previously and this had resulted in the area being shown as belonging to St Austell Brewery. She could not remember the exact details but Adam Luck would probably be able to clarify.
6. What was happening about the Mayor for Cornwall? The Town Clerk responded that she had replied to the consultation on behalf of FTC saying that a referendum must be held and the decision not left to a few Cornwall Councillors. Cllr Virr confirmed that the matter would be

before CC Cabinet on 4<sup>th</sup> April when it would be decided if the decision should be made by Cornwall Councillor vote or by a public poll.

7. What was happening about the KOP/RBL summer seating on Town Quay? The Town Clerk responded that this would be an agenda item later in the meeting when Councillors would make a decision.

8. Why was Fowey in the high tariff band for CC car parks? Cllr Virr responded that bands were governed by a number of factors including location and demand. Cornwall Council was facing huge pressures on its budget, which was why increasing the tariffs had been proposed.

9. Another member of the public reported that coaches were no longer coming to Fowey because of the difficulty in accessing main car park and the disgusting state of the public toilets there. Cllr Virr responded that the access issues for coaches had been addressed and he had never received any feedback to suggest that coaches were not coming to Fowey because of the toilets, although he accepted that there were often complaints about them. In reality car parks did not generate much revenue for CC, in fact were often loss-making, as they were expensive to maintain so investment had to be managed. The devolution of the toilets had been offered to FTC but not accepted. Cllr Hughes suggested that if the car park was loss making for CC then it should be devolved to FTC and managed locally, together with the toilets.

10. Another member of the public reported that a FOI request had been submitted to CC asking for sight of the original transfer deed relating to the gift of Alldays Field to 'the people of Fowey.'

11. Another member of the public queried why FTC was financing the repair of the Church bell. He considered that this should be the responsibility of the Church, which had ample funds to cover the cost. It was explained that FTC had accepted responsibility for the Church/Town clock but not for the Tower Bells. When the clock had stopped working the Church had taken the view that the clock belonged to the town and not the Church and many people in the town had petitioned for it to be repaired. One generous benefactor had donated a considerable sum to cover the initial work and following on from that FTC had resolved to take out an annual maintenance contract. Cllr Virr added that the clock played an important civic role in the town, it was not simply a Church clock.

#### **22/173 Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

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

#### **22/174 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

None.

#### **22/175 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees**

Planning – minutes noted

Town Hall & Quay – no report

Finance – no report

Environment – minutes noted

#### **22/176 To receive Reports from FTC representatives on other bodies**

Cornwall Association of Local Councils. The Mayor reported that, together with Cllr Berryman, she had attended the CALC AGM on 21<sup>st</sup> February at the Shire Hall in Bodmin. There had been a presentation about Cornwall's Climate Risk which is serious; higher temperatures, rising sea levels, coastal erosion, more droughts, wildfires and floods etc. Cornwall Council is adapting and developing existing plans now, and will provide more information about how communities

will need to adapt to these conditions. It's clear that we all need to engage in climate action. See Carbon Neutral Cornwall 2030 Hive.

### **22/177 To receive the Mayors Report**

The Mayor reported:

- I am sad to report that Community Bus organiser Colin Richards has died. He drove the Community Bus for many years and he will be greatly missed.
- After my request in the most recent Fowey News and in the last Council meeting I have received a number of nominations for the Spirit of Fowey awards. I will send a list for discussion at an appropriate time.
- On 3<sup>rd</sup> March I attended a meeting of the Fowey WI, where I was delighted to present a 60-year membership award and to speak about International Women's Day, which this year was on 8<sup>th</sup> March.
- The plaques for the Landmark tree and Platinum Jubilee tree have finally arrived and will be placed soon.

### **22/178 To receive the Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk reported:

- Further information had been requested in connection with FTC's applications for Levelling Up Funding. This had been supplied but the application process was difficult for a small town like Fowey without the resources of places such as Truro, Bodmin and Falmouth.
- She had received the promised Borough of Fowey 1937 Coronation Souvenir Programme from Helen.
- A Teams meeting had been called by Cormac for Friday 17<sup>th</sup> March; it appeared that this was to discuss potential designs/issues relating to seasonal pedestrianisation of Town Quay.
- Cllr Berryman would be erecting the railings in Webb Street Car Park in the rear future. Bob had agreed to help as Russell was only undertaking light duties at present.
- She had been chasing SW Water about the increasing frequency of the sewer cleaning activity on Town Quay and had received the following response. 'From a SWW point of view the frequency of these visits are a preventative intervention measure to reduce the risk of flooding, pollutions, blockages and breakdowns at the SPS etc. The frequency is also governed by the pre CCTV surveys that identify levels of FOG and grit etc. in the sewer and SPS wet well. It is probably worth mentioning that sewer misuse continues to be one of the biggest drivers where the sewers continue to be affected by FOG (fats, oil and grease) This is a combination of private households and business premises, cafes, restaurants, food outlets etc. putting stuff down the sewer that they shouldn't.' She had responded to this saying that this didn't really answer the question posed but had yet to receive a further response.

### **22/179 To receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor**

Cllr Virr gave the following report

Colin Richards It was very sad to hear of the death of Colin Richards. Colin was very generous with his time – making numerous journeys with the Community Bus and tending to the gardens and public spaces around his house. He will be greatly missed.

Fowey Co-Op I welcome the planning permission given by the Cornwall Council Central Planning Committee. I note the overwhelming support expressed by the committee with 8 votes

cast for and 1 abstention only. I appreciate this decision will not please everyone, but I hope on balance it will be of great benefit for the town.

Ev Charging Points Main Car Park & Caffa Mill Cornwall Council has been installing new electric vehicle charging points in both Main Car Park and Caffa Mill. These are welcome to encourage move towards electric vehicle use and will benefit our visitors.

Tavern Barn Cul-de-sac Resurfacing / Kerb Works Works are planned for Tavern Barn Cul-de-sac this month to repair and improve the kerb / pavement in that location.

Visitors / Easter Bookings It has been good to see the town busy again with visitors and businesses are reporting holiday lets and B&Bs being full for the Easter period. This is welcome news for the local tourism economy.

Alldays Field Conversations continue between Cornwall Council and potential buyers of the Alldays Field. I have received a number of letters from residents giving their support for the National Trust taking on the ownership of the field. It is hoped that the owner will declare the land as inalienable (meaning it can never be sold).

#### **22/180 Accounts for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Hughes and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £9,730.40 be approved.

#### **22/181 Correspondence**

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

#### **22/182 Resolutions from Councillors**

None.

#### **22/183 Squires Field Pavilion**

Cllr Dellow reported that, together with the Mayor and Cllr Finlay, he had met with the architect on site and agreed some small revisions to the drawings. When these had been done the project should be able to move on to the next stage.

#### **22/184 The Coronation of King Charles 111**

The Mayor reported on arrangements for far

- Two Day Photography Exhibition by Fowey History Group Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May and Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May in the Town Hall.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Fowey Armed Forces Day Community Flag Relay Event 3pm-4pm on Town Quay. Music and light refreshments for participants still to be arranged.
- Friday 5<sup>th</sup> May. Fowey Town Council Celebration on the Quay. Civic Procession, Trigg Morris, music and Beacon.
- Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> May 1pm-4pm Free community drawing workshop on the Town Quay weather permitting, or in the Town Hall if wet.
- Sunday 7<sup>th</sup> May. Civic Service.
- Monday 8<sup>th</sup> May. Coronation Fayre from 12 noon until 4pm at SFCC. There will be a Kings and Queens fancy dress competition with a parade, prizes and a cake competition, the emphasis on the coronation. There will also be a photographic display of Fowey royalty (Carnival Queens from the 50's on wards) a huge variety of stalls and cream teas, more details to follow
- She had investigated the option of Coronation mugs but the difficulty was how to choose who should receive them given the relatively high price. The option of giving

one to all the children in the pre-school and primary school would mean an outlay of over £1,000. It was agreed that further research was needed before making a decision.

**22/185 Fowey Christmas Market**

The Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed dates for the 2023 Market were 8<sup>th</sup>, 9<sup>th</sup> 10<sup>th</sup> December. LESW were now in the process of attracting sponsors and hopefully would soon be in a position to commit to the event.

**22/186 Alldays Fields**

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had registered FTC's interest in re-acquiring the property and had spoken to the Property Surveyor at Cornwall Council earlier in the day for an update. It appeared that Cornwall Council was still considering FTC's request and would be looking to set up a meeting to discuss the way forward.

**22/187 Election of Mayor Elect**

The Town Clerk reported that she had received a nomination for Cllr Lynn Simms, proposed Cllr Cooke, seconded Cllr Day. In the absence of Cllr Cooke it was proposed by Cllr Harris Guerrero, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that Cllr Simms should be elected Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2023/2024.

**22/188 Election of Deputy Mayor Elect**

The Town Clerk reported that she had not received any nominations for Deputy Mayor Elect. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Harris Guerrero seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Hughes should be elected as Deputy Mayor Elect for the Civic Year 2023/2024.

**22/189 2023 Off-Street Parking Order**

Having studied the proposals prior to the meeting, members raised concerns that Fowey was in the highest tariff band. It appeared that this was because Fowey is a coastal, tourist town like St Ives and Padstow and members felt that local people were being disadvantaged by this. Cllr Finlay added that the intention was to introduce winter charging at Readymoney car park, which was used regularly by allotment holders and local people during the off-season. Cllr Griffin noted that increased tariffs may be an opportunity for the school to generate additional income for parking provision during the school holidays if the facility was advertised correctly. After further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that FTC should respond to the consultation objecting to the increased tariffs and the proposal to introduce winter charging at Readymoney, which would impact negatively on local people. In addition, both proposals would inevitably result in an increase in on-road parking, which was already a serious problem in Fowey.

**22/190 Arrangements for the Annual Parish Meeting**

Having discussed arrangements were agreed as follows

- The APM would be held on 19<sup>th</sup> April following short FTC/planning meetings.
- Wine and pasties would be offered to attendees and Cllr Patterson would also provide some flapjacks and brownies.
- Other organisations in the town, such as the Forum/Chamber/Lions, would be invited to attend and give a short, 5 minute presentation.

- The Mayor, Committee Chairmen and Cllr Virr would give their Annual Reports and members of the public were encouraged to attend and raise questions on any topic of their choice.

### **22/191 Co-option of Councillors**

The Town Clerk had been unable to set up interviews to date but had received a further expression of interest earlier in the day. It was agreed to try to find a suitable date for interviews prior to the APM.

### **22/192 Outside Seating on Town Quay Summer 2023**

Members discussed this issue at some length and it was noted that when the outside seating in the centre of the quay had been initiated it was in response to the pandemic when people were not allowed to sit inside public houses. It was noted that the KOP had use of the disabled space by the Buttermarket for outside seating but that the RBL had no such facility. Cllr Harris Guerrero queried if there was scope for the RBL, which was predominately a locals venue, to have 2/3 small tables to the right of their steps, which could be removed to accommodate quay events as necessary. Cllr Finlay noted that the Masterplan consultation had shown clearly that local people did not want commercial tables in the centre of the quay, this was a public area for precept paying parishioners to enjoy. After further discussion it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded Cllr Dellow and RESOLVED that licences should not be granted to the KOP or the RBL to use the centre of the quay but that the possibility of granting a licence to the RBL to occupy a small area against the wall of their building would be further explored. Voting was unanimous.

### **22/193 Squires Field Working Group**

Cllr Cooke had supplied the following report, which Cllr Harris Guerrero delivered on her behalf.

We have had a very productive month finalising the surveys to go out to the community. We are hoping to go live with it at the end of this week, both in paper and online format. Alan and I filmed a short video for social media explaining about the working group and raising awareness about the survey process; this will go live at the same time. I would like to express my thanks to the members of the working group for all their time and hard work getting us to this point; their energy and commitment on this project is very much appreciated.

In relation to the video, which members had previously viewed and agreed was excellent, it was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded Cllr Patterson and RESOLVED that it should be published on Facebook.

Paper copies of the survey were also needed and it was proposed by Cllr Griffin, seconded Cllr Harris Guerrero and RESOLVED that the quote obtained by Cllr Cooke for colour copies should be accepted.

### **22/194 Questions/Reports from Members**

Cllr Day queried why a bus stop had suddenly appeared outside Readymoney car park? Both Cllr Virr and the Town Clerk responded that they knew nothing about it.

**Date of Next Meeting**                      19<sup>th</sup> April 2023

**Meeting Closed**                              8.21pm