

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting
held on Wednesday 19th April 2023 in Fowey Town Hall

22/210 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 A Dellow
Cllr R Finlay
Cllr S Griffin
Cllr Y Patterson

22/211 In attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr A Virr
Mrs Melissa Hartwell, Fowey Forum
Ms Lucy Daniel, Fowey Chamber
7 members of the public

22/212 Apologies None

22/213 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 26th May 2022

The minutes had been confirmed for accuracy on 15th June 2022. It was proposed by Cllr Hughes, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted and signed by the Chairman

22/214 Matters Arising not on the Agenda

None

22/215 Annual Report of the Town Council – Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms

This has been a momentous year.

In June 2022 the country celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In September the town mourned the death of HM Queen Elizabeth II and proclaimed King Charles III, and soon we will celebrate the Coronation.

Alongside these events of national importance Fowey Town Council has continued to work for the benefit of the people of Fowey.

In June 2022 Fowey Town Council supported the successful community celebrations to mark the Queen's Platinum Jubilee.

In addition we hosted a reception at the Fowey British Legion for the crew of HMS Montrose, our affiliated Royal Navy ship. We were privileged to be joined on the evening by the Fowey Ladies Gig Rowing team who had recently become the World Champions at the 2022 Isles of Scilly World Pilot Gig Championship.

At the June council meeting we resolved that the Old Grammar School Gardens would be the site of the Rachel Sculpture created by sculptor John Doubleday and commissioned for the Town by Richard Ryan. The sculpture should be in place by September of this year.

In July FTC endorsed the Safe Harbour and Fowey River Academy Art Project to create a mural for the wall opposite the Safe Harbour pub and agreed to make a donation of £100 towards the cost of materials.

In October FTC and the Community Chest fund of Cornwall Council each made a donation of £300 to support the purchase of a much needed defibrillator for the village of Polkerris. This project is on going with regular fund raising events planned to ensure that money is available for the maintenance of the defibrillator.

Also in October FTC resolved that a water refill station be installed near to the original 1787 water fountain at the Town Hall. This has been funded by the charity 'Our Only World' and Cornwall Council. We believe this is important for the Town and its marine environment because it will help to eliminate the use of plastic bottles and therefore aid the regeneration of marine life. It also re enforces our commitment to improve the environment.

In November SFCC asked FTC to consider a donation towards the provision of affordable hot meals and a warm space at the centre. The lunch club has happened at SFCC on Wednesday afternoons during the winter and has been vital in helping members of the community deal with the rising cost of living. FTC made a donation of £300 towards the energy cost required to support this provision.

On the evening of 2nd December I attended the official viewing of the Safe Harbour Art Project. The art looked excellent and has definitely brightened up the area. Thanks go to the young artists, the Art Department of Fowey River Academy and to school governor Claire Hoddinott and Gretchen Viehmann for organising this.

The Fowey Christmas Market was again a great success thanks to Andrew Weaver from LESW, Cllr Andy Virr, Alan Giles the Town Crier and the many local volunteers. I would especially like to thank Tony Bartlett and his team for organizing the Christmas lights. The whole weekend had a wonderful atmosphere and the shops and businesses benefited enormously from the large amount of visitors to the Town.

At the March Council Meeting the Town Clerk confirmed that the proposed dates for the 2023 Market were 8th, 9th 10th December and that LESW were now in the process of attracting sponsors and would hopefully soon be in a position to commit to the event.

Following the resolution made in October to site a water refill station near to the Town Hall we were prevented from progressing this because of the Town Hall's grade II listing. However I am delighted to report that following a meeting on 13th January with myself, Tina Robinson from 'Our Only World',

Angus Borthwick from SW Water and Brett Daniel from Fowey River Hire, Brett has agreed to site it at Caffa Mill. It will be installed soon.

At our March Council meeting we set out the plans for the Coronation Celebrations which will include a Coronation exhibition by the Fowey History Group at the Town Hall on 4th and 5th of May. On May 5th we have a Flag Relay event in the run up to Armed forces day on June 24 and on the same evening there will be music by Ryp an Mor and dance with the Trigg Morris on the Town Quay. A special Civic Service to celebrate the Coronation will be held at 10.30 at the parish church, and on May 8th SFCC have organised a Coronation Fayre. A fitting end to a busy year.

Finally, I want to thank Deputy Mayor Cllr Patrick Hughes and all my fellow councillors for their dedication and hard work during this 2022/2023 session and to thank Town Clerk, Sally Vincent, for her wise and efficient management of the Council's affairs.

22/216 Annual Report of the Planning Committee –Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay

2022-2023 has proven to be another challenging year for Fowey Town Council's planning Committee. There have been 68 applications during the year, of which the planning committee had 'no objections' to 55, 4 were deferred back to Cornwall Council or the developer for more information and there were 9 'objections'.

Cornwall Council is the statutory body who can pass or reject planning applications. Once a planning application has been registered, letters from Cornwall Council will be sent to immediate neighbours. Which is someone whose property adjoins the proposed site, not someone who lives up the road or opposite; if you are a neighbour, the letter will inform you on how to provide comments. It will let you know that you have 21 days to comment. Members of the public can also speak at the monthly planning meeting as well as put comments online; indeed public comments are invaluable to the committee and are always referred to.

As a committee we can pass 'No objection,' or 'Objection' or ask for more information. If we disagree with the Cornwall Council Planning officer we can ask to take the Planning application to the Cornwall Council Planning committee. Unfortunately, this year on a number of occasions we have been unable to get the support from Cornwall Council to bring some of these important applications, which in our opinion will affect the residents of Fowey, to be considered by the larger committee, rather than decided by a CC planning officer under delegated powers.

An increasing concern of the Planning Committee are the number of applications for complete demolition and rebuilding, which is certainly helped by the fact that demolition and a new dwelling benefits from 0% VAT while renovation and extension work is usually standard rate of 20% VAT.

Demolition of a house is not only very inconvenient to neighbouring properties; it is environmentally unsustainable and is also changing the appearance of parts of our town. Historic England, the body responsible for listing historic buildings, said 'reusing and responsibly adapting our existing buildings, rather than demolishing and building new, can be a powerful way to reduce our carbon footprint.' 'The embodied carbon within existing buildings

would not be lost through demolition nor would further carbon emissions be produced through transportation and use of new materials. Whilst there is a place and need for new construction, we should recognise the environmental benefits of re-use and look creatively at retrofitting or repurposing historic buildings before automatically building new.’

The Cornwall Local Plan and local Neighbourhood Plans will require revisions by 2030 to reflect changes to national legislation and local changes in Cornwall since it was written in 2016; the Plan will also need to have a more robust approach to Climate Change and use by developers of demolition.

Fowey Town Council Planning Committee has also had some extremely large and complex applications such as the Fowey Hall Hotel development, and the development of a convenience store on the outskirts of Fowey; Fowey Town Council have the unenviable job to juggle the difficult requirements of supporting businesses such as hospitality, the needs of our residents, while monitoring the impact of development on our precious Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty status.

I believe we try to be fair and treat every application equally, reviewing it within the framework of Planning Legislation as laid out by central government, the Cornwall Local Plan and our own Fowey Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Finally, I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work over the past year, and the sheer number of applications which can take days to read through, onsite visits, discussions with planners etc. which we have had to deal with this year.

22/217 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms

The Environment Committee is responsible for organising the upkeep of the Green spaces in Fowey and looks for opportunities to protect the natural environment. In addition the committee makes monthly safety checks to the play equipment in the park and arranges repairs when necessary. Committee members take on individual responsibility for specific areas and make regular reports to our meetings. We also have a Tree Warden, Cllr Frances Day, who keeps us updated on the health and protection of our locals trees and arranges tree planting.

This year we commissioned repairs to the brick circle at Piggy Lane Triangle and removal of tree growth from the cliff edge in the Old Grammar School Gardens.

In June we met with John Doubleday, the Sculptor of the Rachel Statue, in the Old Grammar School Gardens and identified a site for this sculpture in the upper part of the garden. I am pleased to say that it was resolved at the June Council meeting that this should go ahead. The proposed installation date is September.

At the September meeting it was resolved that the Water Refill station should be sited outside the Town Hall and this was subsequently agreed at the October Council Meeting. However for various reasons the water station will now be sited at Caffa Mill

As part of our environmental growth plan the committee has planted a number of trees at Squires Field. Including an oak donated by the Fowey WI and an acer provided by Fowey Town Council in honour of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. In November we planted our Landmark tree, a copper beech, supplied by Forest for Cornwall.

In order to increase biodiversity black bees have been introduced into the communal orchard area adjacent to the allotments. The scheme had been agreed by allotment holders and the Environment Committee has recently resolved that the hives should be licensed. This has now been actioned.

A donation of £75 was made to Tim Caulfield from Edible Fowey towards the establishment of a wildflower area in the Plantation Garden.

We are now in the process of organising an Environmental Awareness day for September.

I am pleased to report that in order to develop ideas for improving Squires Field for the benefit the local community the Town Council approved the formation of a Squires Field Working Group, led by Cllr Rhianna Cooke. Cllr Cooke is a very apt person to lead on this because she already manages the upkeep of the playground and the surrounding green space. At the moment the Working Group, which comprises of Councillors and non-Councillors, is consulting the community for their views. The Working Group reports monthly to full Council. None of this would have happened without the enthusiastic efforts of the Environment Committee members. I would like to thank them all for their hard work and support, with particular thanks due to Cllr Frances Day for recording our minutes so professionally.

22/218 To receive the Financial Report – Cllr John Berryman Esq

As a Council we are always trying to improve the town and this, I'm afraid, costs. We are very fortunate that the assets we have managed to recover from Cornwall Council over the years are now earning the Council in the region of £77,000 per year, which is a direct saving on the precept but this is a delicate process as we strive to realise a commercial income without putting the businesses under too much financial pressure

The money allocated last year for the recovery from CC of the Windmill area has been repeated this year, but the question of when this might happen is a completely different matter.

The development of the pavilion at Squires Field is progressing well and will be of extreme benefit to the community, hopefully commencing construction this summer

The latest financial consideration is the chance to regain Alldays Field from CC. The chances of a direct transfer for a peppercorn figure are probably remote, so we will have to enter a purchase figure. The advantage of an outright purchase is that it should come to us without any conditions. As a Council we would like to assume we have the backing of our elected Cornwall Councillor in this quest.

We have applied for two levelling up grants, one of which has been successful. Hours of work went into their preparation for which we have to thank our Mayor and Cllr. Finlay and, it goes without saying, our Town Clerk

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Committee the members for their commitment during a year in what turned out to be somewhat different from the one budgeted for.

20/219 Annual Report of the Town Hall & Quay Committee – Cllr Patrick

Hughes Esq

At the Christmas Market we had the Artists and Makers Fair in the Town Hall. Special thanks to Paul Finlay for helping to organise this and publicise it with the local art groups. Also, to Stuart Law for creating the flyer/advert we used. Our idea was to have high quality arts and crafts, produced locally and for the stalls to be affordable. With Webb Street becoming part of the main market, local artists and crafters found they were not able to afford to be a part of the market weekend. It was a great success and we'll run it again this year.

We have had a wedding and a reception in the Town Hall and have some more booked for the year ahead. It's been used for special celebration parties too and we're hopeful bookings will pick up in the year ahead. Fowey is a beautiful place to get married and to enjoy and form of celebration whether a marriage ceremony, the reception, a birthday party, or anniversary; the venue is also available for naming ceremonies, renewal of vows and other civil ceremonies. The Town Hall is an affordable venue open to all.

We've had the main electrics for the Town Hall and Museum updated and have cleared the office room. In the Town Hall itself we still need to replace the pelmet and tidy the stage lighting.

On the Quay the Festoon Lights have been repaired and we've arranged for fresh flowers to go in the planters for the summer.

Fowey Festival will be here in May with lots of lovely events and speakers.

Many people have asked about improving the access to the Town Hall. To do it properly will be a big project and we'll need some outside funding. Over the next year we want to develop ideas on what can be done so we can start to apply for funds and develop plans once the pavilion at Squires Field has been finished. The best idea so far has been for an internal lift and reconfiguring the toilets downstairs, but we need to see if this is possible.

In March we had a cake sale again to raise awareness and funds for Ukraine. Over £1,400 was raised. Thank you so much to everyone who supported this by baking cakes or coming and buying and eating the cakes.

Thankyou to Andrew, Yvette, Frances and Lesley for all their hard work during the year.

22/220 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr Andrew Virr Esq

Cornwall Council Representation I represent Fowey on Cornwall Council and also serve on the Cornwall Council's Cabinet as Portfolio Holder for Adults (Adult Social Care and Public Health). Key services your council tax pays for includes maintenance of the Highways, Adult Social Care, Safeguarding children and adults, housing, refuse and waste collection, and much more. I am pleased to report that the recently adopted budget for the coming year was a balanced budget and included a £25 million increase in spending on vulnerable children and adults.

Fowey Supermarket I welcome the decision of Cornwall Council's Planning Committee's to support the application for a new, much needed supermarket in Fowey. I am expecting the Co-Op shop to be open within the next year.

Devolution Waterside The devolution of the Fowey Waterside is in the final stages of the legal agreement. I welcome the prospect of Fowey Harbour Commissioners owning, repairing, and revitalising the waterfront including Caffa Mill Boat Launch and Whitehouse Beach area.

Highway Schemes The Community Network supports small scale highway projects. Over the next few months, a new stretch of no-parking will be extended along Hanson Drive to improve traffic and pedestrian safety and encourage parking instead in the nearby car parks.

Car Park Charges Review & Outcome Cornwall Council has just this week completed its Car Parking Charges review. I am pleased to report that following representation Caffa Mill will be in Zone B rather than Zone A, reducing car parking charges, Readymoney parking will remain free over the winter period, evening charges will only be £2 rather than the proposed £2.50 and the Multi-Use Parking ticket (24-hour period parking) will only rise from £1.75 to £2.50 a day, rather than the advertised £5 charge.

Fowey Regeneration I am grateful for the hard work of the Fowey Town Team who developed ideas, consulted with the general public, and are now working on delivering some exciting improvements for the Town. I am delighted that the Fowey Gateway scheme has been successful in winning funding for works to both make pedestrian road crossing safer and reduce the traffic inadvertently driving down Lostwithiel Street through narrowing the road width and changing the colour of the road surface.

Businesses & Tourism It is encouraging to see the Town businesses thriving and holiday let properties full. Fowey even has a new Wine Merchant and I welcome Johns to the High Street.

Christmas Market / Regatta / Food Week / Festival / Remembrance / Carol Services Thanks to all the tireless work of volunteers who have laboured over the numerous events that are put on each year. These all contribute to the culture and community cohesion of our beloved town.

Thanks to Fowey Town Council Many thanks for the hard work and public service of Fowey Town Councillors.

22/221 Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

None

22/222 To receive the Police Report

PCSO Jamie Ward had supplied the following report

A general overview of the current policing setup on Neighbourhood;

Neighbourhood Team Leader Sergeant Ian Chambers

Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC Jason Gosling

Neighbourhood Beat Manager PC Craig Boundy

PCSO Graham Wade

PCSO Jamie Ward

Current Force Priorities;

Reducing Crime and Bringing Offenders to Justice

Protecting People from Harm

Improving Satisfaction in Policing Services
Maintaining Visibility, Engagement and Problem Solving in Communities
Meeting Relevant National Policing Requirements
Apologies that we don't have more of an official report for the parishes but without a system to access the data and figures it hampers how much we can provide. I have been assured that new systems are soon to be implemented.

22/223 Report of the Squires Field Working Group – Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke

Squires Field Working Group (SFWG) was set up in September 2022 to look at ways in which we can enhance the recreational space at Squires Field.

Who are we?

We are a group of councillors and willing volunteers who meet once a month/every six weeks to work on the project.

What are we trying to do?

The project came about due to the fact that the play area equipment in the top part of the play area has reached the end of its serviceable life and needs to be replaced. SFWG has been put together to affect this change through the process of surveying the children and residents of Fowey to establish the local need; once this has been done we will be in a position to apply for funding to implement any changes. Examples of change could be: more seating, a MUGA, a pump track, additional play area equipment, a walkway around the entirety of the field, more trees etc, a sensory area, outdoor fitness equipment.

Where are we at currently?

The survey has been live since 17 March 2023 - both online and in paper copy. A video is on Facebook explaining the survey process. Paper copies are available from SFCC, Top Shop and Park Road Post Office. There is a survey for residents, and a separate one for both the children at Fowey Primary School and children at Fowey River Academy. We encourage everyone to fill in a survey as then we can collate people's views and ideas. We have had an encouraging amount of responses so far. Once the survey has closed at the end of April 2023 the working group will analyse the results and then we will go out to public consultation to present the survey findings. Once we have established what the children and residents of Fowey would like we will then be a position to apply for funding.

I would like to thank the members of the working group for all their hard work and dedication so far; it is an utter privilege to work with such a motivated and knowledgeable group of people who all wish to make a positive difference for the children and residents of Fowey. I am excited about what we can achieve.

22/224 Presentation from Fowey Forum – Mrs Melissa Hartwell

Thank you for asking me here this evening to give members some information about the Fowey Town Forum.

Hopefully some of you will have heard of us and perhaps have an idea of what we do. In fact many predecessors on the Fowey Town Council were leading lights in the Forum. The Forum has therefore been in existence for many, many years and meets once a month (except in August). It has a constitution, a bank account and is recognised as an independent local body made up of representatives of various local organisations. It has an existence which sometimes makes it eligible for funding, not available to the Town Council

Its objectives are

1. To promote social, cultural and economic development of Fowey for the benefits of the inhabitants of Fowey.
2. To promote the history and culture of the area
3. To enhance and preserve the attractiveness of Fowey
4. To act as a forum for matters of interest and importance to the community and
5. To co-ordinate the views of sections of the community and identify common areas for development.

The committee, try as best it can, is constituted of representatives of the community ...we have a representative of the Town Council in Yvette, one from Cornwall Council being Andy Virr, one from the chamber of commerce, which is Lucy Daniel and one from the college. Sadly, in recent years we have not been able to get a representative from the Academy. There is a provision for up to 10 other representatives of other community organisations. At present to give you some idea of the coverage , we have a rep from the Fowey Festival , The regatta committee , the Squires Field community centre , The WI , Fowey in Bloom to name but a few .

Ok ...so that is the set up BUT what do we do???

When I first joined the Forum in about 2010 the Forum had been working with the Town Council and had prepared the Fowey Parish Plan, the forerunner to a Neighbourhood Development Plan and were just completing a large heritage project for which the Forum had received grant funding from Europe. Twelve heritage board were created and they still exist around Town giving visitors the history and culture of the area and the training of several Blue Badge Guides was about to commence as part of that funding. Since then other projects have included carrying out an extensive traffic survey over 6 months that was used as evidence to Cornwall Council of the problems primarily experienced by visitors to Fowey because of the signage. That report from Cornwall Council concluded that the signage was “ambiguous and extremely unhelpful to the visitor” - members of the Town Council will know that that report assisted the Town Council in forcing through the recent signage changes which have made some improvements.

The Forum worked alongside the FREE project to try to get renewable energy adopted on farm and other buildings in Fowey. Sadly we were ahead of our times on that one!

Over the years the Forum have painted benches and organised the painting of the benches all around Fowey and this has just been relaunched for 2023 for a push to repair and repaint before the season gets really started.

Then there was the buggy way marker scheme which has made a huge difference to those with buggies or just those wishing to avoid the 50 steps into Town from the Town Centre car park.

The Plantation Gardens rejuvenation and maintenance is a Forum project and has brought joy to countless locals and visitors alike by the many people who use it regularly or just come upon by accident.

The Forum also, in the summer, distributes 5000 Town Guides to strategically placed boxes put up by the Forum throughout Town; they have put up and maintained half a dozen community notice boards (Squires Field,

the top and bottom of St Catherine's parade, the bus stop at Safe Harbour for example.)

The Forum also cleared the Rashleigh Mausoleum of vegetation and painted the railings and got together a working party to refurbish and paint the gates at the top of St Catherine's parade.

We have campaigned for improvements to roads and have added florescent rail markings where necessary.

And finally, as the members will know, the Forum comment upon planning applications and are an independent voice representing a large contingency of the community.

In our activities, sometimes verging slightly on guerrilla tactics, we always try to support the Town Council and the thankless tasks they have to deal with.

22/225 Presentation from Fowey Chamber of Commerce – Ms Lucy Daniel

Lucy explained the aims and role of the Chamber and was pleased to report that membership was increasing. Of particular note, the Chamber had once again organised a very successful Fowey Food Week.

22/226 Public Participation

A member of the public confirmed that most of the questions she had been intending to pose had already been answered during the meeting but queried the following

- Could Cllr Virr clarify if main Car Park was still in Zone A? Cllr Virr confirmed that this was the case.
- Could something be done about all the people milling about on the highway outside North Street Kitchen? Cllr Virr queried if this was the result of people queueing and this was answered in the affirmative. Cllr Virr agreed to speak to the business owners to try to identify a solution.
- The management at Haverners had given assurances that their tables/planters were not extending outside their permitted leased boundary but she was doubtful that this was the case. The Town Clerk noted that she had recently spoken to Haverners about this and they had confirmed to her that they were operating within their boundary. The Town Clerk undertook to supply the measurements so that this could be checked.
- It was noted that a petition 'Save our Seats' had been handed to Cllr Finlay just before the APM. However, she had not signed it as she was not prepared to be blackmailed into doing so.

Meeting Closed 7.50am