

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 MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT FOWEY TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 27th MARCH 2023 @ 6.00pm.**

Minutes taken by Cllr Mrs Frances Day

Present: Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms (Chair), Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke, Cllr Mrs Frances Day and Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay.

1} **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Scott Griffin, Cllr Alan Harris-Guerrero and Cllr Patrick Hughes.

2} **Declarations of interest**

- (a) **Pecuniary:** None
- (b) **Non pecuniary:** None
- (c) **Dispensations:** 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 20th February 2023**

It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded by Cllr Finlay and RESOLVED that the Minutes of the previous meeting be confirmed and signed by the Chairman as a true record.

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)**

There had been an offer from Rebecca Dickson at Cormac advising that there may be funding (via the F4C team) for support for community groups who either want to plant trees, or would like support to maintain trees that have already been planted. This is a 12 month window and obviously there were no guarantees that funding would be provided. It was good that Fowey Town Council objected to an application to fell a large beech tree with a TPO on it on the border between 45 Passage Street and Place. It wasn't clear where the tree was standing - both Place and the owners of 45 Passage Street claimed it was growing on their ground. Insufficient information had been provided by the owners of 45 Passage Street and the Planning Committee has asked for an expert opinion, as is required for all trees with a TPO.

7} **Specific areas of responsibility**

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

- *Old Grammar School Gardens:* Cllr Finlay: Peter Underwood had already cut back the vegetation along the cliff edge for a charge of £200. This would need doing twice a year, and he would be asked to do another cut, soon, ideally in the current financial year. The coin collection box for donations needed mending, and Cllr Finlay offered to contact Chris Biggs to see if he could quote for carrying out the necessary repairs. An information board welcoming visitors to the garden was suggested.
- *Piggy Lane Triangle:* Cllr Finlay: Nothing much to report; the daffodils there are looking beautiful at present.
- *Pretty Bus Stop:* This was looking good. Fowey in Bloom would replace the planters there shortly.
- *Allotments:* Cllr Finlay: This would be discussed under item (13).
- *Local maintenance partnership (footpaths):* Cllr Finlay: Maintenance contract would continue as previously.
- *Agency agreements, weed killing/grass cutting:* Cllr Finlay: All happening as it should. Maintenance contract to continue.
- *Squires Field:* Cllr Cooke: To be discussed under item (8).

8} **Squires Field Play Area**

The goal posts had been removed as they had been found to have rotted through due to corrosion. It was hoped they could be replaced in due course. Cllr Cooke had a quotation from Andy Inglefield of £1,066 to top up soil and pressure wash slippery areas in the Playground as necessary to maintain safety standards. It was proposed by Cllr Simms, seconded by Cllr Day and RESOLVED that this quotation should be accepted.

The Working Group to ascertain public ideas for the future of the Playground, had now gone live. Cllr Cooke would shortly be distributing paper copies of a survey around the Town. The survey was available online and it was pleasing that some positive feedback had already been received and it was hoped there would be a good response.

9} **Allocation of Contracts**

- A quotation had been received for 2023/24 for the ROSPA work from Cormac for ground maintenance of £3,945, which was an increase of 4%.
- The Cormac quotation for fortnightly safety visits to the Playground of £968 had been beaten by Andy Inglefield, who had come in at £910.
- It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded by Cllr Simms and RESOLVED that the Cormac quote of £3,945 be accepted, and the £910 offered by Andy Inglefield should also be approved.
- OGS/G/Piggy Lane: Discussed under item (7).
- The Waste Management contract for Squires Field had been quoted for by Cormac at an increased cost of £4,222. This represented an increase of 11% on the previous year's prices, but it was nevertheless proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Simms and RESOLVED this it should be accepted.

10} **Rachel Sculpture**

Cllr Simms handed round a detailed letter from Richard Ryan showing significant progress with the creation of the Rachel sculpture. This was very pleasing as the project had been some years in coming near fruition. Cllr Finlay would ask Peter Underwood if he would consider making the plinth for the statue. Exact requirements on the required dimensions/specifications would follow, and it was felt these would be needed by June if the plinth were to be created by the proposed installation date of September this year. The Trustees of the Old Grammar School Gardens were to be notified of the plans for the statue. The figure would be smaller than originally envisaged and would be cast in bronze. Road closure and the hire of a crane would be needed to facilitate the actual placement of the statue in the Gardens.

11} **Review Budget 2022/2023**

Cllr Simms circulated some budgetary information. £19,585 had been spent out of a budget of £21,440. Some known expenditure on the Playground and Old Grammar Gardens had not yet been paid for and it was thought the year end would show the budget to have been very accurate.

12} **Environmental Growth Plan**

Environmental Awareness Day: This might take place in September, to allow time for detailed planning. It would be themed to celebrate Coronation Year and the environmental awareness of the King. Initiatives that might form part of the day could include:

- Refreshments on stage in Town Hall.
- Prickles and Paws had indicated they were keen to be involved to promote hedgehog welfare.
- Claire Hoddinott from Friends of the Fowey Estuary, who had been very successful at the previous environmental day.
- Tuition for children from the local schools in making bug hotels or bird boxes, which could be on display.
- Surfers against sewage, to include hunt by children for plastic nurdles on the beach.
- Edible Fowey
- Bio diversity
- Rivers and seas
- RSPB
- Woodland Trust
- Friends of the Earth

13} **Beekeeping at Readymoney Allotments**

This had been considered in detail at the previous meeting. In the meantime, plans to keep hives of Cornish black bees in the communal orchard area adjacent to the allotments had advanced. The scheme had been agreed by allotment holders and the Environment Committee was required to license the hives. A copy of the license had been circulated and it seemed very comprehensive, including requirements for hive owners to be members of the Cornwall Beekeepers' Association and insurance. It was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Day and RESOLVED that the hives should be licensed in the orchard area of the allotments.

14} **To Receive Reports from Members:**

Cllr Simms had been asked to arrange for the commemorative Hanson stone at the top of St Catherine's Parade to be cleaned. Peter Underwood might be asked to look at this and recommend a course of action.

15} **Proposed date of next meeting**

This could not be agreed until after the Annual Meeting, when Committee membership might change.

There being no further business, the meeting closed @ 7.05 pm.