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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL  
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT FOWEY TOWN HALL ON  
MONDAY 24th JULY 2023 @ 6.00pm.**

Minutes taken by Cllr Mrs Frances Day

**Present:** Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms, Cllr Mrs Rhianna Cooke, Cllr Mrs Frances Day, Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay and Cllr Alan Harris-Guerrero.

**In attendance:** Cllr Colin Gibbon

1} **Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Cooke and unanimously agreed that Cllr Simms be elected as Chairman.

2} **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Scott Griffin and Cllr Patrick Hughes.

3} **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.

4} **Public Participation/Questions**

There were none.

4} **Minutes of the meeting held on 27th March 2023**

It was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Cooke 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)**

Cllr Day was concerned that all the trees in the front garden of a house in Tower Park had recently been felled. As this was not in the Conservation Area and there were no Tree Preservation Orders in place, this was completely legal. This led to a discussion about the desirability of extending the Conservation Area, which might be recommended when the Neighbourhood Plan was updated.

7} **Specific areas of responsibility**

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

- *Old Grammar School Gardens:* Cllr Finlay: The cliff edge was dangerous, although warning signage was in place. There was some discussion on how to make it safer, but no conclusions reached. Cllr Simms and the Town Clerk had had a meeting with the Trustees of the OGS who had indicated that on the expiry of the current lease to the Town Council in two years' time, they were considering the options of either increasing the rent from zero to around £10,000 or selling off the garden. Ways to increase income from the gardens were discussed, including the provision of a café and a noticeboard publicising the work of the Trustees. FTC currently meets all the costs of maintaining the garden, around £12,000 over five years, excluding insurance. £2,500 was budgeted for the current year.
- *Piggy Lane Triangle:* Cllr Finlay: The wall at the back of the area was causing concern. Ownership of the wall should be established.

- *Pretty Bus Stop*: This was looking good. Fowey in Bloom had replaced the planters there.
- *Allotments*: Cllr Finlay: See item (12).
- *Local maintenance partnership (footpaths)*: Cllr Finlay: Cllr Simms had contacted Lanhydrock Garden Services and been assured that the Gold footpaths would be cut back shortly. The cinder track had become particularly overgrown.
- *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**

Cllr Cooke would apply for a grant from Cornwall Council funds for £65,000. The application must be in by 20th October. There would be another meeting of the working party on 3rd August. Suggestions so far received from the survey included a pump track and updated play equipment. Not many negative comments although some concern about possible noise levels. It was hoped some £10,000 compensation from the Gas Board relaying a pipe could be put towards upgrading the hut as a changing room. Community Lottery money or sponsorship would also be investigated. Cllr Harris-Guerrero suggested a further video might be created.

Andy Inglefield had quoted £648 for the removal of the senior multi purpose unit. Cllr Cooke proposed this be accepted; it was seconded by Cllr Harris-Guerrero and RESOLVED that he be asked to go ahead.

#### 9} **Rachael Sculpture**

Cllr Simms had contacted Lanhydrock Garden Services, who had agreed to make the plinth for the statue and to clear the area in the Old Grammar Gardens where it was to be placed. Contec might be asked if they could supply the required HIAB. There would be no cost to Fowey Town Council. A road closure on 27th September between 11am and 12 noon would be needed. The wording on the plaque would read "*In Celebration of all who find harmony and inspiration in coastal waters*". The statue would be delivered to Lanhydrock Garden Services.

#### 10} **Review Budget 2023/24**

Little to report so early in the financial year. £2,398 had been spent so far out of the Environment budget of £23,000.

#### 11} **Environmental Growth Plan**

*Environmental Awareness Day*: A date of Saturday 21st October was agreed. The day might include:

- 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.
- Involvement of children from the local schools to be encouraged in perhaps making bug hotels or bird boxes or seed bombs which could be on display.
- Surfers against sewage
- Edible Fowey
- Bio diversity
- Rivers and seas
- RSPB
- Woodland Trust
- Friends of the Earth
- National Trust
- Publicity for bees
- Refreshments would be provided free of charge

#### 12} **Beekeeping at Readymoney Allotments**

Cllr Finlay circulated a map of the allotments, showing the location of the orchard and the beehives. There was a discussion on what limits should be placed on the numbers of hives. Everyone having a hive(s) there had to sign a very detailed agreement showing responsibilities, insurance requirements etc.

It was suggested that all beekeepers should be restricted to no more than 4 hives each. It was thought it would be undesirable to have more than 4 beekeepers located there. This would be confirmed. Where possible, all hives should contain Cornish Black Bees.

In future beekeepers might be asked to pay a fee in line with those charged to allotment holders of £25 per annum. The allotments were subject to a health and safety inspection every two months, and this should include the orchard area containing the beehives.

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

There were none.

14} **Proposed date of next meeting**

It was proposed that this should take place on **Monday 9th October @ 6.00pm.**

There being no further business, the meeting closed @ 7.30 pm.