

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 HELD ON WEDNESDAY 13th DECEMBER 2023 AT 7.00pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL

23/89 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs F Day, Cllr Mrs R Finlay,
Cllr C Gibbon, Cllr S Griffin, Cllr A Harris-Guerrero,
Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Dr A Virr
2 members of the public (1 part).

23/90 Apologies

The Deputy Mayor, Cllr P Hughes,
Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr A Dellow

23/91 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.

23/92 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public raised concerns about the road closures during the Christmas Market and queried if LESW had obtained the necessary consents as he had not seen any notices. The Town Clerk confirmed that the process had been followed correctly with Cornwall Council. Nevertheless, the gentleman felt that the Marshalls had been unnecessarily rude when stopping people from accessing the town, although, in response to a query from Cllr Griffin, he accepted that residents had been permitted to enter when they had confirmed their residency. The Town Clerk confirmed that there would be a wash-up meeting in the New Year and these issues could be raised then, in particular to ascertain if there was a better way of publicising the road closures than the CC statutory measures. It was agreed that more information could be put in the Mayor's column in the Fowey News about road closures and other issues directly affecting the town and that LESW could be asked to share information directly with the Chamber of Commerce.

23/93 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th November 2023

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

23/94 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None

23/95 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted
Town Hall & Quay – no report
Finance – minutes noted
Environment – no report

23/96 To receive reports from FTC Representatives on Other Bodies

None.

23/97 To Receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported

I am pleased to report that the Mayor's Fundraising Concert at the Parish Church on 21st November raised £320 for the Squires Field Community Larder. Thanks to Restormel Concert Band, Patrick Saunders, Antony Trodd and Ryp an Mor. Special thanks to David Hendry for organising the event.

The Fowey Christmas Market weekend on 8th, 9th and 10th December was very successful and enjoyable. The light switch on worked well, even though the DJ was unable to attend because of illness. Thanks go to Cllr Griffin who stepped in at the last minute to provide the PA. Thanks also go to The Forum, the Church, the Town Hall/Quay committee, the local shops and businesses who supported this event and Andrew Weaver. I would also like to remember Tony Bartlett who led the Fowey River Lions to put up the Christmas lights for many years and to thank Martyn Crowle and his team for ensuring that we have lights this year.

On the afternoon of Saturday 9th, I represented the Council at Tony Bartlett's Funeral at St Wyllow church Lanteglos, and I am grateful to members of the Fowey River Lions for getting me there and back.

I also attended the Royal Regatta Patrons event at the Yacht Club on the evening of 9th December. Until then I hadn't realised just how important patrons are to the success of the Regatta. The committee are looking for new patrons and volunteers and will be sending out information about this in the near future.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

23/98 To Receive the Town Clerks Report

The Town Clerk reported

1. Cllr Hughes had attended a meeting on Friday 24th November in connection with the relocation of the bus stop from the Safe Harbour to New Road Hill and had submitted the following notes.

- Andy Virr stepped into being chair as the Cornwall Councillor
- **Richard Stevens** (MD of the bus firm moving the stop) was there with reps from Cornwall Council.
- Talked quite a bit and answered questions. Some points
- No desire to upset people.
- Decision to move was based on safety.
- No Statutory requirement to consult the local community or inform the Town Council
- Cornwall Council transport was informed, announced it at a meeting and the information was circulated to Cornwall Council. It wasn't 100% clear when this was but suggested it was in the 1st quarter of 2023.

- Smaller buses were not available.
- Andy Virr was made aware in an email of the change earlier in 2023. As it was for health and safety, he felt it was more important to mitigate the risks rather than object to the move
- Discussed mitigation by the bus company.
- A new shelter was put in place.
- Bus route was extended into Fowey
- The planned works at the Gateway would make the new stop safer.
- AV and RS discussed whether the Town Bus could offer more services to improve access. This was challenged as it doesn't run early in the day or late at night and doesn't run on certain days and would be expensive for people to add the cost onto their bus ticket. Overall, the group thought increased town bus services would be a good idea but wouldn't replace the safe harbour stop.
- **Izzy Stephens** (from Disability Cornwall) made several good interventions. Asked RS and AV about a disability impact assessment and whether one had been done.
- Also made the point that if the move made the bus inaccessible for people, then the service had been closed to Fowey for them.
- Made the point that the new stop was inaccessible or restricted for a wide variety of people (parents with kids, wheelchair users, people with shopping, increased danger for workers travelling home at night + others)
- **Bus Stop Support Group** made lots of good points, well argued about access, lack of consultation, new stop is dangerous to reach and impossible for some, new route serves houses who mainly use their own cars
- Workers in the town had a more dangerous route to and from the new stop.
- Visitors to the town would be reduced.
- It has operated safely for decades. The landlord said 2 benches had needed to be replaced in the last 15 years.
- Risk has to be considered holistically. There has never been an injury here and if the drivers are well trained they can reverse safely.
- Towards the end discussion moved to whether changes to the road layout could mean the stop was reinstated. Richard Stevens couldn't confirm what would be needed but did say it could be reassessed. It seemed to me to be a positive end to the meeting.
- With the support of the Mayor, Cllr Virr agreed to investigate the changes needed to potentially facilitate the reinstatement of the 25 bus stop before re-consulting with the action group.

It was agreed that the relocation of the bus stop should be an agenda item at the January meeting.

2. The Trustees of the OGS Gardens were still very unhappy that the garden had been designated a Local Green Space in the Fowey NDP. The Town Clerk had received and responded to several letters explaining that FTC does not have the power to remove the designation; any changes to the NDP would have to be made under a formal review process. The Trustees would not accept this and had now submitted a FOI request and were suggesting that the NDP process was flawed. However, the NDP Team at Cornwall Council had already confirmed that this was not the case.

3. The Town Quay Risk Assessment had revealed some defects in the surface of the quay, particularly around drain covers. It was unclear if this was on the highway or on the stopped-up part under FTC responsibility. Members agreed that if the defects were on FTC property then the Town Clerk should arrange repairs.

4. There would be an unavoidable delay in the completion of the work at the Town Gateway. This was because defects had been identified in the surface of the existing road and these had to be addressed prior to the imprint being laid. Work should now be completed by 15th January 2024.

23/99 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr reported

Christmas Market Thanks to the organising team for all their hard work. It was great to see the town busy with shoppers and the wider benefits for the local businesses. The traffic cones on Hanson Drive and Tower Park worked effectively to prevent the traffic chaos that was seen last year.

New Road Hill works The works to repair the landslip on New Road Hill are planned for 22nd January 2024 to 16th February 2024, weather and unforeseen events withstanding.

Fowey Gateway Works Well done to Cormac and Fowey Town Council for the works to New Road Hill and Lostwithiel Street. These should reduce unnecessary vehicle journeys through town and improve pedestrian safety.

Mid Cornwall Metro Today in Cornwall Council Cabinet I voted to support the proposed Cornwall Mid Metro Scheme. This should see increased rail services between Newquay and Falmouth. There is also a proposal to install a lift access bridge at Par Station which should assist in disabled access.

Fowey Buses I attended and chaired a public meeting with Go Cornwall, Cornwall Council's Transport Team, Fowey Town Council and representatives of the Save the Safe Harbour Bus Stop. The issues were raised, explanation given for the change by Go Cornwall and questions answered. The two main actions were for Cornwall Council's Highway's department to undertake an enquiry to see whether the highway could be adjusted to make it safer for buses to reverse outside the Safe Harbour Pub and secondly to meet with the owner of Fowey Town Bus to review how that bus service can also support disabled or reduced mobility transport users and link in with the other bus services.

Reporting Issues Just a reminder that at this time of year potholes often appear or other highway issues such as lighting problems. These can easily be reported using the Council's website.

Burrington Estate It has been announced that Burrington Estates building company have gone into financial difficulties. The Fowey Burrington Estate (Lantic Road) has an unfinished highway. The expectation is that Burrington Estates will complete this project, otherwise this will likely have to be completed by Cornwall Council, who usually take out bonds to cover these risks.

Thanks to Councillors for all their tireless work over the year. I wish you all a very Merry Christmas.

23/100 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Patterson, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £8,310.34 be approved.

23/101 Correspondence

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

23/102 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

23/103 Squires Field Pavilion

The Town Clerk reported that a supplementary planning application had to be submitted for the solar panels on the pavilion roof. Cllr Dellow was seeking quotes for the work.

23/104 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported on the video which, together with Cllr Cooke, he had put together to update the public on the Squires Field regeneration. He explained that the project was looking to deliver the facilities in 4 stages, with the intention of incorporating improvements for every generation at each stage. Subject to FTC approval, the video would be released on social media. Members thanked Cllr Cooke and Cllr Harris-Guerrero and congratulated them on producing an excellent, informative video. Cllr Griffin proposed, Cllr Gibbon seconded and it was RESOLVED that the release of the video should be approved.

23/105 Alldays Fields

The Town Clerk confirmed that a response from CC was still awaited.

23/106 Budget 2024/2025

Cllr Berryman explained the reasoning behind the Finance Committee's budget recommendations and responded to queries from members. He also advised that following the Finance Committee's budget-setting meeting Cormac had advised that their charges for toilet cleaning would be rising by 100% from £10,233.00 to £20,322.43 in 2024/2025, excluding the cost of consumables. The Town Clerk had obtained a quote from the company who were cleaning the Par Beach toilets and, although this was slightly higher, this included consumables and general maintenance; the company were doing an excellent job at Par. Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Simms seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Cormac contract should be terminated from 1st April 2024 and the contract awarded to APS Construction. Cllr Berryman continued to explain that this substantial rise in toilet cleaning costs meant that the budgeted figure of £17,500 would not cover the expenditure, but given that the Finance Committee's recommendation was already for a 10.9% increase, he suggested that this shortfall should be met from reserves as he felt that there was a limit to what parishioners could be asked to pay and an increase in charges to 40p would cover some of the shortfall, albeit only in a small way. Cllr Berryman then proposed, Cllr Simms seconded and it was RESOLVED that a precept requirement of £185,790 should be submitted to Cornwall Council.

23/107 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Finlay recorded sadness at the closure of the Park Road shop and Post Office, which was a huge loss to local residents.

Cllr Griffin queried why parking at Caffa Mill and Town Car Park had been free on 2nd December but not on Town Quay. The Town Clerk clarified that this was an annual Cornwall Council concession, although normally FTC would have been consulted about the choice of date.

Date of Next Meeting 17th January 2024

Meeting Closed 7.58pm