

## **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 17<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2024 AT 7.00pm IN FOWEY TOWN HALL**

#### **23/89 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 Mrs R Finlay, Cllr C Gibbon, Cllr S Griffin,  
Cllr A Harris-Guerrero,

#### **In Attendance**

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

#### **23/108 Apologies**

Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

#### **23/109 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.

#### **23/110 Public Participation & Questions**

A member of the public addressed the meeting about the decision that Go Cornwall buses would no longer operate from the Safe Harbour. She had obtained documentation from Cornwall Council under FOI and, in particular, made the following observations;

- The decision to remove service from the Safe Harbour for the 25 route was based on a commercial decision that had nothing to do with health and safety and had everything to do with solving a student passenger load issue regarding Brannel School
- That Cornwall Council and Go Cornwall were in collusion around using health and safety as the reason for withdrawing the service. This was simply an excuse to justify a corporate decision based on commercial interest.
- That Councillor Andy Virr was not told the truth about the decision while he was advocating for the people of Fowey and was put into an impossible position by Cornwall Council and Go Cornwall

Another member of the public agreed with these observations and considered that the bus company wanted to increase the size of the buses used on the route in order to conveniently deal with the peak demand twice per day of pupils attending Brannel School. This was clear from the file marked SH2 released under the FOI request. He also felt that it appeared from other attached files, and particularly those marked SH6 and SH7, that Council officers colluded with the bus company to manufacture a justification for the change as being due to safety concerns. Furthermore, he had made a FOI request similar to the one made by the lady who had

previously spoken and had been told that there was no relevant information on file, when clearly there was. He stated that this was potentially a criminal offence and had written to Cornwall Council accordingly. Cllr Virr cautioned that this was a serious allegation and should not be made when Cornwall Council officers were not present to respond. Another member of the public asked if FTC would fight to save the bus stop on behalf of the town. The Mayor responded that the issue would be discussed under the appropriate agenda item later in the evening.

**23/111 Minutes of the Meeting held on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2023**

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

**23/112 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

None

**23/113 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees**

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

**23/114 To receive reports from FTC Representatives on Other Bodies**

None.

**23/115 To Receive the Mayors Report**

The Mayor reported

At the end of October Deputy Mayor Cllr Hughes and I met with Ken and Ali Wittamore, who have visited the Breton town of Binic on a number of sailing expeditions, to discuss the possibility of fostering closer informal and formal links between our two towns. In the November Council meeting we resolved to support this initiative and I have written a formal letter confirming this to the Mayor of Binic Town Council which will be delivered when Ken and Ali meet with them on Monday afternoon.

On December 22<sup>nd</sup> I enjoyed overseeing a wedding ceremony at the Town hall on behalf of FTC. It was a pleasure to see the hall creatively transformed into a beautiful and atmospheric wedding venue complete with restored vintage furniture and a Christmas tree. The wedding party spent a happy two days at the Town Hall and in the feedback the bride wrote that the wedding guests complimented the building, the location, the inns and hotels they stayed at and the shops in the town. The photographer said it was a delightful place to work. This a good recommendation for future weddings.

Finally, I would like congratulate Cllr Cooke, Cllr Harris-Guerrero and the Squires Field working Group for their successful CIL funding bid.

**23/116 To Receive the Town Clerks Report**

The Town Clerk reported

Cormac had been in contact to say that they were looking to progress the summer pedestrianisation of Town Quay and had apologised for not dealing with this before. She and Cllr Berryman had attended a meeting to discuss this and Cormac had agreed to work up some costings for consideration. The issue could then be an agenda item at a future meeting.

A wash-up meeting needed to be arranged with LESW. Members agreed that the Town Clerk should set this up and involve the Chamber, Chris Ogg, Cllr Simms, Cllr Hughes, Cllr Virr and Lee (Haverners).

There was still one vacancy on the Council that could be filled by co-option. It was agreed that this should be advertised again on the website and in the February Mayors column in the Fowey News.

The new bus shelter on New Road Hill was due to be erected on 23rd January; the final footway improvements would be completed shortly afterwards.

Healthmatic had apologised again for failing to supply and fit the new disabled door at the Town Quay toilets. Hopefully the work would now be done in February, together with repairs to the cardpay systems.

Further correspondence and FOI requests had been received from the OGS Trustees, which was being dealt with, although they keep asking much the same questions when they are not prepared to accept the answers I have given.

Arrangements had been made to collect the library shelving for the Pavilion from Padstow Town Council.

Cllr Harris-Guerrero queried the cost of the new disabled door on the Town Quay toilets, which he felt was excessive. The Town Clerk clarified that it was a specialist steel door (the same as the ladies/gents doors) connected to the coinpay/cardpay systems and FTC had resolved that it should be purchased following repeated vandalism on the old wooden door and incidents of people being unable to effect egress.

### **23/117 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor**

Cllr Virr reported

Happy new year to Fowey Town Council and residents.

Fowey Christmas Market The Christmas Market was a successful event again this year. Thanks for the hard work of the organisers. It was heartening to see the town full and busy. The additional measures to parking restrictions on Hanson Drive / Tower Park prevented the traffic difficulties experienced in previous years.

Fowey Gateway Thanks to the Town Council for their efforts in realising the improvements to the New Road Hill / Lostwithial Street. The new pedestrian path is a great safety improvement.

New Road Hill The works to the land slip on New Road Hill are scheduled for end of January /early February.

Bus Shelter A new bus shelter will be installed on the new tarmac strip at the bottom of New Road Hill Bus Stop late January. This is a welcome step to protect bus users from the elements.

Waste Collection Rollout This week the new waste collection begins in Fowey. Non-recyclable waste will be collected every fortnight. A new food waste collection will be provided the same weeks as recyclables.

### **23/118 Accounts for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £20,042.96 be approved.

### **23/119 Correspondence**

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

### **23/120 Resolutions from Councillors**

None.

### **23/121 Squires Field Pavilion**

Cllr Dellow reported that

Work had started on the site and the demolition part almost completed. Some small changes to the original plans would be dealt with as the project progressed. A planning application for the solar panels was in hand.

### **23/122 Squires Field Working Group**

Cllr Cooke gave the following report.

We have been awarded £80k from the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) fund. Along with match funding this will facilitate phase one of the project at Squires Field. This is to improve, extend and widen the walkways around Squires Field and remove the ageing play equipment in the top part of the play area and install a pump track in half of that area. This is subject to planning permission and we are awaiting the funding agreement from Cornwall Council. We are awaiting guidance on the documents required for the planning application and also two other comparable quotes for the works.

We had a very productive meeting on the 15.01.24 where we started looking at future funding opportunities for new play equipment and investigated options for the future use of the old hut at the top of Squires Field as well as alternative options for the provision of a Multi-Use Games Area (MUGA). I also attended a meeting at Squires Field Community Centre (SFCC) on the 08.01.24 where we discussed the plans and funding awarded.

We have finalised an application to the Football Foundation for a grant to replace the senior goalposts on the lower football pitch at Squires Field. This will hopefully be submitted in the next few weeks subject to obtaining match funding.

Cllr Harris-Guerrero added that he was investigating a cheaper option for the provision of the MUGA. He considered that rather than ripping everything up and starting again, it may be possible to remove the old equipment on the site, reinstate the existing tarmac and then paint it with a suitable bitumen solution and then purchase posts/nets etc. independently. This approach would also speed up the delivery time significantly.

### **23/123 Alldays Fields**

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

### **23/124 Safe Harbour Bus Stop**

Cllr Virr confirmed that investigations were ongoing regarding the swept path analysis of the Safe Harbour area and this would take approximately 6/8 weeks to complete. The CC Transport Team were also meeting with Julie Yeo in January to look into better linkage with the Town Bus as the Town Bus forms part of CC's Transport Strategy and receives public funding. Currently number 25 buses were not accessing the Safe Harbour stop, nor were the last three number 24 buses after 6pm in the evening. This was because the evening service was provided by Go Cornwall and not First.

Cllr Hughes thanked the member of the public for sharing the documentation she had obtained about the service under FOI. He accepted that it was difficult to read due to all of the redactions, but he considered that it appeared that Health & Safety had been used as an excuse by CC and the Bus Company in order to mislead the public. He maintained that if the decision to stop the service had been made for commercial reasons CC and the bus company should have been honest and transparent and said so, not put the blame on Health & Safety.

Cllr Virr responded that it was clear that a bigger bus was needed to maintain the service and that this could possibly be achieved by changing the layout of the road at the Safe Harbour stop; the results of the Transport Team's investigations would clarify the position.

The Mayor directed that this should be an agenda item again in February when the results of the CC Transport Team's investigations would hopefully be available.

### **23/125 Town Gateway**

Cllr Finlay reported

All the works are completed on the Fowey Gateway scheme as of today. However, I have written to both the Cormac Design Team and the Site Team to discuss a couple of things – Firstly, the pedestrian crossing on Hanson Drive; I think the pedestrian crossing is simply a red strip of tarmac and will confuse many drivers, no signage or warning of what they are approaching. White lines in the traditional pedestrian crossing design and would be clearer that this is a crossing point.

Secondly, the imprint cobbles at the top of Lostwithiel Street. The colour, chosen because of the Conservation Area, looks too similar to tarmac and the depth of the imprint cobbles is disappointing.

The Town Clerk and I have arranged a site on Friday 19<sup>th</sup> January with the Cormac Chief Designer to discuss these issues.

Cllr Gibbon noted that tactile paving had been introduced at the bottom of the steep pedestrian slope from Hanson Drive to Lostwithiel Street but that there was no similar exit facility on the other side of the road, which could be confusing for a blind or partially sighted person. The lack of a physical barrier there was also an issue as should a pushchair or wheelchair run away it would go straight out into the road. Cllr Gibbon hoped, however, that these potential defects would be highlighted in the safety audit. Cllr Finlay confirmed that she and the Town Clerk had requested a barrier but had been told that there was insufficient space to accommodate one. However, they would raise the issue again at the meeting on Friday.

### **23/126 Questions/Reports from Members**

Cllr Finlay reported that, following FTC's nomination of SFCC for the King's Award for Voluntary Service, the Lord Lieutenants Team were visiting to inspect the facility later in January. This was hopefully a positive indication that SFCC was being looked at as a realistic candidate for the Award.

**Date of Next Meeting**                      21<sup>st</sup> February 2024

**Meeting Closed**                              7.48pm