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**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE HELD AT FOWEY TOWN HALL ON
MONDAY 9th OCTOBER 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.

1} **To receive apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Andrew Dellow, Cllr Scott Griffin 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 24th July 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, despite reporting storm damage to a cedar tree in Readymoney carpark twice to Cornwall Council, they had just trimmed off the parts of the tree blocking the footpath, but had not cleared up the debris nor attended to the damaged parts of the tree. They had indicated that, so long as no branches were in danger of falling on members of the public, they were not concerned about the welfare of the tree. Cllr Day would get in touch again to try to get a more satisfactory outcome. A large tree stump was being felled in Hanson Drive that day which could have been a hazard to passing pedestrians.

7} **Specific areas of responsibility**

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

- *Old Grammar School Gardens:* Cllr Finlay: The Fowey Town Council had been asked to remove the OGS Garden from the Fowey National Development Plan as a 'Local green Space' by the Grammar School Foundation Governors recently. The Town Clerk wrote to Cornwall Council Neighbourhood Planning Team for advice; their reply was 'In order to remove a designation the NDP would need to undergo a review and modification process.' This would not be simple and straightforward and would require public consultation and examination as a minimum; the independent examiner would determine whether a referendum was also required. While this would not mean going right back to the beginning of the NDP process, it would still require a considerable amount of work and Locality funding to help cover the cost is not available until 2025. It is assumed a Working Group of residents and Councillors would have to be formed again to lead any such process, as was the case with the original NDP.
- *Piggy Lane Triangle:* Cllr Finlay: The wall at the back of the area was causing concern. Ownership of the wall should be established. The Town Clerk will be asked to advise.
- *Pretty Bus Stop:* This was looking good. Fowey in Bloom had replaced the planters there.
- *Allotments:* Cllr Finlay: A number of new plots had been taken over this year, many of which had remained untouched for some time with a build up of rubbish, dilapidated sheds etc. A request had been received from

- the Readymoney Allotments' Committee for a skip as with last year '12sq. Yards' from Glebe Quarry. This would cost £500. It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded by Cllr Day and unanimously RESOLVED that this expenditure be met from the Fowey Town Council Environment Committee budget. This should be included annually in future Environment Committee budgets. A recommendation would be made to the Finance Committee that the annual rental cost of each allotment be raised.
- *Local maintenance partnership (footpaths):* Cllr Finlay: One cut per year, by Lanhydrock Garden Services had taken place in July @ a cost of £612.68 plus VAT.
- *Agency agreements, weed killing/grass cutting:* Cllr Finlay: Agency Agreement (Grass cutting) Cornwall Council pays £1100.11 for 4 cuts and Fowey Town Council pays for 5 cuts per annum by Lanhydrock Garden Services.
- *Squires Field:* Cllr Cooke: To be discussed under item (8).

8} **Squires Field Play Area**

A productive meeting of the Working Group had been held on 28th September. A map was circulated by Cllr Cooke. Improvements would be phased in gradually and grants applied for from various bodies with an interest in that particular aspect. Desirable improvements encompassed a pump track, a new slide, monkey bars, a roundabout and sensory boards. Bodies to be approached for funding included the National Lottery Small Awards, Skate GB and Sports England. An immediate requirement was the replacement of the football goal posts. An estimate for adult sized goal posts without nets, including VAT, had been received for £1,448. It was proposed by Cllr Cooke, seconded by Cllr Harris-Guerrero and unanimously RESOLVED that, should there be sufficient funds remaining in the Environment Budget, this expenditure should be approved. Should funds be lacking, the Finance Committee would be asked to meet the costs. Andy Inglefield would be asked if he could install. He would also be asked to make immediate repairs to the swing and slide. It was appreciated that he often carried out minor repairs to playground equipment without being asked. A video would be produced shortly to assist in fund raising. The provision of parking and loos were to be considered. These might be tied in with the renovated Pavilion or Community Centre. A grant was anticipated from British Gas who were to relay a pipeline across Squires Field, and this might be used to upgrade the shed to a changing room. Cllrs Cooke and Harris-Guerrero were warmly thanked for all their hard work so far on the Playground upgrade project.

9} **Rachel Sculpture**

The statue had been successfully unveiled, by the Mayor the previous week. As Rachel was smaller than originally planned, the installation had been less problematic than had been envisaged, in that the statue was carried down the steps to the garden rather than needing to hire a crane. The wording on the plaque read "*In Celebration of all who find harmony and inspiration in coastal waters*". Lanhydrock Garden Services had done a brilliant job in creating a plinth, and lots of Rachel's friends and relations had attended the unveiling in addition to her brother Richard Ryan, who had commissioned the statue and met all the costs. Also present was the sculptor himself, John Doubleday. He had presented the Mayor with a lovely illustrated book of his works. Lanhydrock Garden Services would be asked to refurbish and reposition the bench that had been moved to make room for Rachel.

10} **Review Budget 2023/24**

At the end of August, £17,473 had been spent out of the Environment budget of £23,000.

11} **Environmental Growth Plan**

Environmental Awareness Day: This would take place on Saturday 21st October between 11 and 4. The day would include:

- Claire Hoddinott from Friends of the Fowey Estuary
- involvement of children from the local schools to be encouraged to make seed bombs and participate in an art project masterminded by Cllr Simms.
- Surfers against sewage
- Edible Fowey
- Bio diversity
- Rivers and seas
- Publicity for bees and the orchard
- Films on Hungry for Change and Plenty More Fish
- Cornwall Wildlife Trust
- Refreshments would be provided free of charge, and organised by Cllr Patterson.

12} **Budget 2024-25**

Cllr Simms circulated details of the proposed budget for next year. This totalled £23,430 including £2,000 for contingencies. Its acceptance was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded by Cllr Harris-Guerrero and unanimously RESOLVED that it be recommended for approval by the Finance Committee.

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

There were none.

14} **Proposed date of next meeting**

It was proposed that this should take place on a date to be confirmed.

There being no further business, the meeting closed @ 7.25 pm.