

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 THE MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 18th SEPTEMBER 2024 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, LANGURTHO ROAD, FOWEY

24/70 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr Mrs F Day,
Cllr A Dellow, Cllr Revd Mrs C Edleston, Cllr R Finlay, Cllr C Gibbon,
Cllr A Harris-Guerrero, Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
7 members of the public

24/71 Apologies

Cornwall Cllr Dr A Virr

24/72 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.

24/73 Public Participation & Questions

A Director of SFCC asked if it would be possible for the new delineated parking spaces outside the pavilion to be shared with SFCC, rather than be for the exclusive use of the pavilion. She stated that signage stating ‘Squires Field Car Park’ had been displayed there prior to the refurbishment of the pavilion and so the area had been available for SFCC users. The Town Clerk confirmed that this signage had been moved to the site from the car park across the road, although she did not know who had done it, it was not FTC or CC. The Mayor added that FTC could not provide a public car park there as this would attract business rates and she pointed out that 2 of the 4 spaces were already designated for both the pavilion and SFCC and that going forward some exclusive parking provision for pavilion users and staff would be needed. The Director suggested that perhaps SFCC could use the remaining 2 spaces when they were not in use by the pavilion, but it was felt out that this could potentially cause conflict. Cllr Harris-Guerrero noted that Councillors would be discussing the management of Squires Field Car Park further down the agenda and that potential parking provision for SFCC there would be included. A member of the public reported that there was a lot of grass, weeds and overhanging foliage on the footpath between Hanson Drive and Daglands Road and that the drains were also blocked. The Town Clerk undertook to report this to CC Highways and Cllr Virr and also recommended that the lady registered the problem on the CC website.

24/74 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th June 2024

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

24/75 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

The Town Clerk recorded that Andrew Weaver had been unhappy with some of the content of the July minutes.

24/76 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

24/77 To Receive Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

Fowey Forum Cllr Patterson reported that the Forum had raised concerns about the trees in Hanson Drive.

24/78 To Receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor gave the following report

- Thank you to the Port of Fowey Race Organising Committee, the Regatta Committee and everyone involved for the successful 2024 Royal Fowey Regatta. It was my privilege to represent Fowey Town Council at a number of events during the week and it was a pleasure to see so many people enjoying the festivities.
- At the end of August, I visited the MPower Kernow CIC in St Blazey who won the 2023 National Railway Heritage Award for the Restoration of the St Blazey Turntable. An essential element of this project has been to give local young people from diverse backgrounds the opportunity to build their confidence and capacity in railway engineering skills which will stand them in good stead for future education and eventually engineering careers. MPower kernow has made an application to Cornwall Council for Levelling up funding of £200,000 to set up a unique accredited technical training programme in 2025 for the benefit of young people in Cornwall. The restoration of the turntable has also had a positive impact on our town because the locomotives using the St Blazey turntable brings visitors to Fowey. I want to write a letter of support for this application and am seeking your support in this.
- In the autumn of 2023 Fowey Town Council nominated Squires Field Community Centre for the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. This is a prestigious award which is equivalent to an MBE. At the end of January, the committee and other volunteers took part in an audit with two representatives of the Cornwall Lieutenancy to assess their work in the community. I am proud to say that as a result, SFCC was short listed for this award. On Wednesday 4th September, 7 members of the committee attended an event at County Hall where they were presented with a certificate to commemorate their nomination for the KVS award.
- The Lord Lieutenant of Cornwall, Col Sir Edward Bolitho KCVO OBE presented certificates to 12 Cornish voluntary Organisations. Fortuitously, he also attended the opening ceremony of SFCC in 2016. Congratulations to everyone at SFCC on this well-deserved accolade. We await the final decision, on the Kings birthday in November.
- I recently attended a meeting called by Ken and Ali Wittamore for the purpose of planning for the Binic visit to Fowey in the summer of 2025. The Bretons will arrive on Friday 25th of June 2025 and depart on July 1st. Already a draft timetable of events has been proposed and supported by the attendees, most of whom were part of the group that went to Binic in June 2024. I have been asked if the Town Council will support a Civic reception on the evening of 25th June.
- Planning for the Town Hall Christmas Market on November 22nd to 24th was well underway with more than 15 expressions of interest; I will be sending out the necessary information to the successful applicants this week.

24/79 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report

- Vandalism of the locking system at the gents toilet on Town Quay continues to be a problem

- I have a meeting this coming Monday with Paul Thomas to discuss improved signage at Readymoney to try to address the continuing rubbish issue since Cornwall Council removed the bins at the entrance of the beach. One resident in particular has reported the ongoing issue of people randomly leaving dog poo bags behind signs, in planters and on walls.
- We need to fix a date for a Finance Meeting. This was agreed for 7th October.
- I have today received an email suggesting that there is a 6-yr liability for electric in Squires Field car park. Given that there is no electric supply there I have asked for clarification. There is no suggestion at present that this is connected to either the pavilion or SFCC, although this is clearly possible.
- The History Group had visited the pavilion to have a look at possibly using the Book Room as a base but had concluded that the layout of the room was not ideal for them. The Chairman had asked if it would be possible for the Group to use the Town Hall office now that FTC was moving some of its operation to the pavilion. Cllr Finlay raised concern about this as she felt that the records would be less accessible to the public if they were not available in the same place as the library, as used to be the case at Caffa Mill. However, whilst members agreed that this could be the case, it was considered that the Town Hall office was largely unused and, providing that it was available for FTC when needed, this request should be approved in principle.

24/79 To Receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report

Bins at Readmoney I am grateful for Biffa for placing a new large bin at the entrance to Readymoney Road and for the dog waste bin now sited as you leave Covington Woods. Fowey Town Council and Fowey Harbour Commissioner are now responsible for any waste issues on Readymoney Beach.

Pump Track Squires Field Congratulations to Fowey Town Council on their hard work in having the vision and energy to deliver the new pump track at Squires Field.

Whitehouse Pool Congratulations to the Fowey Harbour Commissioners for the completed works to the paddling pool at Whitehouse. This is part of the ongoing devolution of waterside assets from Cornwall Council to the Harbour Commissioners. Local ownership delivers huge benefits for our residents.

Burrington Estate Ltd Cornwall Council Highways legal team is working with Burrington Estates to ensure they complete the works commenced on the new estate. I appreciate the delays have been very frustrating for the residents affected.

Fowey Regatta Many thanks for all the tireless work of the Regatta committee to pull off another hugely successful regatta.

Cllr Finlay stated that if Cllr Virr was no longer going to attend meetings then his report should be shared with Councillors prior to the meeting via email and not read out at the meeting; members of the public could then read the report in the minutes. However, she felt strongly that Fowey's Cornwall Council representative should be present at meetings to respond to questions from members and from the public and that the current situation was unacceptable..

Cllr Berryman pointed out again that, contrary to Cllr Virr's statement, FTC was not responsible for waste issues on Readymoney Beach. FTC was only responsible for waste generated in the lime kilns area and this was adequately dealt with in the lease negotiated with the tenant by Cornwall Council and inherited by FTC following the devolution of this area to FTC.

24/80 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Patterson and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £128,529.22 be approved.

24/81 Correspondence

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

24/82 Resolutions from Councillors

None

The Mayor suggested that the agenda item Town Quay pedestrian Zone be moved up the agenda as there were members of the public present with an interest in the proposals. However, it transpired that any discussion would involve business sensitivity and Cllr Berryman proposed, the Mayor seconded and it was RESOLVED that this item should be moved to the end of the agenda in Closed Session.

24/83 Squires Field Pavilion

Cllr Dellow reported:

- 4 tables and 20 chairs have delivered
- The charge for car charging will be 60p/kw/hr
- The building contract had been signed off, although the building manual was awaited.

The Mayor recorded grateful thanks to Cllr Dellow for all the work he had put into the project.

The Town Clerk reported that she had purchased a few essential items for the pavilion (soap, bleach, toilet rolls etc.) but that a lot more was needed. It was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded Cllr Patterson and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should purchase another table, 10 more chairs and a desk for the office. A group of Councillors would then meet and agree what additional equipment was required.

24/85 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke gave the following report

The pump track and walkways are close to completion. The tarmac is down on the pump track so there is just some edging left to complete and a resin infill in the middle to be put in.

Ironically we just need a bit of rain now to bed in and bind the walkway surfaces.

The ground for the MUGA has been levelled and the works for this will commence once the pump track is finished.

We have had a quote for the pump track signage provided by Parc Signs. At their meeting on 12.09.24 SFWG decided that the yellow colour way stands out the most and that it would be prudent to have two signs - one at each entrance. It was also agreed that they needed to be slightly larger than that originally quoted.

We have been extremely fortunate to receive £18,511.00 from the Lottery Awards for All scheme which is fantastic news. This is to be put towards the purchase of new play equipment: namely a big slide, monkey bars and an accessible roundabout. We are currently waiting for a revised quote from a couple of play equipment suppliers. It is unlikely that this funding will cover all three pieces but there are other funding options available that could potentially cover the accessible roundabout.

We have gone out for quotes for 6 x concrete pads for benches to be situated around Squires Field. We have had some interest from local business and organisations in sponsoring a bench.

The service gate into the play area has rotted out in sections. Andrew Inglefield has agreed to repair it.

Thank you once again to the members of SFWG for all their hard work and support; it is very much appreciated.

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that FTC should cover the shortfall in the cost of the football nets of £64.85

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that FTC should cover the slightly increased cost of £193.00 for the pump track signage.

24/86 Alldays Fields

No update.

24/87 Notice of Conclusion of Audit

The Town Clerk confirmed that BDO LLP had completed the audit to 31st March 2024 and that she had displayed the necessary information on the FTC website. Members noted the comments made by BDO LLP but concluded that no further action was required.

24/88 Town Hall Civil Ceremonies

The Town Hall licence was shortly due for renewal. Members agreed that the Town Hall was an excellent venue and offered an affordable option for people wanting a ceremony in Fowey. Cllr Edleston agreed with this and added that she would be very happy for the Church to work with FTC to give people choices for their special day, which could also be a combination of a Church ceremony and a reception in the Town Hall. Local hospitality businesses would also benefit from the additional footfall in the town, particularly out of season. Cllr Harris-Guerrero pointed out that there had not been many ceremonies in the Hall, but it was agreed that this was due to inadequate marketing and lack of management. Cllr Finlay drew attention to the 'My Cornwall Wedding' official ceremony brochure, which she considered to be an excellent way to advertise and which covers all aspects of civil ceremonies; the cost to advertise in it would be £895.00, plus vat pa. Cllr Finlay then proposed, Cllr Patterson seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Town Hall Licence should be renewed for a further 2 years and an advertisement placed in 'My Cornwall Wedding.' Further management would be dealt with by the Town Hall & Quay Committee, who would provide regular updates to Full Council.

24/88 Squires Field Car Park

Cllr Harris-Guerrero suggested that it was time to formalise the situation at Squires Field Car Park as he considered that it was being misused at present with people leaving cars there for extended periods while on holiday, blocking exits/entrances and even abandoning vehicles there, preventing people wanting to drop off/pick-up children from school and/or use the play park/MUGA/pump track in Squires Field finding a place to park. He had, therefore, investigated the possibility of introducing a variety of different parking opportunities for the 45 spaces that could potentially be created. This could include 20 x 2-hour free spaces along the front that could be used for school pick-ups/drop-offs, people using the facilities in Squires Field, people attending SFCC or going to the shops in town. Behind these a small pay on exit parking facility could be set up, which would mean that the longer people left their car there the more they would pay. If SFCC were interested then 2/3 spaces could be specifically marked for their use and leased to the Centre. Disabled parking spaces would also be included. The cost of tarmac/lining/drainage etc. would be iro £110,000, with a projected income of £20,000/£30,000 pa. Cllr Gibbon noted that this would not be popular with some local people, although he felt it might be possible to introduce some local rates as CC had at Caffa Mill, which could help. Cllr

Finlay agreed that the car park was currently being abused and mismanaged but considered that this could be improved without going to the extent suggested by Cllr Harris-Guerrero. Cllr Dellow then proposed, Cllr Day seconded and it was RESOLVED that this proposal should be investigated further, initially by the Finance Committee on 7th October. Cllr Edleston cautioned that local people needed to be involved going forwards.

24/89 Questions/Reports from Members

None.

Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Cooke seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting in accordance with the Local Government Act 1972, as amended, during consideration of the following business on the grounds that it would be likely to involve the disclosure of exempt information of the following description – business sensitivity

Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Cooke seconded and it was RESOLVED that the meeting be re-opened.

24/91 Town Quay Pedestrian Zone

Members noted that businesses wanting pavement licenses were prepared to make donations to meet the majority of the costs for the implementation of the scheme. They had also stated that losing their licenses would directly result in the loss of employment for 13 people. Cllr Finlay stated that her concern with the scheme was the loss of the 2 disabled parking spaces in Trafalgar Square for the summer months. To date the only option on the table to relocate these appeared to be making the loading bay outside the Church a dual disabled/loading facility but Cllr Edleston responded that congestion there was already a huge issue for weddings and funerals and this suggestion would only make matters worse; she felt the better option would be to reduce the amount of vehicles entering the town as the pavements were not suitable for disabled people and less traffic would make negotiating the streets much safer for them. Cllr Berryman responded that FTC had been trying to restrict traffic movements in the town for many years but had always met with fierce opposition from local people and had been forced to abandon the idea. The suggestion of additional disabled parking spaces at Albert Quay had already been ruled out by Cornwall Council, but members felt that this option should be followed up again. Councillors accepted that disabled parking in the town was a significant problem, but considered that they also had to take into account the safety of pedestrians on the quay during the busy summer months in reaching a decision. After further discussion Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Gibbon seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should endorse the implementation of the scheme as designed by Cormac, but with the proviso that FTC would investigate the provision of additional disabled parking at other locations and/or the potential of disabled-friendly transport links from the top of the town. Cllr Finlay abstained from voting.

Date of Next Meeting 16th October 2024

Meeting Closed 9.00pm