

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 19th NOVEMBER 2025 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, FOWEY

25/102 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr Mrs F Day, Cllr A Dellow, Cllr C Gibbon,
Cllr Ms K Longman

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr I Wilson
4 members of the public

25/103 Apologies

None

25/104 Declaration of Interests

- α. Pecuniary – None.
- β. Non Registerable – None
- χ. Dispensations – None.

25/105 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public raised concerns about the closed public toilets at Hanson Drive Car Park and confirmed that she had seen an elderly lady urinating in the bushes in broad daylight because of the lack of facilities. The Town Clerk confirmed that the devolution from Cornwall Council to FTC was ongoing but that currently FTC had no control over the premises.

A member of the public offered to re-erect the signpost and undertake some clearance work on 'Ediths Path.' Cllr Wilson thanked the gentleman and confirmed that CC had undertaken to inspect the path and carry out clearance work as necessary. The Town Clerk clarified that the path was not included in the Local Maintenance Partnership agreement that FTC operated with CC.

Andrew Weaver reported that the Christmas Market weekend had been one of the most successful to date despite the early date. Fowey Town Band and Fowey River Lions had been extremely supportive and 43 companies had sponsored the event. There had been positive feedback on Facebook and many businesses in the town had reported good takings. The car parks had been at capacity, the downside being inconsiderate roadside parking. Liaison with the Mayor who had organized the Town Hall Christmas Market had been excellent. Some improvements for the 2026 Market were already planned if a licence was secured for the quay, including bigger entrances to facilitate easier ingress/egress and using Caffa Mill and introducing street food at the Caffa end of the town to spread demand for space.

In response to a query from the Town Clerk, Andrew confirmed that potential 2026 dates would be 27th 28th 29th November or 4th 5th 6th December.

25/106 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 15th October 2025

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

25/107 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None

25/108 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted

Finance – The budget setting Finance meeting would be held at 12 noon on 20th November in Pavilion House.

Environment – no report

25/109 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Longman, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £12,935.08 be approved.

25/110 Correspondence

Correspondence was left ‘on the table’ for Councillors attention.

25/111 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

25/112 To Receive the Mayor’s Report

The Mayor reported:

Prior to the Community Area Partnership meeting on 22nd of October I was asked to give feedback from Fowey Town Council and particularly to share good practice about how the Council had worked with the community. This was a great opportunity to share our success in the provision of the Pump Track and MUGA (multi user games area) which was made possible by the collaboration of FTC and the Squires Field Working Group. The advantages are clear in terms of the efficient gathering and use of information and reducing the time needed to complete the project. The Council identified that the play area needed improvement, the working group, which was led by Cllrs Cooke and Harris Guerrero, was based in the improvement area and was therefore better able to survey local needs and plan accordingly, while the Council oversaw the project and made the planning and funding applications. I am pleased to report that the Civic Reception on Saturday 25th October to celebrate the formal opening of the Pavilion, Fowey Library and the new play facilities at Squires Field was a very enjoyable event. The guests included representatives of Cornwall Library Service, Fowey Library Volunteers, Squires Field Working Group, and members of the public who donated funds to buy and site the new benches on Squires Field. The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of the Spirit of Fowey Awards, and it was my privilege and pleasure to acknowledge the exceptional volunteering spirit of four members of our community: Matthew Chester Akrigg, Des Thomas, Graham Allen and Lynn Goold. This was followed by the official opening of the new play facilities and a games competition for the children organised by Alan Harris Guerrero.

On the afternoon of 25th October FTC’s Environment Committee held an Environmental Awareness event at the Pavilion which was specifically aimed at children and families. Attendees took part in art activities inspired by Wildlife Watch, created ceramic fish and made seed bombs. Storyteller Dawn Hope told the story of the Owl Babies, Tina and Mark Robinson from the Charity ‘Our Only World’ brought their sand box project which tells the story of a baby turtle and the Bird Lady of Fowey brought three of her beautiful owls. A representative of the Southwest Wildlife Trust provided information about the work of the Trust both nationally

and locally. This was of interest to the Environment Committee, and we will discuss the possibility of inviting a representative of the Wildlife Trust to a future meeting. Thank you, Cllr Frances Day, Cllr Kate Longman, Myriam Stirling, Gary Craddock and everyone who helped to make the event a success.

Remembrance Sunday on 9th November was a fitting act of commemoration by the community of Fowey for the service and sacrifice of those who defended us in times of war. Many people attended to witness the procession, the laying of wreaths and to take part in the service led by Rev Carol Eldleston. The rain came appropriately at exactly eleven o'clock. My thanks go to the Fowey British Legion and Fowey Church.

The Town Hall Christmas Market took place from 14th - 16th November with 15 artists/crafters exhibiting. The feedback was that the foot fall was good and most were pleased with sales. Participants expressed thanks to Fowey Town Council for organising the market for local artists/crafters. I want to thank Paul Finlay for all his hard work over the Christmas Market weekend.

I have received a complaint from a member of the public about the noise generated by the basketball hoops in the MUGA.

25/113 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported

- There have been several problems with the Town Quay toilets over the past month but our cleaners have been very proactive in resolving the issues.
- I have received a lot of feedback about the early date of the 2025 Christmas Market, although the weekend itself proved to be very successful.
- I am still chasing SW Water to confirm a date for the promised meeting to discuss their continual presence on the Town Quay.
- I have been advised that the Church Christmas Tree will be in place early in December and there will be a formal switch-on of the Fowey Christmas lights
- I have received a FoI request relating to Fowey Hospital, which I am dealing with.

25/114 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr I Wilson

Cllr Wilson gave the following report

It was a privilege to lay a Wreath at the Fowey War Memorial on behalf of Cornwall Council on Sunday 9th November. It was very wet on the day, as anybody who attended will attest too, but it was a small price to pay for remembering those who fought so that we could all be free. I met with the Fowey Harbour Master this month for an in depth look at what the Harbour authority do and the benefit they provide to Fowey and surrounding areas and to discuss a number of subjects.

I was invited to the Golant Boat-watch AGM on the 14th November, with very interesting talks by the RNLI and Police. The main take away is how effective the Boat Watch Group are.

I visited the unseasonably early Fowey Christmas Market on the 15th of November, and heard numerous complaints from visitors of “Too Early”, “Too Cramped”, “Not very Christmassy” and “A Disappointment.” Access to and from the Main Car Park was to say the least a challenge if you didn’t arrive early, which I doubt helped much. It has to be said it was basically an Arts and Crafts Market, with very little of anything Christmas.

At least the Ship Inn made an effort with their enormous inflatable Father Christmas ☺ and Andy (the Crooner) Marshall who sang some timeless classics and engaged with the smiling crowds. If you haven’t seen him, you really should.

South West Water, sprang into action on the 5th November to install Emergency Lighting at Readymoney Cove when the main Street Lamp situated on the Lime Kiln failed just in time for the Guy Fawkes Night celebration. As Councillor I can't take any credit for this, as the Street lamp has nothing to do with Cornwall Council, but I thanked them anyway for their service beyond the Call of Duty to keep the lights on for the event.

Some progress has been made regarding the now infamous Readymoney Litter Bins, and I am hopeful this matter will be resolved shortly. Some negotiation is still required, but there is now genuine light at the end of the tunnel.

After discussions with Cornwall Council and supported by historic accounts, it appears the parking spot in Readymoney Cove in front of the historic Water Chute is indeed rightfully owned by the adjacent property. Unless evidence to the contrary is forthcoming, Cornwall Council have no jurisdiction or interest over this parking spot.

After speaking with Cornwall Council about the Maintenance or lack thereof of Edith's Walk (Footpath 40373) I have been advised an Inspector will visit the Footpath to make an assessment. I am waiting for an update once the Inspection has taken place.

25/115 Co-option

Members agreed that the candidate Ian Fairweather was enthusiastic and had a lot to offer the community. It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded Cllr Dellow and RESOLVED that he should be co-opted to fill a vacant seat on the Council.

25/116 Squires Field Car Park

It was agreed that surfacing options must be investigated.

25/117 Town Quay

Cllr Gibbon reported that he had met with a potential contractor in relation repairs to 'Steve's Steps.' It was difficult to understand the scope of the works without knowing what was happening inside the steps but he had asked for a range of prices, including a quote for a crane.

25/118 Main Car Park Toilets

The devolution process was ongoing. FTC had been approached by somebody who had expressed an interest in using the site and maintaining a toilet facility in return. A meeting with the gentleman was scheduled for Thursday 20th November.

25/119 Fowey Christmas Market

Members discussed the Market, which had taken place over the weekend of 14th – 16th November. The Mayor considered that it had been a very good weekend, but that parking had been a huge problem. Cllr Longman reported some feedback that she had received, including

- A one-way system in the marquees would be beneficial
- Some businesses had reported no increase in sales
- Spreading the event further throughout the town would be a positive move to prevent overcrowding in the Town Quay area.
- Some local people do not support the Market due to the disruption it causes.
- The Working Group was intending to release a questionnaire to ascertain opinions from local people, visitors and businesses

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had not received any form of business plan from the group investigating an alternate/additional Market.

25/120 Reports from Councillors – *at the discretion of the Mayor and including decisions on matters that the Mayor considers to be urgent*

Cllr Day reported that, sadly, Carol was leaving her post as Vicar of Fowey in February; she would be replaced by Shona, who was currently the Vicar of Tywardreath and Golant.

Date of Next Meeting 10th December 2025

Meeting Closed 7.55pm