

## **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 14<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2026 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, FOWEY**

#### **25/141 Present**

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

#### **In Attendance**

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr I Wilson  
1 member of the public

#### **25/142 Apologies**

None

#### **25/143 Declaration of Interests**

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

#### **25/144 Public Participation & Questions**

None

#### **25/145 Minutes of the Annual Meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2025**

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

#### **25/146 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

None

#### **25/147 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees**

Planning – minutes noted  
Finance – no report  
Environment – no report

#### **25/148 Accounts for Approval**

It was proposed by Cllr Longman, seconded Cllr Dellow and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £13,925.44 be approved.

#### **25/149 Correspondence**

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

#### **25/150 Resolutions from Councillors**

None.

#### **25/151 To Receive the Mayor's Report**

The Mayor reported:

In the Mayors Column of the January edition of the Fowey News I reported the death of Russell Maclaren and sent the condolences of Fowey Town Council to his family and friends. On the afternoon of January 7<sup>th</sup>, the Town Clerk and I represented Fowey Town Council at his funeral. Following the devastation caused by storm Goretti I would like to thank everyone who helped to support those affected and in the clear up. My thanks also go to Cllr Ian Wilson for keeping us updated with relevant information from Cornwall Council. Finally, I would like to wish you all a happy 2026.

#### **25/152 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report**

The Town Clerk reported

- Following the very sad passing of our wonderful Town Hall Caretaker, Russell Maclaren, we now need to find a replacement for him. Notices have been put on the Town Council notice boards and on our website inviting applications for the post.
- The fencing around the playpark at Squires Field was damaged during Storm Garotti and Andrew Inglefield will be undertaking the necessary repairs.
- Following Storm Garotti I am working on an Emergency Plan for Fowey Parish. It was agreed that the Town Clerk would circulate a first draft of a Plan and members would then identify additions/amendments.
- The window for applications to the Highways Improvement Scheme will close shortly so if we have anything to register we need to do it soon. Members suggested several possibilities for improvements, although most would be likely to exceed the maximum funding available under the scheme. It was agreed that improvements to the dangerous junction in Hanson Drive leading to the Car Park were needed but that this would not be achievable under the HIS. Cllr Fairweather considered that the introduction of parking restrictions on Hanson Drive outside the Fowey Hall wall that had been introduced by the previous Cornwall Councillor were unnecessary and could potentially be removed. Cllr Day considered that all-year-round parking restrictions should be introduced along the whole length of Hanson Drive, Tower Park and Gallants Drive. Cllr Longman pointed out that this would potentially impact adversely on local residents and people travelling in to work in the town. After further discussion the Mayor proposed, Cllr Day seconded that an application for an all-year-round no parking restriction in Hanson Drive, Tower Park and Gallants Drive should be submitted to the HIS. There were no amendments but voting was 2 in favour and 4 against and consequently the motion was lost.
- CALC is running training on Councillor Skills in Lostwithiel at 6.30pm on 3<sup>rd</sup> March. It was agreed that any Councillor wishing to attend would inform the Town Clerk within 14 days.
- I am currently dealing with the issue of the scaffolding that has been erected outside the KOP on FTC property, particularly in respect of the sections blocking the disabled parking space and impeding access to the Webb Street permit parking spaces.

#### **25/153 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr I Wilson**

Cllr Wilson gave the following report

I wish everybody in Fowey, the surrounding area and the Town Council a Happy New Year and I hope you all had a great Christmas and New Year celebration. Unfortunately, I can't say 2026 has started well for our Ward. We have Two major issues our Residents need to be aware of. With First Bus's withdrawal from Cornwall in February, we will be apparently the only Ward in Cornwall to lose a Bus Route with no replacement at all. The No 25 will no longer serve Polkerris and will instead Terminate at St Blazey. There is however a plan to provide a Summer

Service, but the exact details are yet to be confirmed. The No 24 will continue with slight changes to the Route but essentially will serve the same areas.

There is a Public Consultation running until February 4th regarding the proposal to introduce charges on Car Parks that are either free, or free in the Winter Months. There are also proposed changes to the use and charging of Motorhomes. Our Ward unfortunately has the greatest number of Car Parks in the spotlight for change:

- 1) Hamley's Corner in Par,
- 2) Par Beach
- 3) St Andrews Wetland Nature Reserve in Par
- 4) Fowey Main Car Park
- 5) Readymoney Cove

I would encourage everybody to participate in the public consultation and express their views.

<https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/off-street-parking-order-2026>

I have emailed the Portfolio Holder for Transport expressing my objections.

## **25/154 OGS Garden**

A member of the public had been in contact with both the Mayor and Town Clerk and had queried why FTC was spending taxpayers money on legal advice as he considered that the dilapidations claim lodged by the Trustees was spurious. The gentleman had also suggested that FTC was withholding information about the situation from the electorate. Members agreed that there had been no attempt to withhold information; everything had been recorded in the minutes, albeit not all in one place, and was in the public domain, but it was agreed that for transparency a complete resume of the situation to date should be included again in the minutes.

FTC was served a Landlords Notice ending a Business Tenancy and Reasons and for Refusing a New One by the Landlord's Surveyors, Lantic Surveyors, on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024. A dilapidations schedule was then served on FTC by the Landlords, the Trustees of the OGS Foundation, on 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2024 in the figure of £131,370.00. This figure was disputed by FTC, Councillors considered that the garden had been kept in excellent condition throughout the 37 years FTC was the leaseholder, although work on the western wall was commissioned and carried out by Leighton Paull as a gesture of goodwill. Following the involvement of Kirsty Worden (Vicery Holman) and the work on the western wall the dilapidations schedule was amended by the Trustees on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2025 to a figure of £69,070.00 This figure remained in place until a Calderbank offer of £60,000.00 was received from the Trustees in November 2025. This remains the situation.

The garden was designated an Open Green Space as part of the Fowey NDP and the Trustees have maintained throughout this litigation that the designation should be removed. The NDP process had to be community - and not FTC - led, but some Councillors were on the Working Group, together with residents and the Group worked closely with the CC Neighbourhood Planning Team. Members accept that the Trustees objected to the designation very late on in the process, but this was certainly after the draft document had been in the public domain for some considerable time; clearly the public consultations and workshops could not have taken place if this had not been the case. The whole NDP process was in the public arena and took over 2 years to complete. It involved questionnaires, workshops and finally a public referendum overseen by the Electoral Office. The Steering Group noted the late objection and lack of engagement by the Trustees but concluded that the strong public support carried considerably more weight. Members accept that the Trustees objected prior to the approval of the Plan by the 'Independent Person' (who was not appointed by FTC) and the Plan going to the public referendum and being 'Made' but the Independent Person was aware of the Trustees objection

when she made her decision to approve the Plan; landowners do not have to agree to their land being designated as an Open Green Space and she clearly took this into account when she made her decision. The Trustees and Lantic Surveyors have been told by FTC that the OGS designation cannot be changed without a review of the NDP and this has been confirmed to them by the Cornwall Council Neighbourhood Planning Team. Furthermore, members consider that even if a review was carried out, a time-consuming process and at significant expense, it would be impossible to imagine that the residents of Fowey would vote to change the designation and therefore lose a much-loved public open space in the heart of the town. On behalf of the residents of Fowey, FTC made an offer to the Trustees to buy the Garden and maintain it as a public open space, but this was rejected by the Trustees on the grounds that they will not entertain it unless the designation is removed and the dilapidation schedule satisfied. FTC's offer has been left 'on the table;' members would still very much like to investigate the possibility of securing the garden for the town in perpetuity.

#### **25/155 Squires Field Car Park**

Cllr Dellow would follow up on a scope of works but it was agreed that complete resurfacing and the lining of spaces would not be achievable without introducing charging to cover the significant cost. Skimming off the surface and introducing new hardcore would probably be the only practical option available.

#### **25/156 Town Quay**

Cllr Gibbon reported that he was still having problems finding a contractor willing to undertake the repair work to Steve's Steps. However, Paul Thomas had recommended somebody and he would be meeting with him on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January to discuss options.

#### **25/157 Main Car Park Toilets**

The FTC solicitor was still chasing Cornwall Council to progress the devolution. Cllr Wilson reported that CC had suggested that the delay was being caused as the FTC solicitor had raised questions that CC was researching. The Town Clerk responded that she was unaware of any such questions; Cllr Wilson agreed to ascertain.

#### **25/158 Roll of Honour**

Cllr Fairweather reported that he had been researching the availability of grants towards the restoration of the Roll and so far he had received a positive response from the War Memorials Trust. Cllr Fairweather would continue to investigate grant funding and would also seek further quotes for the restoration.

#### **25/159 Reports from Councillors – *at the discretion of the Mayor and including decisions on matters that the Mayor considers to be urgent***

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had received notification earlier in the day of the proposed Off Street Parking Order (mentioned by Cllr Wilson in his report) but the consultation period was very short and responses had to be received by 4<sup>th</sup> February, which meant that this could not be considered as an agenda item at the February Council meeting. The Mayor directed that given this short consultation window and that two sites in Fowey were affected this must be considered as an urgent item. It was generally felt that the introduction of the Motorhome regulations at Main Car Park was acceptable but it was proposed by the Mayor, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that FTC should respond to the consultation objecting to the proposals to introduce all-year charging at Readymoney Car Park. *Reasons: This car park is used mainly by local people during the winter months and is an essential facility for Fowey allotment holders*

*given it provides the only access to their plots. Additionally, the introduction of all-year charging will only exacerbate the already significant problem of on-street parking in the surrounding area. Fowey has already lost a bus service to Tower Park as buses were unable to gain access due to parked cars.*

Cllr Dellow noted that the Town Hall roof was in need of attention and that this was likely to involve significant expense.. Cllr Fairweather agreed to arrange for the roof to be inspected and to seek quotes for the work.

**Date of Next Meeting** 18<sup>th</sup> February 2026

**Meeting Closed** 8.30pm