

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting  
held on Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> April 2026 at 7pm in Fowey Town  
Hall

**25/221 Present** The Mayor  
Councillors

Cllr Mrs L Simms  
Mrs F Day  
A Dellow Esq  
I Fairweather Esq  
C Gibbon Esq

**25/222 In attendance**

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr I Wilson Esq  
Dr Gwen Maggs (Tor to Shore)  
Members of the public

**25/223 Apologies**

Cllr Ms K Longman

**25/224 Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 16<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

The minutes were approved for accuracy on 16h May 2025. It was proposed by Cllr Gibbon, seconded Cllr Fairweather and RESOLVED that the minutes be adopted and signed by the Chairman

**24/225 Matters Arising not on the Agenda**

None

**25/226 Annual Report of the Town Council – *Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms***

This report sets out the operation of Fowey Town Council and my highlights of the 2025-2026 civic year.

Fowey's VE 80 celebration on the evening of the 8th May was organised by FTC with the support of Fowey Church. It was a very enjoyable community event held on the Town Quay, which included a service led by Revd. Carol Edleston and entertainment provided by Mount Charles Band and Lankelly Shout, who gave powerful performances of Cornish songs . The culmination of the evening was the beacon lighting ceremony by veterans Graham Champion and John Adams and the community singing of 'I Vow to Thee My Country,' led by Lankelly Shout.

Myriam Stirling, our new Administrative Assistant and Library Manager, started work at Pavilion House on the 10th of June. She continues to make a significant contribution to FTC and the Library with her enthusiasm and professionalism. In September the Library hours increased so that it is now open on Tuesday afternoon and Wednesday, Thursday and Saturday mornings. In addition there are two activities running at the Library ; Knit, Stitch, Hooks and Books on Wednesday mornings and Storytime for nursery and pre-school children, led by Dawn Hope, fortnightly on Thursday mornings.

On Saturday the 28th of June Fowey and the Breton Town of Binic Etables sur Mer celebrated the signing of a Twinning Treaty, which will influence the future lives of both communities through the creation of cultural, social, economic and educational collaborations and opportunities. I was privileged to sign the Binic Accord on behalf of the people of Fowey along with Paul Chauvin, the Mayor of Binic Etables Sur Mer, at a wonderful service and ceremony at St Fimbarrus Church, which was followed by a Civic reception at the Town Hall. More festivities happened during the weekend, street performances and a concert by the Breton Trio 'Sweet Touch', sailing activities and town tours. My thanks go to Ken and Ali Wittamore for taking the lead in organising this visit and for planning the return visit in June 2026. I am pleased to say that the Royal Fowey Regatta on 17th -23rd August was a resounding success and I and the Mayor's Consort enjoyed representing the Council at the Regatta Church Service and the Crowning of the Carnival Queens. I also presented the sailing prizes at the Yacht Club, and presented the certificates at the Classic Car show. The Traders Carnival was very inventive and colourful and attracted a lot of attention from passers-by. Thank you Ash Waller and the Regatta Committee, the Port of Fowey Organising Committee and the many volunteers who made the Regatta such a success.

A Civic reception took place on the afternoon of Saturday October 25th to celebrate the formal opening of Pavilion House, Fowey Library and the new play facilities at Squires Field. The guests included representatives of Cornwall Library Service, Fowey Library Volunteers, Squires Field Working Group and the members of the public who donated money to buy and site the new benches on Squires Field. The highlight of the occasion was the presentation of the Spirit of Fowey awards to acknowledge the exceptional volunteering spirit of Matthew Chester Akrigg, Des Thomas, Graham Allen and Lynn Goad. On Remembrance Sunday 9th November FTC joined Fowey Church, the Fowey British Legion and Community of Fowey in the commemoration of the lives of those who defended us in times of conflict. Many people came to witness the laying of wreaths and take part in the service.

The Fowey Town Hall Christmas Market which was organized by FTC took place from 14th -16th November on the same weekend as Fowey Christmas Market. Fifteen local artists and crafters exhibited and expressed their appreciation to FTC for this opportunity. My thanks go to Paul Finlay for his help with setting up and invigilating.

I represented FTC at the Christmas light switch on Friday 5th December and at the Advent Service on Sunday 7th December.

Russell Maclaren, who was a longstanding employee of FTC and always went beyond the call of duty in his role as the Town Hall Caretaker/cleaner, sadly passed away in December. On the afternoon of 7<sup>th</sup> January the Town Clerk and I attended his funeral and on behalf of FTC passed on our condolences to his family and friends.

I am pleased to report that Fowey's WW1 Roll of Honour is now registered with the War Memorial Trust. Councillors agreed that this important document should be saved and Cllr Fairweather is investigating grant funding opportunities to help with its restoration.

The MUGA was closed recently for some time due to health and safety issues. I am delighted to say that the work has been carried out and the MUGA is open again.

FTC resolved that the toilets at Fowey Main car park be devolved to them in January 2025. I am pleased to say that at last the devolution process is complete and that FTC will be working with KP Cabs to get them re-opened as soon as possible. This will create a much more positive and welcoming environment for people arriving in our town.

I want to thank Judith Taylor and all our Library volunteers for keeping the library open, and particularly Councillor Frances Day who not only works on Saturdays, but also in the week if required. Thank you to all my fellow Councillors for your commitment and support over the past Civic Year and to the Town Clerk Sally Vincent and Administrative Assistant Myriam Sterling for your valuable advice and assistance.

Finally, I would like to thank the Mayor's Consort Gary Craddock for his support in all my Mayoral duties.

### **25/227 Annual Report of the Planning Committee –Cllr Colin Gibbon Esq**

Fowey Town Council is a listed Consultee in the planning process, for all Planning Applications within the Parish of Fowey, which extends to Polmear to the west, Great Pinnock to the north, and the Fowey Estuary up to Sawmills Studios to the east.

We represent the Town's residents and businesses, to ensure all requests for proposed developments and alterations, including listed buildings and tree works are appropriate and meet planning regulations and constraints. However whilst our observations and comments are listened to by the case officer, ultimately Cornwall Council, as the Local Planning Authority, has the final say in planning decisions.

The change of Government in July 2024 brought in changes to Planning to accommodate the demand for 1.5million homes to be built in 5 years, equating to 370,000 new homes in England every year. This is to fulfil the government's promise to deal with the national housing crises. The revised guidance and policies for planning across England has been in use from December 2024 and it has been evident from some recent decisions that Cornwall Council is keen to encourage the building of new houses, where it is not inappropriate.

Cornwall's Local Plan is now 8 years old, with an end date 2030, and hence some of their housing policies will be considered 'out of date' for decision making.

Fowey Neighbourhood Plan (FNDP) is now 6 years old but will also stay in place until 2030. However some policies, typically those relating to type of housing, location and number of new houses including Development Boundaries, will be out of date.

Development proposals within land that forms part of a National Landscape (formerly known as Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty), Local Green Space, Heritage Coast areas at risk of flooding or coastal change or irreplaceable habitat may be more likely to be refused.

Fowey Town Council will continue to put forward the local view as best we can. Once a planning application has been registered with Cornwall Council it

is uploaded to the Planning Portal to enable all interested parties to view the proposal. Letters are sent to immediate neighbours - an immediate neighbour being someone whose property adjoins the proposed site and not someone who lives up the road or opposite. These letters will notify the neighbour of the proposed planning works. A public notice should also be posted close to the site.

If you are a neighbour, the letter will inform you how to provide comments and let you know that you have 21 days to respond. Comments, for or against should be uploaded to the Planning Portal as a public comment, with the Planning Application reference number.

Between April 2025 and March 31st 2026 there have been 47 planning applications lodged in the Parish of Fowey; of these Fowey Town Council Planning Committee had 'no objection' to 39 and objected to 6.

I would like to thank the committee members for their hard work over the past year. There have been many interesting and complicated applications this year, all of which take time to review, particularly when site visits are necessary, or attendance at an appeal meeting is required.

And finally I would like to thank our Cornwall County Councillor, Ian Wilson, for his support to the planning process over the past year.

#### **25/228 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Lynn Simms**

The Environment Committee is responsible for protecting the town's open spaces, ensuring that the people who live in and visit Fowey can enjoy the physical and mental benefits of being outside. The Committee organises the clearance of overgrowth on the Gold Footpaths, grass cutting and weeding on the open spaces, waste management at Squires Field, safety checks and repairs in the play area, and the maintenance of the Piggy Lane Triangle.

Our tree warden, Cllr Day, monitors the trees in our area and feeds back to the meetings if action is needed to protect them from being unnecessarily felled. She reported in the June meeting that more than 1.6m trees in nearly 1,000 locations have been planted as part of the Forest for Cornwall, which is celebrating its fifth anniversary. Residents, landholders, businesses and community groups have contributed by growing tree saplings where they live and work. This has brought benefits for nature recovery and has improved the experience of being in the environment.

On Saturday 25th October the Committee held an Environmental Awareness event at Pavilion House 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 and Tina and Mark Robinson from the Charity Our Only World brought their Sand Box project, which depicts the journey of a baby turtle. We also had a visit from the Bird Lady of Fowey who brought three of her beautiful owls to the delight of everyone in attendance.

Following on from this event our plan for the future is to plant more native trees, shrubs and wildflowers in areas of Squires Field, to introduce different heights of mowing or no mow zones and site some dead wood to encourage fungi, mosses and lichens. We also intend to provide bird boxes and bug

hotels. Most importantly we aim to involve the community in helping to maintain the habitats.

The MUGA and Pump Track was officially opened on 25th October. The guests included members of the Squires Field Working Group and members of the public who donated funds to buy and site the new benches. I am pleased to say the new play facilities are being well used by the young people of Fowey and surrounding areas. My thanks go to Rhianna Cooke, Alan Harris-Guerrero and Squires Field Working Group for making this possible. Finally I want to thank the members of the Committee for their hard work and enthusiasm over this Civic Year, Cllr Longman for taking responsibility for the play area and Cllr Day for organising the minutes. .

### **25/229 To receive the Financial Report – Cllr Andrew Dellow Esq**

Fowey Town Council continues in its efforts to improve the town and in the main has been successful. This is the result of a lot of work by number of committees.

It goes without saying that to undertake the range of tasks and projects this entails comes at a cost. The overall budget is managed by the finance committee who also monitor expenditure from other committees against their respective budgets each year.

Each of the other committees will present their own reports so I do not intend to repeat their activities here.

To give an idea of what it takes to ‘operate’ our town, from a Fowey Town Council perspective at least, the budget for 2026/2027 is based on income and expenditure of £296,689. The income is derived from various sources to the sum of £92,020 and the balancing £204,679 is received via precept. The precept has increased by 3.2% from 2025/2026.

The Council holds a sinking fund for ‘unforeseen’ emergency matters and also for major projects that may require significant expenditure. As a small town we cannot run multiple projects in tandem and so these tend to happen consecutively and planned ahead. Over recent years we have had the Squires Field Pavilion refurbished from its derelict state into a modern, sustainable building that acts a multi-function facility hosting Council meetings, library, Council office and storage of the Quiller-Couch book collection. Looking ahead there is consideration being given to the state of the car park at Squires Field and the need to re-surface it. This is a substantial area and is currently in very poor condition. There is also the never ending maintenance and regular repairs of the toilet facilities operated by Fowey Town Council on the Town Quay and as of this year main car park. The levels of vandalism that these facilities suffer on a continuous basis is quite frankly despicable and represents a significant cost to the town.

Sadly, after a great many years under stewardship of Fowey Town Council, the lease to the Old Grammar School Gardens on Esplanade has been terminated by the Landlord. The gardens have been enjoyed by countless people, locals and visitors alike, many of whom have written to express their compliments and how much they have enjoyed such a fabulous public space – a limited facility in the town. It has been published in previous minutes of meetings that the Landlord originally made a claim of circa £100k in dilapidations against the Council. This was followed by a Calberbank offer of

£60k. As a proportion of the annual budget of the Council these unexpected figures represent a significant overhead that would obviously divert limited funds from future capital projects. Needless to say, the Council is contesting the claim, and the matter is ongoing.

The Council now has three employees on its book. Sally our long-standing Town Clerk, Myriam who is based at Pavilion House and works as a part time administrator and Kayna who looks after the town hall and took over the role from her father Russell who sadly passed away last year after many years of service.

Finally, I would like to thank my fellow Councillors who sit with me on the finance committee for their continued hard work and diligence.

### **25/230 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr Ian Wilson Esq**

The past year has been very busy and has often been frustrating and disappointing, but there have been a few successes along the way.

#### **1) Fowey Community Hospital Disappointing**

I started the year in Fowey supporting the “Save Fowey Community Hospital Group” in an attempt to get the NHS and ICB to reconsider the closure and keep at least some medical facility open on site. I was able to use my position on the Health and Adult Social Care Committee to get some publicity and air the views of the local community. Unfortunately, the ICB were simply not interested in listening and continued to express the importance of Health Care in the Community whilst doing the complete opposite and closing or reducing Community Hospitals around Cornwall. The “Save Fowey Community Hospital Group” raised the necessary Funds to take the decision to close the Hospital to Judicial review and this is currently still ongoing. There are potential complexities surrounding the ownership and Legacy Funds of the Hospital which are disputed. It is understood that any Fowey Community Groups that express an Interest in taking over the building for Community use or Projects will be given first refusal after any legal action has concluded. Unfortunately, it does seem unlikely the Hospital will ever reopen.

#### **2) New Parking Charges Disappointing**

In spite of an overwhelming 85% against in the public consultation on the introduction of Winter Parking charges, the Cabinet unanimously voted in favour of implementing the new Charges. The Car Parks affected in our Division are:

- 1) Hamley's Corner in Par,
- 2) Par Beach
- 3) Readymoney Cove

I objected in the strongest possible terms in correspondence with the Transport Portfolio Holder and in both the January Full Council and in the March Cabinet meeting where the vote took place, but unfortunately, it fell on very deaf ears and was passed anyway.

#### **3) Remembrance Sunday A personal privilege**

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.

**4) Readymoney Beach Bins Work in Progress**

Cornwall Council decided to hand back the lease of the Readymoney Cove Beach in 2024 and in doing so decided that they no longer had responsibility to provide Litter Bins and had them removed. This has caused enormous problems for the cove with littering. I have been fighting to have the bins reinstated and this battle continues.

**5) Potholes Work in Progress**

I have received numerous complaints about the quality of pothole repairs around Fowey in particular along Passage Street. I am aware of this, and it is part of a wider problem across Cornwall, which I am currently investigating. I have had a meeting with senior Cormac managers to discuss how we address this,

**6) First Bus Go Bus Satisfactory Conclusion**

With First Bus's withdrawal from Cornwall in February, Go-Cornwall-Bus took over all the routes with a similar but not identical plan. The No 25 serving Polkerris was lost, and will 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.

**7) Fowey Main Car Park Toilets Satisfactory Conclusion**

After pushing Cornwall Council for most of the year, the devolution of the Main Car Park Toilet Block has, finally, been achieved. It is hoped the toilets will be re-opened in time for the 2026 Tourist season, albeit with a reduced capacity.

**8) Fowey Town Quay Pedestrianisation Satisfactory**

Alleged problems in getting the pedestrianisation signs made caused significant delays in issuing the Street Licences for various businesses in 2025 and this was causing significant concern regarding the potential loss of revenue. After putting continued pressure on Cornwall Council they were finally forced into action to have the signs made and to issue the licences just in time for the start of the Season.

**9) Twinning Great Result**

On the 28th June 2025, Fowey Town was officially twinned with Binic (in Britany) in a ceremony held in St Fimbarrus Church in Fowey. It was a very amusing and enjoyable Service and celebration with visiting residents of Binic.

**10) Historic Information Only**

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.

**11) Main Car Park Safety Information Only**

A public safety concern has been raised regarding the lack of suitable guard rail along the lower edge of the Fowey Main Car Park. This was raised previously when an out-of-control Bus traversed the Car Park boundary and crossed Saffron Close narrowly avoiding properties on the opposite side of the road. The issue was raised again a month or so ago, after another out of control vehicle did the exact same thing. I have taken this issue up with senior

management at Cornwall Council and I am confident this matter is now being looked at with the greatest urgency.

**25/231 Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies**

None

**25/232 To receive the Police Report**

No report.

***Presentation: Tor to Shore, Dr Gwen Maggs***

**25/233 Public Participation**

A member of the public queried whether Go Cornwall was going to review their schedules as had been originally proposed. Cllr Wilson responded that there had been no update on this but neither had he heard otherwise.

A member of the public shared that he was a member of a group monitoring sea grass and kelp and working to show what that St Austell Bay was such a great facility. The Group would soon be doing some work in the Fowey estuary on the Polruan side of the river.

The Mayor invited all present to join the Council for light refreshments.

**Meeting Closed**