

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 16th SEPTEMBER AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, FOWEY

26/49 Present The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Deputy Mayor, Cllr C Gibbon
Councillors: Cllr Mrs F Day, Cllr A Dellow,
Cllr I Fairweather, Cllr Ms K Longman

In Attendance The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr I Wilson

26/50 Apologies None

26/51 Declaration of Interests
α. Pecuniary – None.
β. Non Registerable – None
χ. Dispensations – None.

26/52 Public Participation & Questions
None.

26/53 Minutes of the Meeting held on 15th July 2026
It was proposed by Cllr Gibbon, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

26/54 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)
Cllr Fairweather reported that he had obtained quotes for scaffolding, repair/new guttering, cleaning stonework for the Town Hall. He suggested that the windows should be repainted while the scaffolding was up and that he would also be able to access and inspect the roof. The Town Clerk suggested that Cllr Fairweather should try to obtain a 2nd/3rd quote for the scaffolding and, also, quotes for repointing the stonework; Cllr Fairweather agreed to do this. Cllr Fairweather queried if there was budget for this work; the Town Clerk confirmed that the TH/TQ Sinking Fund was ringfenced for major Town Hall/Town Quay repairs and maintenance.

26/55 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees
Planning – minutes noted
Finance – minutes noted
Environment – no report

26/56 Accounts for Approval
It was proposed by Cllr Dellow, seconded Cllr Day and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £34,176.74 be approved.

26/57 Correspondence

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

26/58 Resolutions from Councillors

None

26/59 To Receive the Mayor's Report

The Mayor reported.

I was very disappointed that I was unable to attend the naming ceremony and service of dedication for Fowey's new Atlantic 85 lifeboat the Spirit of Daisy, which took place on the Town Quay on Saturday 25th July. However, FTC was well represented by Cllr Dellow, Cllr Fairweather, Cllr Day and the Town Clerk Sally Vincent, who reported that it was a wonderful Community Event.

Fowey Royal Regatta 2026 was, as usual, a great success. I represented FTC at the Regatta Service at Fowey Church on the 16th August, was privileged to crown the Fowey Carnival Royalty at the Fowey Hall Hotel on the evening of the 17th and helped to judge the Traders Carnival on the morning of the 19th. At 6pm on the same day the Mayor's Consort and I attended the Royal Fowey Yacht Club where I presented the race prizes and awarded the Mayor's Cup to Andy and Suzy Matthews for services to the Fowey Sailing Community. Later that evening we joined the Carnival parade led by the Town Crier. On Thursday 29th we were at the Fowey Classic Car Show, which was the largest yet with approximately 500 cars on the field, to present awards to the owners of the winning vehicles. My thanks go to the Port of Fowey Race Organising Committee, the Regatta Committee and the many volunteers who gave their time and energy to the benefit of the Town. For more details see the September Mayor's Column.

On the morning of Sunday 23rd August the Mayor's Consort and I represented FTC at the Inauguration Service of the Mayor of Bodmin Cllr Mike Barbery at St Petrocs Church, on 26th August we were guests at Lostwithiel's Mayor Making Ceremony for Mayor Cllr John Berryman and on Sunday 13th September we were at Egloshayle Parish Church for the Wadebridge Town Council's Civic Service.

26/60 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report

The Town Clerk reported:

- I have received an enquiry from a family who have a memorial bench on the quay to add a second plaque to the bench. Given the number of requests for memorial plaques the policy has always been that if people want a memorial plaque on the quay benches then it must be achieved as part of gifting the equivalent cost of a new bench. However, there is a bench alongside this particular bench that has two plaques attached, although from memory this was done when the bench was originally installed.
Members considered this request and agreed that if the family wanted to remove the original plaque and finance a new one to include the name of the additional person they wished to remember then this would be acceptable.
- I circulated an email asking if members wished to attend the Local Plan workshop at Alexander Hall on 27th October and have only had confirmation from the Mayor. Cllr Fairweather and Cllr Gibbon confirmed that they also wished to attend.
- A new Craft Fair group called Classically Cornish has booked out the Town Hall on a weekly basis.

- I have been advised that there is woodworm in the beam in the Town Hall office. Cllr Fairweather agreed to investigate this.
- APS Construction have been booked to remove and store the summer Town Quay seating on 30th September/1st October when the winter Pay & Display parking will recommences.
- I have chased up the new white lining and numbering for the Caffa permit parking spaces. There has been a suggestion that individual signage should be installed in each space., but this would clearly involve a significant financial outlay
- I have emailed Steve to see if he would like to meet with Cllrs to discuss his ideas about public toilet payments but he has yet to respond.

26/61 To Receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr I Wilson

Cllr Wilson reported

I am appalled by the decision of National Government, to remove the right of Local Councillors to challenge the decisions made by Cornwall Council Planning Officers. With immediate effect, we are no longer able to call in Planning decisions and take them to Committee for developments of under 10 houses, which is the majority of Planning Applications. Cornwall Council don't seem to have shown any interest in pushing back against this undemocratic action by Government. This is a Nationwide issue, not just Cornwall. I have already had experience of a Planning Officer who approved a proposal at odds with the wishes of the local Parish council, the residents and even the Cornwall Council Planning Committee and then the Secretary of State Planning Inspector when it was taken to appeal. This proves beyond doubt, Planning decisions should not be left in the hands of individual Cornwall Council Planning Officers. Sometimes strange decisions can be made. I encourage all those who care about the democratic process to write to our Local MP (Noah Law) and complain about this worrying decision by National Government.

The campaign in Newtown to have the National Speed Limit reduced through the hamlet to something more in keeping with the actual road layout has started to show some results. The Cormac Highways Team have been to Newtown to survey the road and will be investigating a number of measures that might be able to be implemented with reasonably short timescales. I believe this is a move in a positive direction. Any interim measure will be welcome, whilst we continue to push for a permanent lowering of the speed limit.

I have received another complaint from a resident, stating that I haven't answered their Facebook message. I would like to make it clear that I do not use Facebook, so nobody would receive any reply from me using that method. The correct way to contact me in the first instant is via email. I do have a Council phone number, but this may not always be answered, as I may be in meetings or driving. My up-to-date contact details can be found on the Cornwall Council website.

26/62 Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

Cllr Dellow proposed, Cllr Day seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should adopt the Terms of Reference for the Steering Group agreed at their inaugural meeting. The notes from this meeting were noted.

26/63 Squires Field

Members discussed a suggestion from a member of the public that the Centenary of the gift of Squires Field to Fowey should be celebrated, but felt that it was too late to organise anything meaningful so late in 2026. It was, however, agreed to consult with Paul Finlay about the potential refurbishment of the memorial stone,

26/64 OGS Garden

It was noted that the Trustees were continuing with their demand for excessive dilapidations of over £60K following the ending of the FTC lease and had now instructed a solicitor to represent them. A meeting of the FTC Finance Committee on 7th August had concluded that this unjustified claim was costing both the people of Fowey and the young people the OGS Trustees were supposedly supporting significant amounts of money in legal fees, which, as far as FTC was concerned, was an unacceptable use of public funds. Following the decision of the Finance Committee a meeting had been held with the FTC solicitor and robust communications had been sent to the Trustees solicitor stating FTC's final position in this dispute. All Councillors confirmed their full support for this approach.

26/65 Steve's Steps

Cllr Gibbon reported that a tender document had been prepared and would be published shortly.

26/66 Reports from Councillors – *at the discretion of the Mayor and including decisions on matters that the Mayor considers to be urgent*

Following complaints from members of the public, Cllr Longman had obtained some initial quotes for acoustic quilting for the MUGA. Members discussed this option at length as the cost would be significant, even if only the fence closest to Tavern Barn was covered. Cllr Dellow was of the view that simply covering that length of fence would make little difference because of the way noise travels and covering all the fence area was not an option for both financial and safety reasons. Concern was also raised about how well this type of soundproofing actually works; it was agreed that references would be needed from other authorities who had used it before any decisions could be taken. Another option might be a fence and tree planting. At the suggestion of the Town Clerk it was agreed that the Environment Committee would investigate these (and any other) options, including costings and that it would be further considered at full Council when more information was available.

Cllr Fairweather reported that he had attended the Local Power Plan meeting on 5th August, which had discussed the idea of using Town Council properties and facilities to site renewable energy equipment, such as wind turbines, solar panels etc. Cornwall Council and other bodies can provide advice and support to help with this. Schemes such as Community Energy projects are becoming popular.

Date of Next Meeting 21st October 2026

Meeting Closed 8.14pm