

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 A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th
JANUARY 2010 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL**

09/170 Present

The Mayor Cllr Mrs A Boosey
The Deputy Mayor Cllr J Berryman
Councillors A Baker, Mrs R Finlay, Mrs S Gudmunsen, N Mason,
J Penprase, Mrs J Vincent and T Vincent

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs Sally Bain (part)
Jim Lee, planning officer Cornwall Council (part)
Chris Cooper Young, planning enforcement Cornwall Council (part)

09/171 Apologies

None

09/172 Declaration of Interests

- a. In items on the agenda.
None
- b. Of gifts to a value in excess of £25.00.
None

09/173 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

No public questions

No police report

Jim Lee outlined the role of a planning officer and explained that:

- Planning officers had a duty to follow the Development Plan, which consisted of the Cornwall Strategic Plan and the Cornwall Local Plan
- For Fowey certain PPG's and circulars, in particular 10/97, were the key frameworks used.
- All decisions needed to be defensible at appeal.
- Consistency was very important.
- FTC members would have local knowledge that could be very valuable in the decision-making process.
- Concern was raised that decisions were frequently contrary to FTC recommendations. Mr Lee explained that officers would always try to contact the Town Clerk to explain their reasons if they intended to go against FTC's recommendations and FTC could then request a committee decision if agreement could not be reached but that officers obviously had no control over committee decisions.

Chris Cooper Young outlined the role of an enforcement officer and explained that:

- The main guidelines for enforcement were contained in PPG 18.

- Any enforcement action should be commensurate to the breach; the planning authority must decide if enforcement is expedient and in the public interest.
- Delegated powers were invested in officers to decide when to take enforcement action.
- There were currently 6 live enforcement cases in Fowey
 1. Food for Thought/Waterfront
 2. Higher Lampetho Farm
 3. The Rookery, Rawlings Lane
 4. 68, Esplanade
 5. Lankelly Farm
 6. Toll Bar

09/174 Minutes of Meeting of 9th December 2009

Proposed Cllr Mrs Vincent, seconded Cllr Vincent and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

09/175 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

09/176 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Planning - minutes noted.

FAC – no report.

Environment – no report. Cllr Baker reported that the Environment Committee had gone out to tender for maintenance work at the OGS Garden and Piggy Lane during 2010/2011. Only one response had been received and Cllr Baker proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that this should be accepted.

Town Hall – no report.

Finance – no report.

09/177 To receive the Mayors Report – *report attached at appendix 1*

The Mayor reported that she had received a letter from Communities & Local Government in connection with the return of the Fowey Royal Charter and indicated that she would include it as an agenda item at the February meeting.

09/178 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Bain reported

- Concerns had been reported to her that surveyors had been seen in the grounds of the Community College. John Perry (the new Headmaster) was unaware of any such activity but she would continue to monitor the situation.
- Cornwall Council was operating under severe financial constraints. The Cabinet had produced a budget and business plan, which would be considered the following week but the financial situation was extremely difficult.
- Members had voted against an increase in members' allowances.
- Plans were in place to streamline Highways
- Plans to deal with the mud on the road at Lambs Barn were in hand

09/179 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Fowey Estuary Partnership – no report.

du Maurier – Cllr Gudmunsen reported that she had identified 8 sponsors and booked 4 bands to perform on the Town Quay during the Festival

Forum – Cllr Mrs Vincent reported:

- There may be a funding problem for the various Town Forums in the near future. The Town Forums can work with Councils to access funding denied to Town Councils for Community projects, so this may well be a problem Fowey has to face in the future. They hope that Council could give them around £500 a year to continue their work
- The car parking charges: The Forum was disappointed at the outcome of the meetings that have taken place as the hope was that we should have had more reasonable charges. Both Forum and Chamber hope for a united front to go back to Cornwall Council. Restormel used Car parks to subsidise the rates. Carrick used rates to subsidise the car parks. Fowey is to be classed as a minor Town and charges should have gone down by 25-27%. Instead, the charges over all will go up by around 5%. The Forum hopes that Council will join them and The Chamber to return to Cornwall Council and discuss the cost of season and 24 hour tickets. As an aside, it was noted that the Chairman of the Committee favoured paying on exit parking tickets!
- The Head of the Primary School wishes to work with local groups and the Town Council. The children are going to have the Heritage programme introduced into their curriculum.
- The Regeneration Project: This has run into a problem and the Landowner is not willing to sell the small triangle of roadside land to make it possible for vans to access the cinder track. Another site is under consideration. The Cornwall Council had withdrawn their objection to tree cutting in the Quarries on the Cinder Track, and there may be another developer interested in the site.
- No news on the Marine Project
- Parking and the Traffic Survey: The Forum and the representative from the Chamber said they were disappointed that the Council did a survey without their input. However it was mooted that people never seem to notice notices for about three months and that perhaps a joint traffic and parking survey could be resubmitted in March.
- The Community electric generation system. If installed, from April 2010 generous concessions are given to organisations generating electricity. If sold to the grid, power generated would be paid at 43 pence a unit, and would cost 38pence per unit for each unit consumed. There are grants that would make this community investment attractive.
- Christmas lights: The Chamber needs money to renew and replace the old lights. They are hoping for money making thoughts on the subject. They also want help from all the community organisations.
- The producers Christmas food fair. The chamber reported that they are especially looking for Cornish Food.

The Mayor recorded her disappointment that both the Forum and the Chamber had criticised FTC about doing a traffic survey without their input; the survey had actually been initiated by the working group – FTC, Forum and Chamber – and not FTC.

Chamber of Commerce – no report

Community Network Panel – no report

Cornwall Towns Association – no report

09/180 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that:

- The additional evidence required for the Quality application had been submitted to CALC.

- The risk assessment and Health & Safety documents in respect of the Town Hall, which had been supplied by Richard Welch, had still not been located. Cllr Mrs Vincent would continue in her efforts to find them.
- Co-option notices had been displayed in the town in line with FTC procedure. Cllr Baker proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded that the notice should also be put into the Fowey News, although it was accepted that this would delay the cooption procedure. Voting was 4 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions and it was, therefore, RESOLVED that this should be done.

09/181 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £2647.41 be approved. Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

09/182 Correspondence

The correspondence list had been circulated and the file was available for Cllrs attention.

09/183 Resolutions from Councillors

The Mayor introduced her resolution but invited discussion on the advisability of moving into closed session before making a formal proposal. Cllr Gudmunsen stated that the discussion should be in open session and that what she wrote in her column were only the views residents had shared with her. She considered that FTC should take up all the issues she raised but it appeared that she was the only Cllr who cared about such things as social housing. The Mayor and Cllr Mason assured her that this was not the case and the Mayor added that the content of her article was not always strictly accurate, which was difficult for FTC. Cllr Gudmunsen did not accept this and pointed out that she always put a disclaimer at the end of her articles stating that her views were not necessarily those of others. Cllr Baker stated that he believed in the right of every Cllr to submit articles to the press and that the disclaimer used by Cllr Gudmunsen should be an adequate safeguard. Cllr Mrs Vincent suggested a protocol that any Cllr wishing to write in the press must include a disclaimer. The Clerk added that a more explicit disclaimer could be formulated and used by all Cllrs as the average person in the street tended to automatically see Cllrs as writing in an official capacity. After further discussion the Mayor withdrew her proposal 'FTC places a statement in the Fowey News each month distancing itself from articles submitted by Councillors who are writing in a private capacity and not representing the views of FTC' and she proposed, Cllr Mason seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Clerk should write a disclaimer to be used by all Cllrs when submitting articles to the press and this should be added to Standing Orders. Cllr Gudmunsen abstained from voting.

09/184 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Clerk confirmed that Colin Whitehead had left Cornwall Council and his workload taken over by Martin Clemo. She had been experiencing some difficulty in moving the project forward but Martin Eddy had been extremely helpful and she was hopeful that the transfer was now back on track. Cllr Baker considered that an up to date document on the complex was required and agreed to liaise with the Clerk about this.

09/185 St Catherines Castle Lights

Cllr Baker reported that he was still in discussion with the lighting specialist and they were currently looking into the viability of LED lights running off a solar panel and battery. The lights would cost approximately £2000 each.

09/186 'What Fowey Means to You' Murals

Cllr Mrs Vincent reported that she was currently working on a design incorporating a map of Fowey and associated pictures of what Fowey means to individual Cllrs. The Mayor encouraged Cllrs to contact Cllr Mrs Vincent with their ideas.

09/187 FTC Website

No report.

09/188 Squires Field Play Area

Cllr Penprase reported that a Playbuilder (back to nature play) grant had hopefully been secured but that his committee had to fulfill certain criteria before getting final confirmation. To this end they had been attending courses at the Eden Project. Everything was looking very promising, although the whole exercise was taking a long time and he was working to keep people motivated. However, if the group were successful the 100K needed to build the proposed complex would be secured.

09/189 Use of the Hanson Chain

The Clerk reported that a letter had been received from Mrs Court in response to FTC's query about the terms of the 2000 agreement and read the letter to the meeting. Cllrs agreed that the situation was extremely sad but felt that there was little point in pressing the point at the present time, given the stance taken by the Museum.

09/190 Use of the Town Hall Office

Requests to use the office had been received from both the Troy Players and Funnybone Theatre Group. It was noted that FTC had previously declined requests but the police were no longer using the room, the telephone had been disconnected and FTC papers stored there could be locked away, although the Mace Bearers cloaks and hats and the Covington Chair could not be secured. After discussion it was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Vincent and RESOLVED that for a trial period formal requests to use the room should be sent to the Town Clerk in writing, who would have delegated power to make a decision on usage. Cllr Gudmunsen voted against the proposal

09/191 Questions under Standing Order 21

Cllr Gudmunsen advised the meeting that Julie Yeo was hoping to erect a sign in the main car park but was experiencing difficulty with the regulations and making an application under permitted development. Cllrs expressed support for Julie but concluded that she had no option but to supply the documentation required for the application. The Town Clerk suggested that either Julie or Cllr Gudmunsen should seek help from the One Stop Shop at the library. Cllr Baker advised that Cornwall Council were in talks with the CIC about building a community centre at the library, which sadly would involve the removal of important trees.

09/192 Date of next meeting

Planning – 17th February 2010

Council – 17th February 2010

Mayor Making – 26th May 2010

Meeting Closed 9.09pm

