

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 13th April 2011

10/226 Present

The Mayor

Cllr J Berryman

Deputy Mayor
Councillors

Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey
Cllr Mrs K Alexander
Cllr A Baker
Cllr Mrs R Finlay
Cllr Mrs S Gudmunsen
Cllr N Mason
Cllr Mrs J Vincent
Cllr T Vincent

09/227 In attendance

CC Cllr Mrs S Bain
The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Martin Eddy, Area Network Manager
Teresa Frost, Highways Area Manager
PCSO Linda Thomas
1 member of the press
Members of the public

09/228 Apologies

Cllr J Penprase
PC Barnecoat

09/229 Annual Report of the Town Council – Cllr John Berryman

I would like to open this report by stating that it has been a real pleasure and privilege to lead this Council for the last 12 months - and as it appears for the next 12 as well.

My thanks go to all the Councillors and Committee Chairs for their hard work during the year and, of course, to my Deputy Mayor for her invaluable support.

Special thanks to my - *our* – Clerk, Sally, for the many hours she devotes to the work of the Council and to the betterment of Fowey.

I feel it is necessary at this stage to mention 2 specific happenings and thank the people involved,

1. Cllr Arthur Baker, for his time, persistence and devotion to the cause, which is the re-illumination of St. Catherines Castle. He is almost there.

2. Cllr Jason Penprase and his playground committee; the new play area will be a worthy asset for the young people of Fowey.

Well, the transfer of Town Hall/Town Quay is a little nearer than this time last year, hopefully I can report its transfer by this time next year.

Your Council, as many of you are aware, is in the process of applying for the transfer of the Allotments and the 1- acre Meadow back into its fold, hopefully by the autumn. It is this council's intention to apply to Cornwall Council for the return of all the other assets lost in the various transfers of administration.

There would appear that within the town and the various organisations there is a willingness for Fowey to manage more of its own resources. Your Council will help in any way it can and will certainly move this along.

Du Maurier. As you are all aware Cornwall Council decided not to run with the festival again and handed it over to this Council along with a grant and a seconded officer Jonathan Aberdeen. We had a meeting with Fowey Chamber of Commerce and jointly decided to pick up the challenge and run with it. The programme of events is by now known by all and we need the support of the townspeople, relatives, friends and everyone else to ensure the Festival's continued existence. You are probably all aware by now of the Royal visit; The Countess of Wessex will visit the Festival on the 17th May.

10/230 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey

This year, as usual, has been a busy one for the Planning Committee, the rate of applications saw no decrease at all, and whilst most were straightforward the ones that were not made for some interesting discussions, not only amongst ourselves but with the Planning Authority at Cornwall Council. I would say that I had great hopes that when the Localism Act was suggested, or even now when it is in final negotiation, more attention would be given to the Town or Parish councils comments, provided of course that they backed their comments on sound planning reasons. Suffice to say I am not unduly surprised that this hasn't happened and life goes on its merry way.

Cllr. Penprase stepped down as Chairman towards the end of last year, and I was elected to take his place. I was very pleased to do this, as I seemed to have been on both Fowey and Restormels planning committee for many years, and still have a lot to learn, especially as various aspects keep changing. It was a great sorrow to me that Cornwall Council instructed their committee members to pass some very doubtful decisions, on the grounds that they couldn't afford the appeal process. If I hadn't heard this with my own ears I would not believe it, but there it is.

It was excellent that one of our newer members, Cllr. Alexander, has joined this committee. Her knowledge of local situations has been invaluable, and, together with Cllr. Jane Vincent, we have been to three or four planning seminars that were held at the old Restormel building. These have been most useful, especially the one on enforcement!!!

I hope that the next year will see a little more co-operation between officers and local planning committees, it will make both of our lives easier. I also fully expect to see as many applications as before, which will keep us all engaged in site visits, discussions and I hope sensible decisions that will be upheld higher up the line

10/231 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Jane Vincent

The Committee: Councillors Jane Vincent, Ruth Finlay, Katherine Alexander, Tony Vincent.

Contractors: Tim Rhodes: Grass cutting, weeding and path clearance in designated areas under local agreements.

Gardener: Nigel Retallack.

Piggy Lane Triangle, Hydrangea Row and the Old Grammar School Gardens are dealt with by Nigel Retallack.

Costs have risen due to petrol costs, increased V.A.T. and the cost of glyphosphate. The cost rises are not great.

Our Lease on the Old Grammar School Gardens expires in July and we await the decision as to whether the lease is renewed again. At the moment the Spring Garden of the Old Grammar school is full of primroses and other spring plants, and we await the summer planting. The ivy has been stripped back, and will be kept under control,

overhanging bushes have been cleared and there is more light in the gardens. Improvements are planned for this year.

Gullies: We report blocked gullies but there is an outstanding one that seems to have gone unnoticed, and that is on the lane through the church graveyard.

The Parade: We are not happy with the state of the boundaries. Fallen trees are a complication. In some places the tarmac is raised. We are only responsible for 1.5 metres of the footpath. We hope that Cornwall Council will assist us in this matter.

Whitehouse shelter needs cleaning and the ivy needs to be removed. There is a plaque erected by members of the U.S. Forces before D-Day. This needs cleaning. We hope to hear from Cornwall Council.

The steps to Coombe and Polridmouth beaches need to be fixed urgently as the drop is now quite dangerous. We are in negotiation about this.

We note that the roofs of shelters above the old Ferry Slip and on the ferry slip are leaking

The Committee decided that should there be a request for another memorial seat, it should be sited on the parade.

During the last year, the new committee has been on a learning curve, but we believe that we have made decisions and initiated actions and we will see an improvement in our work.

We would like to pay tribute to Arthur Baker and Tony Dando who are a hard act to follow, but we are confident that they have laid the foundations for our continuing work; we especially thank Arthur for his advice and explanations.

10/232 Annual Financial Report – *Cllr Norman Mason*

Cllr Mason reported that he had checked and signed off the 2010/2011 financial statements, which had been prepared by the Town Clerk and he congratulated the Mayor on completing the year with unspent money in his budget. He was concerned that some of the grant money available for weed killing had not been utilized and noted that there had been a considerable overspend on grass cutting. A considerable amount of money had already been invested in legal fees associated in the transfer of the Town Quay/Town Hall from Cornwall Council to Fowey Town Council and Cllr Mason expressed his disappointment that the transaction had yet to be completed, due to pressure of work at Cornwall Council's legal department and through no fault of FTC.

10/233 Report of Fowey Asset Committee – *Cllr John Berryman*

Having passed the recovery of the Town Hall and the Town Quay over to full council, the Assets Committee has not met during the year. As soon as the transfer of this property to FTC has been completed other assets will be applied for in the councils approved priority order.

10/234 Report of the Town Hall Committee – *Cllr Sherlee Gudmunson*

Town Hall meetings are normally held every three to four months but, to date, we have been unable to convene one this year due to the unavoidable commitments of some committee members. We hold meetings on the first Friday in the month and members of the public are very welcome to attend and address the committee on any matters associated with the Town Hall during the first 15 minutes of the session.

We are still awaiting completion on the transfer of the Town Hall and the Town Quay from Cornwall Council, but in the meantime the usage of the Hall continues to improve. The Terms and Conditions of Hire are given to any clients wishing to hire the

Hall and are also displayed on site. The Town Hall Committee has an annual budget, approved by full council, which covers such things as staff costs, cleaning materials, safety checks, heating, kitchen appliances, window cleaning, redecoration etc. The facility is a wonderful asset and belongs to the people of Fowey and we do not aim to run it at a profit. To keep costs down we ask hirers to leave the premises clean and tidy and to treat the property with respect. We hope that you will all show an interest in the Hall's future, so please attend our meetings and share your ideas with us. For instance, there have been several discussions at Committee about having a licensed bar in the Hall and this suggestion will be considered further in due course.

We have recently employed a new Caretaker, Michael Keep, who is doing a great job and our Cleaner, Tracy Butler, is a huge asset and gives the Hall a thorough cleaning once a week.

10/235 To receive the accounts of the Town Charities together with the comments of the Trustees and the Town Council thereon

No report.

10/236 The Police Report

PCSO Linda Thomas reported that there had been 89 recorded crimes in the year April 2010/March 2010, including 1 non dwelling (commercial) burglary and 18 of these had been detected. She continued by advising that she was currently trying to set up a Boatwatch scheme in Fowey; Polruan would be launching a similar scheme on 16th April.

PCSO Thomas also advised that on 20th May there would be a reformation of how the police work and the Neighbourhood Beat Manager would be working alongside the response section.

10/237 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr Mrs Sally Bain

Although shortlisted for 'The Most Improved Council' award Cornwall Council was not successful, but the fact that we were shortlisted for it following the challenges of the transition to a unitary authority, including inheriting a number of failing services, shows the significant progress we have made over the last twelve months.

Despite recycling rates of just under 37% and a reduction in the overall amount of waste produced, the amounts paid to the Government for landfill tax have risen by approximately £1.32 million from last year. In 2009/10 Cornwall Council had to landfill 189,000 tonnes of waste material, in 2010/11 this has dropped to 186,000 tonnes but the landfill tax bill has still gone up. More effort please on getting the message across to everyone to recycle.

Cornwall Sea Fisheries Committee's 121 years and three days history formally came to an end at the end of last month when it was replaced by the new Cornwall Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority. It takes over the duties of fisheries management in the inshore zone (6 nautical miles) around coasts and rivers and estuaries up to the tidal limit.

10/238 Town Hall/Town Quay Transfer

The Mayor reported that the transfer process had stalled again, due to the pressure of work at Cornwall Councils legal department, but he gave assurances that both he and the Town Clerk would do all they could to bring matters to a conclusion. Martin Eddy

added that he was also extremely frustrated with the delay and that he would do everything possible to finalise the handover.

10/239 Traffic Management and Highway Issues – *Teresa Frost*

Teresa advised that she would be going around the town reminding people of the proper use of the loading bays, which had now been repainted and were legally enforceable. She was following up on issues with planting licences, signage and gullies but reported that her 'team' had dropped in number over the last 2 years from 21 to 13 (with 6/8 on regular routine maintenance), so she had to make difficult decisions and prioritise work.

10/240 Public Questions

Cllr Baker requested a copy of the gully cleansing schedule. Teresa undertook to provide this.

Cllr Baker queried the position with regard to the parking of builders' vehicles and skips. Teresa advised that skips needed a licence and builders' vehicles required a waiver from the streetworks section.

Chris Warton asked if the additional funding promised by the government for pothole repair would be utilized in Fowey. Teresa advised that this was unlikely as the roads in Fowey were in a good state of repair, compared to those in the more rural parishes.

The Mayor advised that SW Water needed to carry out substantial works on the Town Quay sewage pumping system. This was scheduled for October to avoid the summer season but the Chamber of Commerce had requested that it be put back until the new year.

Meeting Closed 7.58pm