

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 JULY 2011 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

11/36 Present

The Mayor, Cllr John Berryman
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A Boosey
Councillors Mrs K Alexander, A Baker, Mrs S Gudmunsen,
Mrs J Vincent, Cllr T Vincent

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)
Lynn Goold (part)
3 members of the public

11/37 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Mrs R Finlay (work commitments).
PC A Barnicoat.

11/38 Declaration of Interests

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

11/39 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

Police Report - No report

Public Questions – Mrs Marchant reiterated her concerns about domestic rubbish being put out both uncovered and days before collection day and then spread over the streets by seagulls. Cllr Bain responded that she was working on the situation and repeated her request for people to advise her of the addresses of any properties causing a persistent nuisance.

Lynn Goold - Lynn updated the meeting on the progress of the Heritage Trail project and confirmed that interpretation boards would be sited at Town Quay, Caffa Mill, Bodinnick Ferry Slip, Main Car Park, Readymoney Car Park, Polruan Car Park and Polruan Wharf. There would also be two boards at Whitehouse, as one would be sponsored by FHC. Lynn confirmed that the Town Quay board would be slightly different as it would include a time line.

11/40 Minutes of Meetings of 15th June 2011

Main Meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded Cllr Mrs Vincent and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Gudmunsen abstained from voting.

Extraordinary Meeting. It was proposed by Cllr Vincent, seconded Cllr Alexander and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Gudmunsen abstained from voting

11/41 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

11/42 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Finance – no report.

Planning - minutes noted.

FAC – no report.

Town Hall – no report. The minutes for 12th March 2010 were still outstanding.

Environment – minutes noted. Cllr Baker voiced concerns that the Committee was considering taking over the maintenance of the New Road Hill bank from Cornwall Council.

11/43 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had attended the final reception for HMS Cornwall, which had been a rather sad occasion. He confirmed that he would be attending the Hospital Day Fete and the Garden Show in the coming weeks and also that, together with the Mayoress and the Town Clerk, he had been delighted to welcome HRH The Princess Royal to Fowey the previous Monday.

The Mayor then reported that he had attended a meeting with a representative of the Chamber of Commerce who had confirmed that the Chamber would be employing a Traffic Manager for 6 weeks, initially to work 6 hours per day, 5 days per week, although this might reduce to 4 hours after the first few weeks. He was hopeful that this would help to alleviate the traffic congestion in the town but confirmed that he had advised the Chamber that if the scheme proved to be unsuccessful restricted delivery times would have to be considered for 2012.

11/44 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Full report attached at appendix 1.

Cllr Bain gave the following report on Windmill House

Ocean currently has 9 out of 29 properties at Windmill house that are vacant.

Allocations to the scheme are based on an applicants age – must be over-60 years of age – and the extent of support required to allow them to live independently, within the sheltered environment of the scheme.

Numerous efforts have been made to re-let the properties, utilising both the Cornwall Homechoice lettings system as well as seeking interest from other agencies, such as Adult Social Care, regarding other potential tenants amongst their clientele.

Adverts were placed with Homechoice on a number of occasions but either, no interest was forthcoming from applicants, or those who did apply did not fulfill the criteria or had high support needs that could not be safely met at the scheme.

They are aware that there have been some recent expressions of interest from potential future residents and Ocean is currently considering re-advertising some vacancies in the near future, to test the extent of interest.

Ocean Housing owns Windmill House, not Cornwall Council, but they work closely with CC on the Homechoice lettings scheme, and through the Supporting People Programme.

Ocean Housing set the policy. It is not set by Cornwall Council.

As reported to Councillor Baker:-

Windmill House is a category 2 housing scheme which is funded by Supporting People therefore any applicant must have a support need, this can range between low to high needs and they must demonstrate a need for a daily visit.

There are no age restrictions on the units.

*The resident Warden service finished in September 2010
 Ocean have had 3 units within Windmill House available since September 2010 and have failed to attract applicants and when doing so on 2nd adverts the applicants failed to meet the support need criteria. (we now know there are 9 units vacant)
 These units remain empty today and Ocean are currently reviewing Windmill House and not looking to re-advertise the empty units at this time.
 Access to the units is via a secure door which can only be released by tenants or those with a key.
 Ocean was aware of a recent tenant that had high care needs supported by Adult Social Care however they have now left Windmill and being accommodated elsewhere.*

My contact at Ocean Housing is Mike Rowe, Service Improvement Manager. His telephone number 01726 874469. email: m.rowe@oceanhousing.com. Gina Cutler is Head of Neighbourhood Services and is directly responsible for Windmill House. She is currently away on sick leave, and Mike Rowe will handle anything further queries in the meantime.

*We at last have confirmation from Mike Rowe of the **actual** number of empty units. He assures me that there is no threat to Windmill House, no threat of change of use. He says it has been difficult to find suitable applicants. He assures me that every effort has been made and will continue to be made to find occupants for these units.*

11/45 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Fowey Estuary Partnership – no report.

Forum – Cllr Boosey gave the following report to the meeting

The guest speaker at the meeting of Fowey Forum, held on 12th July, was Andy England, a chief planner at Cornwall Council. He was asked to speak to the Parish Plan and what or what not local communities can do for the benefit of their town; this all comes under the new localism agenda, which is in its final stages in Government. Apparently parishes can make their own decisions on things without any interference or passing on to Cornwall Planning Committee, provided it follows Cornwall Councils agreements and has been in the County's strategic policies. Any major development would need a referendum with a 50% majority of actual voters in favour or against. There is a 25k pot available for holding a referendum, not sure if this is countywide, area wide or just the specific parish.

This obviously puts enormous pressure on Parish Planning Committees but at least local people know local issues rather than a mixed panel of Councillors deciding what is best for a parish they do not know. Further down the line, I think it would be an excellent idea to ask someone to talk us through all this, and the Planning Committee members must avail themselves of all the training available

Community Network Panel – no report.

Cornwall Towns Association – no report

Chamber of Commerce – no report

11/46 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- She had given notice that FTC would be filling the vacant seat on the council by co-option, giving a cut off date of midnight on 18th August for parishioners to register an interest.
- A letter had been received from another disgruntled holidaymaker complaining about Cornwall Council parking policy.

- Notice had been received from Cornwall Council that the current Code of Conduct would no longer apply when the Localism Bill came into force and Cornwall Council would no longer have a statutory duty to promote member standards for town and parish councils. Completion of a short questionnaire had been requested and it was proposed by Cllr Baker, seconded Cllr Boosey and RESOLVED that this task should be delegated to the Mayor and Town Clerk. Cllr Baker noted that he assumed that CALC would also be involved in recommending future procedure.

11/47 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Boosey proposed, Cllr Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £11,295.12 be approved. Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

11/48 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left 'on the table.'

Item 2. The Clerk to reply to Michelle Jane stating that, although FTC had every sympathy with her situation, housing stock was allocated according to strict, published criteria.

Item 3. It was proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded Cllr Vincent and RESOLVED that FTC should indicate no objection to the reappointment of Steve Kerridge as one of the three council representatives on FHC.

11/49 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

11/50 Cemetery Extension

Cllr Mrs Vincent apologized that she had yet to progress this item, although she noted that there were several fields adjacent to the existing cemetery. The Clerk confirmed that she had not received a request for support from the PCC. Cllr Boosey pointed out that responsibility for providing cemetery's did not lie with FTC and, whilst she was sympathetic to the problem, there was little FTC could do apart from support the PCC if and when such support was requested.

11/51 Allotments

The Mayor reported that the draft application was nearly ready to submit to Cornwall Council.

11/52 St Catherines Castle Lights

Cllr Baker reported that no physical work had been done since the June meeting because of the light evenings. However, together with Cllr Boosey, he had met with English Heritage and he was hopeful that they had accepted the new position of the flagpole

11/53 Management of Car Parks

The Mayor reported that the Chamber was keen to take over the management of the Fowey Car Parks and in order to progress this they had set up a meeting with Cornwall Council. However, they had been advised that to progress such a scheme FTC, and not the Chamber, must register an expression of interest in taking over the management. The Mayor assured members that this would not bind FTC in any way. Cllr Baker noted that the car parks were already included in the list of assets that FTC had recorded an interest in acquiring and after further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Baker and RESOLVED that the Town Clerk should register a formal expression of interest on behalf of FTC.

11/54 Squires Field Play Area

It was noted that the improvements to the play area were under construction.

11/55 Section 106, Caffa Mill Development

No report.

11/56 Aquarium

The Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had confirmed that responsibility for the seawater inlet/outlet to the aquarium rested with the tenant under the terms of his lease. It was noted that the other quay users were being extremely supportive and seawater was being pumped in overland on the high tides. Hopefully Cornwall Council, as landlord, would be persuaded to offer some financial assistance to ensure the future of the much-loved aquarium.

11/57 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Town Clerk reported that a draft profit sharing agreement had been received and also copies of general pre-contract enquiries and a lengthy letter from the FTC solicitor. Various questions had been raised but the Clerk advised that she should be able to deal with these as they were all a matter of fact. The Clerk had updated the document 'Thoughts for Management – A Working Document' by adding some financial information and the defects list compiled by the Town Hall Committee, but she had yet to receive any feedback from Cllrs. Cllr Mrs Vincent repeated her disgust that Cornwall Council was allowing a listed building to fall into decay and stated that the authority must accept responsibility and bring it up to standard before completion. The Clerk responded that, realistically, that was not going to happen, although she was hopeful that the gutters and some other defects would be attended to. Cllr Boosey added that members had long been aware and had accepted that FTC would have to take responsibility for some repairs and the Mayor pointed out that there was nothing legally binding to say that an owner must maintain a listed building. Cllr Baker stated that estimates should be obtained to ascertain the cost of bringing the building up to standard as a substantial amount of money would be needed. The Mayor responded that the building could and was currently functioning and FTC could invest money in improvements when it was deriving an income from the Town Quay. Cllr Mrs Vincent was still concerned about the gas pipe on the wall by the Museum entrance and she agreed to contact the gas board to ask for it to be checked. Cllr Baker suggested that a new Town Hall/Town Quay Committee should be formed and the Mayor agreed to consider this before the next meeting.

11/58 Windmill House

The Mayor referred members to Cllr Bain's statement (recorded in full at 11/44) and asked for members' thoughts. Cllr Alexander stated that she could not understand why so many units were empty when so many people were looking for housing. Cllr Baker stated that he could not accept that Cornwall Council had no responsibility at all for Windmill House even if it was only a moral obligation and he proposed, Cllr Alexander seconded and it was RESOLVED that a meeting should be set up between FTC and Ocean, with a Cornwall Council representative in attendance.

11/59 Questions under Standing Order 21

The Mayor reported that a meeting of the Du Maurier Steering Group would be held at the school on 28th July.

Date of Next Meeting 21st September 2011

Meeting Closed

9.04pm