

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 THURSDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER 2011 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

11/66 Present

The Mayor, Cllr John Berryman
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A Boosey
Councillors Mrs K Alexander, N Mason, Mrs J Vincent, Cllr T Vincent

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)
Brian Greenway (part)
1 member of the press
2 members of the public

11/67 Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr A Baker (St John committee responsibilities), Cllr Mrs S Gudmunsen (health reasons), Mrs R Finlay (work commitments).
PCSO Linda Thomas.

11/68 Declaration of Interests

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

11/69 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

Police Report - No report

Brian Greenway - Brian addressed the meeting and explained that he had been co-opted on to the Chamber of Commerce Executive in relation to the employment of the summer traffic manager as he was using the streets all the time with his Land Train. He explained that David Bridge had been interviewed in late June and appointed on a self-employed basis from 25th July until 25th August, between 10am and 4pm. General feedback suggested an improvement in traffic flow and he himself and the drivers of the town bus had noticed the impact of the initiative. A random poll of visitors on the traffic situation in the town resulted in the following

- Many asked why traffic was allowed in the town at all
- One person said that when his own home town was pedestrianised it resulted in a 29% increase in trade for shops
- Up to 60% of traffic in the town was either lost or looking for the ferry
- A traffic manager needed more sanctions in the future
- The physical presence of the traffic manager encouraged use of the unloading bays.

Brian confirmed that the Chamber was now considering whether the times were appropriate and whether an official uniform and the use of 'Polite Notices' would be beneficial for another year.

Public Questions – As a trader in Fowey, Mrs Marchant stated that traffic flow in the town had definitely been better during August and suggested that it might be useful to have a 'Outbound

Traffic' sign at the New Road Hill/Hanson Drive junction. Cllr Boosey reported that this was already in hand.

11/70 Minutes of Meetings of 20th July & 9th August 2011

20th July 2011. It was proposed by Cllr Vincent, seconded Cllr Mrs Alexander and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman. Cllr Mason abstained from voting.
Extraordinary Meeting, 9th August 2011. It was proposed by Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Vincent and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

11/71 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

11/58. The Mayor apologized that he had been unable to date to set up a meeting with Ocean.

11/72 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Finance – no report.

Planning - minutes noted. The Clerk advised the meeting that she had been contacted by Wainhomes who were going to submit a planning application to build a significant number of additional houses in the field to the north of the existing estate. There would be a public exhibition in the Town Hall on 11th October, when the plans would be unveiled.

FAC – no report.

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

Environment – no report.

11/73 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that he and the Mayoress had been entertained to lunch on board HMS Enterprise when she had been in port and that he, together with the Mayoress and the Town Clerk, had attended an evening function on board. The ship - a survey vessel – had been open to visitors on the Sunday.

11/74 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Full report attached at appendix 1.

11/75 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

Chris Wharton gave us an update on FREE, she has done a tremendous amount of work and achieved a great deal. FREE is well in line for a major grant, and I really think she deserves every support.

Chris Biggs said that the Chamber was very pleased with their initiative for a traffic manager, in line with the letter which we have all received a copy of. I believe that the Council has, at last, received a letter stating the amount of money that this cost.

The Parish Plan must be ratified by the Council, which we have not done, and I am now actively engaged in finding the right officer on Cornwall Council to get them to adopt it in due course. This will form the basis of our Neighbourhood plan, which is essential to try to have some control over future building schemes in our patch. I would like the formal support of the Town Council for this as it has to be council owned and not Forum owned. There is grant funding for the work that is needed, but we need to apply and time is running out, and the work includes public meetings and a referendum with a 50% approval vote. We will probably be all dead from old age before this is all done, which is why it is so important to get it started.

The next Forum meeting is 11th October
Community Network Panel – no report.
Cornwall Towns Association – no report
Chamber of Commerce – no report

11/76 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- The Heritage Project interpretation boards would shortly be ready for installation. Cornwall Council had indicated that it was happy with the proposed locations for the boards but the Heritage Committee were seeking approval from FTC for the Town Quay board, given the imminent transfer of ownership of the property.
- The Mayor had given permission for the Troy Players to use the Town Hall from 9th – 20th November for their autumn production, as no other suitable block was available. This would mean that the FTC meeting would be held on the 4th Wednesday, rather than the 3rd Wednesday in that month.
- She had received a letter from Rhona Foster, which she read in full to the meeting, asking for FTC help to alleviate parking congestion in Vicarage Meadow. Cllrs appreciated Miss Fosters' concerns but could not suggest any feasible solution apart from the use of traffic cones during the busy months. It was agreed that Cllr Bain should be asked to investigate the issue with Highways.
- A letter had been received from Mrs Hindley asking why the 'Scenic Route to the Town Centre' signs had been removed from Piggy Lane corner, the junction of Hanson Drive/Pikes Hill and the junction of Pikes Hill/Daglands Road. Mrs Hindley wished to know
 1. Who thought the signs had to go
 2. Who authorized their removal
 3. Why they were removed
 4. Why have they not been replaced

Cllrs had no knowledge on this issue so it was agreed that Cllr Bain should be asked to investigate with Highways

- The Clerk asked members to consider the Mayors request that the Parish Plan be adopted, although it was not an agenda item. The Mayor explained that he was making this request as a matter of urgency because of the necessity of securing the grant funding. Cllr Boosey proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should adopt the Plan, which had been finalised by the Forum in June and circulated to all members. Cllr Mason abstained from voting.

11/77 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Mason proposed, Cllr Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £9281.48 be approved. Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

Oceans Club. Members were sympathetic to the request for grant funding but it was unclear from the correspondence if this club was being run as a business. The Clerk was asked to ascertain.

11/78 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left 'on the table.'

11/79 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

11/80 Provision of Public Toilets

The Mayor and Clerk reported on a meeting held with Cornwall Council to discuss the future provision of public toilets in the county and, particularly, in Fowey. They had been advised that the Cornwall Council budget had been cut by 50% from 3 million to 1.5 million, which meant that half the facilities in the county would have to be closed. However, Cornwall Council considered that town and parish councils should be able to run the toilets more efficiently and it was offering grant funding of 50% of the current operating costs to parish councils if they were prepared to take them over, otherwise the buildings would be sold freehold on the open market. However, the funding was only guaranteed until 2013, and Cornwall Council was only prepared to offer the buildings to parish council's on a 99-year lease. Costings for 5 of the 6 toilets in Fowey parish had been supplied, which showed that FTC could expect to receive in the region of 30K pa to operate the toilets from 1st April 2012 until 31st March 2014. It was agreed that the Cornwall Council officer dealing with the matter should be invited to attend the October council meeting, by which time a list of the proposed closures should be available..

11/81 Allotments

The Mayor asked members whether they still wanted to progress this as Cornwall Council was only prepared to transfer the land on a leasehold basis. Members considered that, although this was regrettable, the provision of additional allotments was very important to Fowey residents so the Mayor was asked to proceed with the application for transfer.

11/82 St Catherines Castle Lights

On behalf of Cllr Baker, the Clerk reported that

- 2 more lights needed to be installed but when this had been done the equipment would be ready for testing now that the evenings were drawing in and subject to the availability of Cllr Baker and Chris Biggs.
- At a very late date Cllr Baker had been advised that FTC would need a licence from English Heritage for the equipment. The terms suggested by English Heritage, which they considered could be agreed in retrospect were
 1. A 3 year term
 2. A nominal licence fee of £50 pa
 3. FTC responsible for repair and maintenance

11/ 83 Fowey Traffic Manager

Details of the traffic managers responsibilities and payment rates had now been supplied to FTC by the Chambers of Commerce, together with a letter stating that the Chamber expected FTC to pay the traffic managers salary in its entirety in line with the public announcement that it would do so. Cllr Boosey stated that this was not the case; the only public announcement that had been made was at a PACT meeting when the Mayor had said that FTC would consider precepting for a traffic manager in future years. Cllr Mason added that his understanding was that the employment of the traffic manager was to be a joint venture with the Chamber but that there had been very little communication/consultation and the Mayor had been placed in an embarrassing situation. The Clerk referred members to minute 11/65, which contained a resolution that FTC would support the Chamber financially, although no figure was mentioned. Cllr Alexander queried if the £1000 earmarked for a traffic survey could be utilized. Cllr Mason confirmed that he was content that a grant could be paid from

this fund. Cllr Boosey proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded that a grant of £610 should be paid. The Mayor proposed an amendment that the total reserve of £1000 should be paid and this was seconded by Cllr Alexander. Voting on the amendment was 3 in favour, 1 against and 2 abstentions. Voting on the original proposal was 1 in favour, 3 against and 2 abstentions. The amendment was, therefore, carried and it was **RESOLVED** that a grant of £1000 would be given to the Chamber of Commerce towards the cost of employing the traffic manager in 2011.

11/84 Management of Car Parks

It was agreed that this matter should be referred to the Assets Committee

11/85 Squires Field Play Area

The improvements to the play area had been finalized and positive feedback had been received from the youngsters. Cllr Mason reported that the football club members were concerned about footballs going over the play area fence. Members agreed, however, that there had always been a risk of this and the new facility did not constitute any material change; it was the responsibility of the football club to ensure that it held adequate public liability cover.

11/86 Section 106, Caffa Mill Development

Cllr Boosey asked that this item be removed from the agenda. The latest developer had been declared bankrupt and affairs were in the hands of the official receiver so it was unlikely that any progress would be made in the foreseeable future.

11/87 Rosehill Store

The Mayor and Clerk reported that, together with Cllr Baker, they had met with a Cornwall Council officer and registered FTC's disquiet that the store had been put up for auction without and consultation with FTC. The officer had apologized on behalf of CC but had confirmed that, whilst the intention was to sell the property freehold, if FTC wanted to retain the asset it would be on a 99-year lease and FTC would have to show that it could finance the restoration of the building and put it to community use. A short business case for the building's retention had been submitted citing such community use as a meeting/committee room, storage facility, council chamber, police office etc. A response was awaited from Cornwall Council.

11/88 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Town Clerk reported that the final details were being negotiated before the transfer documents were ready for signing. Members had no additional material for the 'Thoughts for Management' documentation.

11/89 Questions under Standing Order 21

The Mayor advised that Readymoney was under threat of becoming a non bathing standard beach under the new EU Directive. The Environment Agency had agreed to keep FTC updated..

It was proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded Cllr Mrs Vincent and **RESOLVED** that the press and public should be excluded under Section 1(2) of the Press & Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted in connection with the co-option of a Councillor

Appendix 1

Cornwall Councillor's Report to Fowey Town Council Meeting on 23rd September 2011

Cabinet agreed the recommendation from Environment and Economy OSC that the current reimbursement rate for the Concessionary Travel Scheme of 73.5% should be reduced to 50% of the average adult single fare to take effect from 1 April 2012. This allows time for CC and bus operators to work together to ensure retention of vital bus routes. Also, the Council writes to Cornwall's 6 MP's asking them to make representations to Government to increase funding to local authorities to address issues of rurality, sparsity etc.

Budget to be set in November instead of February. This held Cornwall Council in good stead last year, when we set the budget 3 months in advance.

Kernow solar park is put on hold, in order to fund small scale projects, such on Council buildings, including schools etc.

Council is threatening to sell off part of the Penwinnick Road, St Austell, offices to developer. Local Members, who have not been kept informed of what is going on, are together in their possible opposition and insisting they are consulted every step of the way.

Currently, Clean Cornwall Week (17th – 25th). A twice yearly clean up operation to rid our towns, villages and countryside of litter.

The Leader of the Council has written to Government urging serious consideration be given to underfunding of rural areas. A key area of underfunding is education where this Council receives £4,663 per pupil compared with approximately £7,000 per pupil in London areas.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly has been chosen by the Government to help test proposed changes to services provided for disabled children and those with special educational needs. A partnership involving Cornwall Council, the Council of the Isles of Scilly and the Cornwall & IOS PCT is among 20 national pathfinders chosen to test out the main proposals in the Green Paper. Each pathfinder will receive up to £150,000 per local authority per year.

