

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 15th FEBRUARY 2012 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

11/166 Present

The Mayor, Cllr John Berryman
The Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mrs A Boosey
Councillors Mrs K Alexander, Mrs R Finlay, Mrs S Gudmunson,
N Mason, Miss K Sutherland, Mrs J Vincent, T Vincent

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)
59 members of the public (57 part)
PCSO Linda Thomas and colleague (part)

11/167 Apologies

None

11/168 Declaration of Interests

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

11/169 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

Public Questions

The Mayor welcomed the public present and opened proceedings by reading the following question from a gentleman unable to attend the meeting and giving FTC's response.

***Question:** "Why did councillors have a discussion with a developer over a very contentious subject outside of a council meeting, this has caused a great deal of unrest amongst residents and might lead to a query over motive.*

I am very surprised this was allowed to happen, what was the reason?"

***Answer:** 'The developer contacted the Town Clerk and explained that he wanted to appraise Fowey Town Council about the possible submission of a planning application for a supermarket at Lawhyre. He stated that he had already been in discussions with Cornwall Council and wanted to keep the Fowey Councillors in the picture, but that he was not prepared to attend a public meeting at that time.*

The Town Clerk arranged for him and his architect to attend at Fowey Town Hall before the January planning meeting to present his proposals. At no point did any of the Councillors express an opinion, positive or negative; the gentlemen tabled their proposals and left. The developer was under no obligation to consult with FTC at this stage of the process. The fact that he had attended and the reason for his attendance was recorded at minute 11/155 of the council meeting held later the same evening.'

The Mayor then invited questions from the floor and the following points were made.

- Since development had taken place in his home village in Hampshire a gentleman had seen a significant increase in the volume of traffic and the incidence of crime
- Gaynor Edwards introduced herself as the Chair of the Fowey Fighting Planning Piracy Group and assured the meeting her members were a peaceful protest group and wanted to work with FTC. Although they realised that there was little to be achieved at the current time, they were present at the meeting to 'vote with their feet.' The group's main concerns were
 1. Insensitive development in the AONB
 2. Unnecessary development
 3. Development that negatively changes visitor perception of Fowey as an ancient and historic town
 4. Development that will impact on existing businesses ability to thrive, impacting on employment opportunities for existing residents and breaking down the community
 5. Development that will overstretch the infrastructure of the town

Mrs Edwards then queried if traffic issues around 5 mile lane would be addressed before the consideration of any additional planning and was this being reviewed at present? Was the Fowey Parish Plan 2011 still current? Could the group work with FTC to help develop a Neighbourhood Plan? The Mayor and Town Clerk clarified that a). Highways issues were always considered as part of the planning process. b). The 2011 Parish Plan was still current c). When a Neighbourhood Plan was produced the Group would be welcome to participate

- It was queried if the Parish Plan would be updated. The Clerk responded that this was unlikely as Plans Plans would probably be replaced by Neighbourhood Plans. The Fowey Parish Plan had not been adopted by Restormel Borough Council in any event as Restormel had discovered that many of the aspirations in individual Plans were at variance with the Local Plan.
- It was noted that funding was available for the production of a Neighbourhood Plan
- It was noted that the Restormel Local Plan 2001- 2011 had been the bedrock of all planning decisions but as this document had now expired what would happen in the vacuum until a replacement document had been adopted? The Clerk responded that the Restormel Local Plan would still be used until the Core Strategy was finalised as, although it had technically expired, the government had saved nearly all the policies. The Core Strategy was expected to be adopted in October 2013 and its content would gain in weight as it went through the consultation/adoption process. Details of the Restormel Borough – Saved Policies could be found at www.cornwall.gov.uk/default.aspx?page=174.

The Mayor assured the meeting that FTC would call a Public Meeting when more information was available.

Neil Hartwell reported that Cornwall Council had written to the Harbourmaster advising that Albert Quay car park is, in fact, highway. Parking had been allowed there in error in the past and it was proposed to make an on street order to correct this.

Police Report On behalf of PCSO Linda Thomas the Town Clerk reported 8 crimes in Fowey during January - 1 x assault, 1 x (attempted) house burglary, 1 x other theft, 1 x vehicle crime, 3 x drink/drugs/misc, 1 x criminal damage.

11/170 Minutes of Meeting of 18th January 2012

It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Mrs Vincent and RESOLVED that the minutes be confirmed and signed by the Chairman.

11/171 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

11/172 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.

11/173 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor asked for the minutes to record his thanks to the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk for dealing with the difficult situation surrounding the proposal to build a supermarket at Lawhyre while he was on holiday. He also reported that the Mayor of Pornichet would be visiting Fowey on the weekend of 10th March to meet the key people involved in the Pornichet to Fowey Yacht Race, due to be held in 2013; he and the Town Clerk had been invited to attend a lunch which was being hosted by the RFYC in Mayor Belliot's honour.

11/174 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor - full report appendix 1

Cllr Mrs Bain publicly announced that she was totally opposed to the development of a supermarket at Lawhyre.

Cllr Mason queried the position with regard to the proposed 50p charge for people entitled to concessionary bus fares. Would the 50p fare cover a journey that required, say, three bus changes or would it be necessary to pay on each bus, making the journey cost £1.50? Cllr Bain was unsure of the answer but undertook to ascertain.

Cllr Boosey noted that Cllr Bain's report in the Fowey News appeared to have no relevance to Fowey. Cllr Bain explained that the subject matter was something that she had long been concerned about and so she had submitted the article before leaving for her holiday, as she would have no local news to report.

Cllr Vincent queried why Cornwall Council was not pressing the government to recognize that Cornwall was under pressure due to the large increase in population during the holiday season as grants etc. appeared to be based on local numbers. Cllr Bain assured Cllr Vincent that Cornwall Council was very aware that the population increased tenfold during the summer months and was constantly stressing the point to the government. She added, however, that tourist income was extremely important to the local economy.

11/175 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Fowey Estuary Partnership – no report.

Forum – Cllr Boosey reported that, at the last meeting, the Forum had enjoyed a very interesting presentation on the enormous success of the Heritage Trails. There had also been a report from FREE, who had secured a grant of £64,485.00 towards their work.

Community Network Panel – no report.

Cornwall Towns Association – no report

Chamber of Commerce – Cllr Alexander reported that the Chamber members had undertaken a final de-briefing on the Christmas Market. Discussion had also taken place on the Mussel Festival, the Forum's proposed traffic survey, car parks and signage.

The Mayor read the following statement issued by the Chamber on 9th February 2012

At its most recent Executive Committee meeting, Fowey C of C voted to oppose any new retail development outside the town centre. This vote was unanimous.

The Chamber wish to collect any firm evidence of examples where new retail development situated on the outskirts of small towns has been detrimental to the retail businesses in the town centre.

What Fowey needs is an environmentally sensitive Park and Ride scheme to help the town centre. It is now realised how important the business within a town centre is to the vitality of small towns, and we should be looking at measures to develop this vitality, not to damage it.

11/176 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- On behalf of FTC, she had issued a statement to the Cornish Guardian supporting Revd Philip de Grey Warter in his efforts to persuade Cornwall Council to provide a new burial site in Fowey. Members agreed that FTC should await instructions from Revd de Grey Warter on how to proceed.
- Difficulties with ownership/insurance had been identified with regard to Church clocks. The advice was to await the result of Liskeard Town Council's legal investigations before considering the option of assuming ownership/responsibility
- Sadly the Town Hall Caretaker would be emigrating to Bulgaria in April and had given notice. As he was the Licence holder covering the sale and consumption of alcohol in the Town Hall it would be necessary to bear this in mind when employing a successor. Cllr Sutherland reported that she held a Licence and would be prepared to take on this responsibility for FTC. The offer was warmly welcomed by members.
- She had not received any responses from Cllrs on the Cornwall Council consultation 'Planning Future Cornwall, Our Preferred Approach for a Core Strategy' 'Options and Preferred Options for Energy, Minerals and Waste.' As responses had to be submitted before 2nd March 2012 it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Vincent, seconded Cllr Alexander and RESOLVED that members would submit their views within 7 days and the Mayor should be given delegated power to respond on behalf of FTC .
- She had received an email from Arthur Baker asking that the following question be put to the meeting. *'I note that there is no agenda item regarding the Fowey toilets. Some councils have submitted proposals. What is FTC doing about putting forward a plan for their future? Members of the public have offered to help.'* The Mayor responded that he would be organizing a meeting of the working group during the next 14 days to investigate options. In the meantime the Clerk was asked to contact Mr Baker and identify the members of the public he was referring to. Cllr Mrs Vincent suggested that Cornwall Council might be persuaded to transfer the permit parking spaces at Caffa Mill to FTC so the income could be utilized for toilet maintenance. Cllr Berryman responded that, although this would be helpful, it would still leave a significant shortfall in the finance required to run the facilities. He also noted that there had been a suggestion that Cornwall Council might update some of the toilet blocks before any takeover, which would be very important as they were generally in a fairly poor state.

11/177 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Mason recorded his anger that Cornwall Council was making FTC fight every step of the way in the transfer of TH/TQ and use council tax money to do so. Cllr Mrs Vincent proposed, Cllr Sutherland seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £4972.32 be approved. Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

11/178 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left 'on the table.'

11/179 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

11/180 St Catherines' Lights

On behalf of Arthur Baker, the Clerk reported that the lights were working but they were currently switched off as there was a fault with the photoelectric cell, which had twice drained the battery.

11/181 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Town Clerk reported that most of the final disputed issues between FTC and Cornwall Council had been verbally agreed, with only one point still under discussion. The FTC solicitor would telephone the Cornwall Council's legal department and try to resolve this as speedily as possible.

The Town Clerk also reported that she had accompanied Captain Tim Jones when he had undertaken a visual survey of the quay. A full written report would be available shortly but the survey had identified that the condition of the quay walls was generally good, although some work would be required on the wooden fenders in due course. The broken handrail on the steps and steel fixings for missing fenders on the slipway quay had been identified as needing urgent attention and the Clerk had reported both problems to Cornwall Council. Cllrs recorded a vote of thanks to Captain Jones for undertaking the survey.

11/182 Questions under Standing Order 21

None.

Date of Next Meetings

Council – 21st March 2012
Planning – 21st March 2012

Meeting Closed 8.52pm

Appendix 1

Report to Fowey Town Council – 15th February 2012

The Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership is to receive almost £4.3 million from the Government's Growing Places Fund. The Growing Places Fund is intended to help local areas take forward key infrastructure projects to support the creation of new homes and jobs.

RNAS Culdrose has been chosen as the arrival point of the Olympic Flame into the UK on 17 May.

There has been misleading and inaccurate criticism of the Council for having a poor collection rate for council tax and business rates. The facts are that the Council had a collection rate of 97.63% for council tax last year – which is higher than many other authorities in the South West and was an improvement on the previous year despite the challenging economic climate. It had a similarly high collection rate for business rates of 97.46 % - again one of the highest in the south west.

With reduced funding for concessionary bus travel threatening the future of the local supported bus network, Cornwall councillors are backing suggestions made by some members of the public for a change in the law to allow a flat rate fare to be charged for concessionary journeys.

Much disruption to Fowey Streets for sewage work this month and next –

13th Feb to 9th March – Lostwithiel St and Esplanade

29th Feb to 14th March – Fore Street

Fore St, Custom House Hill, Passage St, North St – 3rd to 16th March

7th to 23rd March – Passage Street and Station Road

Items sent to Councillors via Clerk:-

Coastal Communities Fund

New Waste Service

Info Olympic Torch Relay

To make things easier for anyone coping with a deceased family member from now on Cornwall Registration Service can let the appropriate services know if the deceased had been in receipt of benefits; a council tax payer; had a blue badge; been living in council housing; receiving services from our adult care or children's services, on the electoral roll or if they had a library membership. We will also be able to let government departments know if they had a passport or driving licence.

Cllr Mrs Sally Bain