

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 21st MARCH 2012 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

11/183 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, Mrs J Vincent, T Vincent

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
1 member of the press

11/184 Apologies

Cllr Miss K Sutherland (study commitments), Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain, PCSO Linda Thomas

11/185 Declaration of Interests

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

11/186 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

Public Questions - None

Police Report On behalf of PCSO Linda Thomas the Town Clerk reported 6 crimes in Fowey during February - 1 x harassment, 1 x miscommunications, 1 x shoplifting, 1 x theft of pedal cycle, 1 x common assault, 1 x fraud.

11/187 Minutes of Meeting of 15th February 2012

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

11/188 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

11/189 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Finance – no report.

Planning - minutes noted.

FAC – no report.

Town Hall – Minutes noted. The minutes for 12th March 2010 were still outstanding.

Environment – minutes noted

11/190 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that the Mayor of Pornichet had visited 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 May 2013. Together with the Deputy Mayor and the Town Clerk he had attended a presentation and lunch which had been hosted by the RFYC in Mayor Belliot's honour.

11/191 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

On behalf of Cllr Mrs Bain, the Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had withdrawn its plans for vast increases in burial costs in Cornwall

11/192 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

'The AGM of the Forum will be held on 17th April at 7.30 in the Community School (to be confirmed). The speaker will be Mr. James Shorter, who runs the Positive Development Trust F.R.E.E. is working very hard to spend its grant money in the very limited time that is available; they have approximately 6 weeks to set up various strands of their programme, including surveying the sites that they have chosen. There is another fund, run by the Lottery, which they are applying for, and going through the many hoops that are required. This is for a million pounds, to be shared between 3 or 4 groups in the immediate vicinity.'

The Traffic Survey is due to start on 26th March and again on 31st March, for the 'off-season' traffic and then in July, 26th and 28th for the start of the main season. Three sites are being monitored, Varcoes Corner, Caffa Mill and Four Turnings, which will hopefully give a good cross-section of what traffic there is and what it is doing, apart from being stuck in a traffic jam.

Community Network Panel – no report.

Cornwall Towns Association – no report

Chamber of Commerce – The Mayor reported that the Forum was currently concentrating its efforts on the Mussel festival, due to be held in April. Cllr Gudmunsen would represent FTC at the launch as he and the Deputy Mayor were otherwise engaged.

Cllr Mason noted that businesses in St Austell were welcoming the possibility of new businesses, such as Sainsbury's, starting up in the town as a positive move forward.

11/193 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- Interviews for a replacement Town Hall Caretaker and Cleaner were scheduled for the morning of 22nd March. An interviewing panel with the power to appoint would need to be identified later in the meeting.
- Cornwall Council had advised the Harbourmaster that the authority would be mothballing the Whitehouse toilets on 1st April 2012 in line with the council's decision to mothball all the toilets in the county which are on leased property. Cllr Alexander noted that it was interesting that a similar copy letter had not been received in respect of the Polkerris toilets, which were also leased by Cornwall Council.
- An invoice had been received from the contractor employed by FTC for grasscutting and street weedkilling in spite of the gentleman being told in writing not to undertake any more work before speaking to either the Mayor, a member of the Environment Committee or the Town Clerk before undertaking further work. Cllr Mrs Vincent stated that many efforts had been made by members of the Environment Committee to communicate with the contractor but with no success.

- The Clerk was still trying to ascertain the position with regard to clocks on Church towers. CALC had advised that the first step must be to ascertain ownership. Clearly the Church could not transfer ownership of something it does not own in the first place and the clock was not on the FTC asset register.
- Members were reminded that it was their responsibility to ensure that their own Register of Interests was up to date. The Clerk had a supply of forms if required.
- There had still been no notification that FTC was free to coopt a replacement for Cllr Baker.

11/194 Accounts for Approval

Cllrs queried the position with regard to St Catherines' lights as a further invoice had been submitted for payment. The Mayor clarified that there had been a problem with the control box so he had taken a qualified electrician to inspect it. The electrician had advised that it must be rewired so the box had been sent away for this to be professionally done. The Mayor had spoken to the benefactor to explain the situation.

Cllr Vincent proposed, Cllr Boosey seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £4750.55 be approved. Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

Cllr Boosey noted that, as there were some potentially controversial major planning applications in the pipeline in Fowey, members might wish to consider membership of CPRE. She considered that the organisations' help might be invaluable to FTC as it had a vast knowledge of planning issues in AONB's. Cllr Finlay was concerned, however, and felt that FTC must maintain a neutral stance as CRPE was, at the end of the day, a pressure group. This view was shared by Cllr Mason. After further discussion it was agreed that membership would be inappropriate.

11/195 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left 'on the table.'

11/196 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

11/197 Election of Mayor Elect 2012/2013

The Town Clerk reported that she had received one nomination by the closing date – Cllr Berryman. It was formally proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded by Cllr Mason and RESOLVED that Cllr Berryman should serve as Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2012/2013.

11/198 Election of Deputy Mayor Elect 2012/2013

The Town Clerk reported that she had received one nomination by the closing date – Cllr Boosey. It was formally proposed by Cllr Alexander, seconded by Cllr Mrs Vincent (in the absence of Cllr Sutherland) and RESOLVED that Cllr Boosey should serve as Deputy Mayor of Fowey for the Civic Year 2012/2013

11/199 Town Hall Cleaner Caretaker

It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Finlay RESOLVED that the interviewing panel should consist of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Cllr Gudmunsen (Town Hall Committee Chairman).

11/200 Frequency of Planning Committee Meetings

Cllr Boosey explained that applications were arriving with a final date for comment falling before regular monthly planning meetings. To date this had not caused any major problems as she had contacted the officers responsible and requested, and been granted, an extension of time. She was concerned, however, that this would not always be possible and proposed that casual meetings should be called if required to meet the deadlines. This was seconded by the Mayor and RESOLVED.

11/201 St Catherines' Lights

Covered in 11/194 above.

11/202 Diversity and Equality Statement

It was proposed by Cllr Alexander, seconded Cllr Finlay RESOLVED that the draft Statement be adopted.

11/203 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Town Clerk reported that completion was scheduled for on or before 31st March. Cornwall Council had agreed that the car park and permit parking spaces could be operated under the CC Order in the short term. She had issued invoices for the permit parking spaces in the name of FTC and would be allocating the permits in due course. She was now working on the other licences; the boatmen, land train, John Vincent etc. Together with the Mayor she would be meeting Kate Dixon (CC Parking) the following day to discuss the practicalities of running the Pay & Display car park. Insurance was in hand and would be put in hand simultaneously with completion. A Risk Assessment would be required. Cornwall Council had agreed to supply the following documentation

- Electrical Safety Test for the entire building
- Legionella Test. Historical documentation was unavailable
- Energy Performance Certificate

Together with the Mayor, she had met with Martin Billingsley and his agent to discuss his use of the quay for outside seating. The Clerk asked members to consider the exclusion of the Press and Public from the meeting to enable her to explain the position in more detail.

11/204 Questions under Standing Order 21

None.

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.

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