

## Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> May 2012

### **12/08 Present**

The Mayor

Cllr J Berryman

Deputy Mayor

Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey

Councillors

Cllr Mrs K Alexander

Cllr Mrs R Finlay

Cllr Mrs S Gudmunsen

Cllr N Mason

Cllr D Willmore

Cllr Mrs J Vincent

Cllr T Vincent

### **12/09 In attendance**

CC Cllr Mrs S Bain

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent

Peter Crawford, Wainhomes

Claire Broughton, Cornwall Council

Paul Webber, Cornwall Council

2 members of the press

21 members of the public

### **12/10 Apologies**

Cllr K Sutherland

### **12/11 Annual Report of the Town Council – *Cllr John Berryman***

I would like to open this report by stating that it has been a 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 committee Chairmen for their hard work during the year and to all the Councillors. We welcomed a new Councillor this year - Kate Sutherland - I hope she enjoys her spell with the council. Do not forget, however, that there will be elections next year in May 2013.

Special thanks to our Clerk, Sally, for the many hours she devotes to the work of the Council.

This year I accepted the resignation from the council of Cllr Arthur Baker, which was brought about by Arthur's frustration with Cornwall Council; we wish him well in his retirement from Council duties.

The transfer of Town Hall/ Town Quay was completed by 31<sup>st</sup> March this year. 'At last' we all cry, especially Sally!

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 to its fold, this request can now be finalised as CC stated that it would only deal with 1 request at a time from a local authority. We also intend to apply to Cornwall Council for the return of other assets lost in the various transfers of administration.

There would appear to be within the town and the various local organisations involved a willingness for Fowey to manage more of its own resources and your Council will help in any way it can and will certainly move this along if it is feasible. We are currently in discussion with CC with regard to the management of the Public

Conveniences and possibly the car parks.

The management of the Du Maurier Festival has now passed from this Council to an independent Board of Trustees.

### **12/12 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – *Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey***

As usual, it has been a busy year for the Planning Committee, not only in the increased quantity of plans put before us, but the more complex issues that some of them raised - and I can only think that next year will make this one look like a walk in the park!

I have been very concerned over the months with the numbers of applications that we do not pass, for both good planning reasons and for local reasons, which have subsequently gone through on officer delegation. In this brave new localism climate I thought that local views, if valid, were given a good deal of consideration. Apparently I was wrong, and the few that have gone through to the Cornwall Council planning committee we have invariably lost!! Maybe our best friends won't tell us, or something. I am pretty sure that the Planning Committee are so afraid of any decision going to appeal that they vary rarely dissent from officer recommendation, which is sometimes not the most democratic way to go.

The Neighbourhood Agenda has been much talked about, and it should be. But for a small place like Fowey again we had conflicting advice. Firstly, find £26,000 and go for it, and then, no you are too small. Current thinking is that this might be a good proposition if two or three parishes join together and attack it that way and I can see the sense in that. There is also the Core Strategy in its draft stage - perhaps some of you went to Lostwithiel or somewhere else to look at the exhibition that Cornwall Council put on. Fowey was barely mentioned but it will make quite a difference to us if this goes through in the draft version. I have very much condensed these two issues, but just to show that it has been a busy year! Perhaps our County Councillor could give her views on both of these subjects; Fowey News would be a good forum for this. It would be good to see more people attending our planning meetings. Always on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, directly before the Town Council meeting, the times do vary but can be found either on our web page or on the notice-board outside the Town Hall

### **12/13 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – *Cllr Mrs Jane Vincent***

The Environment Committee have a mixed report for this last year. The Council renewed the lease on the old Grammar School Garden with the Grammar School Trust, and thanks must be paid to our Clerk, Sally Vincent who has worked so hard on this matter. The Committee was frustrated by one of our contractors, who found it hard to respond to all forms of communication. Our budget was very tight and we were unable to do some of the things we had planned, but since April and the new financial year, we hope to fulfil our plans and duties with our new team of contractors. We would like to record our sincere thanks to the kind donors who have financed the painting of the outside wall of the Old Grammar School Garden. It is a great improvement. We hope to tackle the gate next and repaint the seats in the Garden and at the Piggy Lane triangle when we get a run of fine weather.. We plan more planting on Hydrangea Row and Piggy Lane Triangle, and we have a plan for new planting in the Old Grammar School Garden which is hopefully taking place weather permitting. We note that there are many regular visitors and holiday makers who visit and appreciate this calm and tranquil area. The young tree shoots and brambles on the cliff

have grown too high for a good view of the river and sea, so tree surgeons will be at work on the 24<sup>th</sup>. This will involve closing the gardens for safety reasons while they are working.

The Environment Committee were concerned that there were a number of lanes, small Courts and openways, some leading to houses and others which were pedestrian ways that had no street sign. During our investigations, we discovered for example, that Chandlers Lane was in fact Cobbs Well Hill, and also that Highways did not wish to erect any more signs though they would replace broken ones. Browns Hill and Cobbs Well now have signs in Cornish and English. It is, we hear, policy to have bilingual signs wherever possible.

Though we are not responsible for the state of Cornwall Council owned shelters, (several years ago, the assets Committee reported on the ownership of these shelters) we have worries concerning the roof of the shelter at the old Ferry Slip. It needs either to have a replacement roof (estimated cost being £500-£600.00) or else the roof taken down as, should it fall on some unsuspecting person, Cornwall Council might well be liable for any injury suffered.

In conclusion, I would like to thank the Committee members, Councillors Alexander, Findlay and Tony Vincent for all the hard work and support this year. Each of them worked hard and pulled their weight in often trying circumstances.

#### **12/14 Annual Financial Report – Cllr Norman Mason**

I am bitterly disappointed that Cornwall Council forced FTC to spend so much money on solicitors' fees to secure the transfer of the Town Hall and Town Quay. However, I am delighted that the deal has now been finalized and the asset back in the ownership of Fowey. I confirm that the 2011/2012 accounts have been prepared by the Town Clerk and adopted by FTC. Copies are available on application to the Town Clerk in accordance with audit regulations and as advertised on the FTC Notice Board.

#### **12/15 Report of Fowey Asset Committee – Cllr John Berryman**

Having recovered the freehold of the Town Hall and Town Quay the Council can now commit to the recovery of other assets.

The application for the allotments and the 1 acre meadow sits with Cornwall Council and must be re activated as Cornwall Council put it on hold as they would only deal with one transfer at a time from any Town or Parish Council.

CC also seem keen to transfer Squires Field across to us but a business case has yet to be drawn up - next job for the asset committee.

#### **12/16 Report of the Town Hall Committee – Cllr Sherlee Gudmunson**

Fowey Town Hall Committee meets regularly and usually on the first Friday of the month. All the meetings have set agendas, are open to the public, and allow public questions for the first twenty minutes of the meeting. All our meetings are held in accordance with Standing orders and the code of Conduct.

One of the main items is the generation of finance for the upkeep of the Town Hall now that Fowey Town Council has taken the ownership of the building. This money is generated by hiring the Hall for such events as for example, Craft fairs, flea markets, stage performances, parties, meetings, weddings, musical entertainment and quizzes.

There are rules and regulations for our Clients which are exhibited in the Town Hall

and are given to each client when hiring the hall.

We have a budget for staff wages (Caretaking and Cleaning). This year, Cleaning and caretaking is handled by a new company called "Facilities Management".. We believe that the standards set by Fowey Town Council will be maintained. The Town Hall Committee check the overall running with the Company and ensures that safety checks are carried out.. Risk assessment and Fire risks are carried out yearly and appropriate certificates are exhibited.

Fire extinguishers and alarms are regularly checked and appropriate certificates posted as is our certificate of insurance.

We are still looking into the many repairs that will need to be done in order of importance, and continue to look into the need for disabled access.

A very detailed survey for a risk assessment has been undertaken for the entire building, of asbestos and for Legionnaires disease.

With the ownership of the Town Hall passing from Cornwall Council to Fowey Town Council on the first of April this year, the Committee has an even greater commitment to the building and eagerly await the results of the asbestos survey and the repair of the gutters and downpipes, We are also aware that the boiler that runs the central heating in the building was installed in the mid 1980's and may in the near future need to be replaced.

The Town Hall Committee is at all times conscious of its duty to the people of Fowey both now and in the future, and will at all times endeavour to maintain this historic building in good condition for the people of this town.

**12/17 Police Report** - No report.

### **12/18 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – *Cllr Mrs Sally Bain***

Another tough year for Cornwall Council, but the strategy of setting our budgets early in the past two years has served us well. The budget hit hard at the outset. The result is that the Council is able to meet its commitments with minimal cuts to front line services. A case in point is that we have not had to close any libraries, as have many other authorities. The Council's record also means that we are the envy of many other local authorities. As you know, the Council agreed a nil increase in council tax, which ensured we were able to benefit from the additional funding from the Government of £6m.

Trouble with the new waste contract is top of the complaints list, however, and Cory have brought in additional vehicles and brought forward the recruitment of seasonal staff to bolster capacity and ensure a speedy resolution to the problems. Additional resources have also been brought in to help deal with missed collections, as well as to ensure residents continue to receive their recycling containers as quickly as possible. I do not receive complaints about black bag collections, and problems seem to be over recycling collections, some householders not having had theirs collected since the end of March. Cory could face penalties due to problems with the new service.

As you know the Court of Appeal granted the Secretary of State and SITA's application in relation to planning permission for the Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre. This judgment reinstates the planning permission which was originally granted by the Secretary of State and Cornwall Council will now be working with SITA to finalise the revised project plan.

A public consultation is underway asking whether or not Cornwall Council should fix the spring (Easter) school holiday to the same two weeks each year so that it won't

necessarily be attached to the Easter weekend. Participants are able to find out more and complete an online survey by visiting the Cornwall Council website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/termdates](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/termdates)

The dreadful fires at Constantine, and now Falmouth strengthens the message to the public to ensure their homes are fitted smoke detectors. Cornwall Fire & Rescue Service fit the alarms with no cost to the householder. Firefighters will also visit people in their homes to give fire safety advice. It is well worth it.

Cornwall Council is working with the airport management team and other partners to promote economic growth. As well as providing transport links in and out of Cornwall, the airport brings in around £24 million to the economy of Cornwall and creates around 400 jobs. Work is continuing on developing the Enterprise Zone and this will bring further economic benefits to Cornwall. The not so good news is that passenger numbers are down since Air SW ceased operations in and out of Newquay. A better rail service is vital for local residents and visitors. Rail travel has been one of our success stories.

Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Local Enterprise Partnership Board is considering where best the £13m allocated from the Government's Regional Growth Fund at the end of last year should go. One of the strands of funding is being used to provide businesses and social enterprises with capital grants and investments to grasp the opportunities of new Superfast Broadband. The second strand will fund infrastructure projects in the Marine, Minerals and Renewable Energy sectors. Superfast Broadband is now be available in our area.

Cornwall Council has been awarded £1.8 million of Government funding to develop and deliver music for children in Cornwall. Cornwall Learning, part of Cornwall Council, heard this week that it had been chosen as a Music Education Hub as part of a new project being run by Arts Council England on behalf of the Department of Education.

People in Cornwall are again being asked to help stop scam mail with a message from Cornwall Council – “turn them in and turn the tide.” Run by its Trading Standards team, residents and businesses are being urged to hand in any scam mail they receive to their local library during May 2012. Misleading mailings make false promises of huge bogus lottery wins or other high value prizes, but they always insist on payment to the sender before any winnings can be claimed.

This year's Bike Week takes place from 16-24 June, Cornwall Council is encouraging as many as possible to participate in events and activities at schools, workplaces and public spaces. More information on the Council's website: [www.cornwall.gov.uk/bikeweek](http://www.cornwall.gov.uk/bikeweek).

Cornish communities are benefitting from the Individual Property Level Flood Protection Scheme. The scheme is being delivered by Cornwall Council, the Environment Agency and UK Flood Barriers. Measures to reduce the risk and impact of flooding involve fitting flood doors, self closing air bricks and non return valves on domestic pipework.

Another not so good news story is the Communication Masts Network Rail are intending to put on the rail line through Golant. All I can say at present is that with my colleague across the River and the MP for SE Cornwall we are pulling out all stops to try and stop it, but there is no jurisdiction that can stop Network Rail doing whatever they feel necessary.

Fowey Library now has a fortnightly Memory Café run by volunteers for people with dementia. The first get together is next week on Thursday afternoon 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Apart from a wide range of work and meetings with outside bodies, such as the Luxulyan Valley Partnership and Cornwall Partnership Foundation NHS Trust, I have continued to serve on the Children Education & Families Overview & Scrutiny Committee. I also attend monthly meetings to settle Education Transport Appeals. The workload of all Cornwall Councillors since the coming together of the seven councils three years ago is massive.

Cllr Mason left.

### **12/19 Peter Crawford – Wainhomes**

Peter Crawford explained that his company would shortly be submitting a planning application for 82 houses, as an extension to the existing Hillhay development and showed slides of the proposed layout. 50% of the properties would be affordable, with 12 available for the rental market, through a Housing Association. The open spaces would be managed by a Management Company or FTC if it wished to take on responsibility. There would be an opportunity for further public consultation when the application was submitted.

Among others, the following points were raised

- Local people could not afford mortgages, even for affordable homes
- Mortgages for affordable properties were extremely hard to get
- Existing affordable houses in Fowey were not selling
- More rental properties were required
- It was Cornwall Council and not Wainhomes who decided the balance between affordable/open market/rented.
- The new access from the existing estate would really impact on the properties in that area
- The Fowey infrastructure could not support 200 more people living in the town.
- The sewage system was already overloaded
- What was Cornwall Council going to do to support a 10% rise in population

Paul Webber clarified that the government had directed that 48,000 houses must be built in Cornwall over the next 20 years. The eco towns would account for 5,000 and a big development in Camborne for 6,000, which left 37,000. All new developments after April 2011 would count towards that total but it meant that Cornwall Council would have to manage growth and strike a balance between growth and the environment. The new Core Strategy, still in the draft stage, would contain an Infrastructure Delivery Plan, but in the meantime planning officers were relying on Local Plan Saved Policies and must be consistent across the county.

### **12/20 Public Questions**

Arthur Baker congratulated FTC on regaining the Town Quay and Town Hall but stated that he considered that it was still being used for commercial purposes without planning permission. The Town Clerk confirmed that FTC was fully aware that the quay had possibly been used for many years by both Restormel and Cornwall Council without necessary permissions. However, FTC was now working closely with Cornwall Council to rectify the matter.

**Meeting Closed**      8.57pm