

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 12th DECEMBER 2012 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

12/139 Present

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

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)
1 member of the public (part)

12/140 Apologies

Cllr Mrs R Finlay (unwell)

12/141 Declaration of Interests

- a. Pecuniary - None
- b. Non Registerable - Cllr Mason declared a non registerable interest in any matters involving the Fowey Chamber of Commerce
- c. Dispensations - None

12/142 Public Questions/Police Report/ Cllr Participation/ Police Report

Public Questions

Mr Peter Voelcker offered his congratulations on the excellent Public Meeting at Fowey school, called to discuss the Wainhomes planning application for 84 new houses at Hillhay. He considered that the protesters had been extremely articulate and the Mayor had summed up well and constructively. By contrast he stated that it was 'the worst meeting in history that he had attended' in relation to the input of Cornwall Council and 'an insult to the people of Fowey.' He concluded by saying that he hoped that FTC would do everything possible to get the decision to allow the development reversed.

Police Report

No report.

12/143 Minutes of Meeting of 21st November 2012.

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

12/144 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

12/120. The Town Clerk reported that Fowey Parish Church (effectively the PCC) had responded saying it was in agreement with the proposal to wind up the Trust.

12/145 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Finance – minutes noted.

Planning - minutes noted.

FAC – no report.

Town Hall – The minutes for 12th March 2010 were still outstanding but Cllr Gudmunsen undertook to supply these. Minutes for 14th November noted, 27th November awaited.

Cllr Gudmunsen reported that she had asked Tony Bartlett to investigate the possibility of heating on the upstairs landing in the Town Hall.

Environment – minutes noted.

12/146 To receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor reported that

- He wished to record his apologies that he had missed the planning meeting at County Hall on 10th December when the Wainhomes application had been considered; he had mistakenly assumed that the meeting would be held in St Austell.
- There had been a wonderful public turnout for the switching on of the town's Christmas lights.
- He would be reading a lesson at the Town Carol Service, which would be held at 6.30pm on Sunday 16th December.
- Together with Cllr Bain and the Town Clerk, he had met with Cllr Bert Biscoe (portfolio holder for Transportation, Highways and the Environment) the previous week. One of the main topics discussed had been the provision of public toilets and Cllr Biscoe had been unaware that FTC was still awaiting figures from Cornwall Council. He had agreed to follow up on this.

12/147 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Bain reported

- There had been an extensive council meeting the previous day to discuss the Strategic Partnership. The final outcome had been that ICT and communication would be outsourced to BT but other services would be kept 'in house.'
- The governance review had also been debated and it had been agreed to keep the Cabinet system but with improved communication with other council members.
- There would be a further meeting during the week beginning 16th December to debate the Local Plan. One item of possible interest to FTC was that there had been a recommendation that no wind turbines should be erected within the AONB and a further suggestion that no wind turbines should be erected within sight of the AONB. Cllr Bain considered that similar guidance was required for solar farms.
- From April 2013 there would be no council tax discount on second homes. Cllr Alexander recorded her anger that the new council tax arrangements would impact on low income families.
- Cllr Mason reported that the Cornwall Council complaints telephone number was not in use and that it was nearly impossible to contact Cornwall Councillors as their email addresses appeared to have been changed. Cllr Bain agreed to investigate.

Cllr Bain left

12/148 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Fowey Estuary Partnership – no report.

Forum – Cllr Boosey confirmed that she had reported the details of the Wainhomes planning meeting on 10th December to the Forum members. It had also been agreed that the Heritage Board would be moved back to its original position on the outer quay.

Community Network Panel – no report.

Cornwall Towns Association – no report.

Chamber of Commerce – no report.

12/149 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- She was working on arrangements with HM Customs & Exise.in relation to VAT and ‘opting to tax’

12/150 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Mrs Boosey proposed, Cllr Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £4789.40 be approved.

Copies of the Budget Tracking Report and the Current Assets Report had been circulated before the meeting.

The Mayor reported that the group formed to repair the Passage Slip Shelter had raised over £900, which was more than enough to cover the costs, so they was no longer requesting a grant from FTC. Members congratulated Cllr Mrs Vincent and the group on such an excellent outcome.

12/151 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left ‘on the table.’

12/152 Resolutions from Councillors

Cllr Mason requested that a resolution be placed on the January agenda that FTC consider starting ‘King Mark Day’ celebrations.

12/153 Budget 2013/2014

Cllr Mason referred members to the recommendations of the Finance Committee and emphasised the necessity of ensuring that FTC was in a sound financial position to carry out its duties during 2013/2014. He then proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that the draft budget calculated by the Finance Committee be adopted by FTC and a precept requirement of £43,905.00 be submitted to Cornwall Council. Cllr Mrs Vincent then proposed, Cllr Boosey seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should adopt the recommendations of the Finance Committee in respect of the Town Hall Cleaner/Caretaker and the Town Clerk and that the risk assessment schedule should be signed off.

12/154 Squires Field

The Mayor explained that this item had been placed on the agenda because of the need to clarify the position in respect of the future ownership of the field. He understood that FREE had been trying to negotiate a lease with Cornwall Council for an area of the car park but Cornwall Council had advised that the property was in the process of being transferred to FTC. Cllr Boosey stated that she was in favour of FTC acquiring the property because of the need to safeguard it for the future, although she realized that there would be cost implications. Cllr Gudmunsen noted that the pavilion was a potential source of income. Cllr Alexander queried the position in relation to council tax on the car park area. The Mayor proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that, if necessary, the Town Clerk should officially

register FTC's interest in acquiring the property with Cornwall Council and that figures should be sought in order to facilitate an informed debate at the January council meeting.

12/155 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Willmore reported that he had been in email contact with Paul Weston, who had prepared a draft timetable for the Plan for consideration. .

12/156 Fowey Public Conveniences

The Mayor reported that Cllr Biscoe had confirmed that Cornwall Council would ensure that public toilets were brought up to an acceptable standard, including the installation of charging facilities, prior to any transfers taking place. He had also implied that freehold transfer might be a possibility. Cllr Alexander queried why some councils, including Callington, had already taken over their conveniences when Fowey had made little progress. The Mayor responded that Callington had two public toilets and a population of 4,500 to fund them but that Fowey had six and a population of less than 2,000, which made the financial practicalities of running the facilities very different. The Town Clerk added that she had raised the possibility of Cornwall Council transferring one of the car parks to FTC in order to provide the necessary funding. It was becoming increasingly clear that Cornwall Council would be closing public toilets unless agreements could be reached with town and parish councils.

12/157 Allotments

The Mayor explained the current situation in respect of the transfer and he proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should request the freehold transfer of the allotments and the Parade Gardens. The Mayor also reported that he had found a FTC minute dated February 1991, which recorded that a lease for the Parade Gardens had been granted to FTC by Restormel Borough Council.

12/158 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

Cllr Boosey reported that she had met with Deborah Lewis from the Port Health Authority the previous day to discuss legionella testing in the Town Hall. Deborah had been extremely helpful and explained that FTC only needed to carry out the most basic testing. Deborah could, if required, carry out the annual test for £51.60 per annum and apart from that all FTC needed to do was test the cold water tank every 6 months and the cold water taps once a month with a probe thermometer. Clls Vincent queried if FTC would be responsible for the aquarium and the toilets. The Town Clerk responded that the thought that this was the case but Cllr Boosey undertook to make further enquiries about this.

The Town Clerk asked members to consider the question of enforcement in the town quay car park as she had been contacted by the company providing enforcement services for FHC. It was agreed that effective enforcement was a priority and it was agreed that the Town Clerk should set up a meeting with the company. It was also agreed that the Town Clerk should investigate the cost of a new tariff board.

12/159 Busking in Fowey

Cllr Willmore was still waiting for a response from Cornwall Council.

12/160 St Catherines Castle Lights

The Mayor would be contacting the company that had provided the control box the following day.

12/161 Questions under Standing Order 21

None.

The Mayor thanked members for their work for FTC throughout the year and wished them a Happy Christmas. He also invited all present to join him for a Christmas drink and a mince pie, an invitation that was gladly accepted by everybody!

Date of Next Meetings

Planning – 16th January 2013

Council – 16th January 2013

Meeting Closed 8.25pm