

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 20th MARCH 2013 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL

12/216 Present

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

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
Cornwall Cllr D Hughes
4 members of the public

12/217 Apologies

Cllr Mrs S Gudmunsen (unwell)
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain
PCSO Linda Thomas

12/218 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

12/219 Public Questions/Police Report//Richard Gilpin

Richard Gilpin, Head of Waste Water Services – South West Water, was welcomed to the meeting by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Boosey. He then explained in detail the challenges faced by SW Water in dealing with the sewage system in Fowey but gave assurances that his company was doing everything possible to cause the minimum of disruption to the town. The main difficulty was saline infiltration into the Victorian sewer network, which historically had discharged untreated sewage into the river. Since 1997 a huge amount of money had been invested in Fowey to enhance and upgrade the sewer network and the sewage treatment works. The pumping station on the town quay needed constant maintenance due to the saline infiltration and, also, due to the fact that some of the pumps were running at the extreme of their capacity. However, 3 new pumps were now in service with 3 more coming on line and it was hoped that these would be considerably more reliable and improve performance. Three pumps would be in situ on the quay, with the other 3 held in reserve. However, if these improvements proved unsuccessful it was possible that a secondary pump station would have to be introduced closer to the sewage works to relieve the pressure on the town quay pumps.

Public Questions

Cllr Mrs Vincent reported that the tanks at Passage Slip appeared to be sinking, possibly due to the fact that they were resting on a base, which had been backfilled with sand. She also reported dirty water coming up from manholes on a $\frac{3}{4}$ tide, and queried why 3 tankers had been

pumping sewage at the Wainhomes estate at Hillhay and Caffa Mill over recent months. Mr Gilpin responded that tankers were used in emergencies to prevent sewage spill; if a pump station went down Clearflow tankers would be deployed to protect the environment but they were only deployed in an emergency and not to cover an inadequacy in the system. Dirty water coming up from the manholes was a clear indication of saline infiltration, caused mainly by lateral drains which were inaccessible to SW Water. The vast majority of Fowey sewage was directed to the town quay pumping station, with treated water going back into the estuary. However the laterals allowed ingress and egress, which would inevitably impact on seawater quality.

Tony Delves queried how much further development could take place in Fowey before the system was at its capacity Mr Gilpin responded that SW Water had agreed that the system could cope with the recently approved Wainhomes development at Hillhay but with the proviso that surface water would be contained on site. He was unaware of any other major schemes hoping to use the system.

Paul Trudgian reported large amounts of water overflowing from drains and flooding down Passage Lane. He also queried how SW Water calculated the amount of extra demand on the sewage system when it was consulted on large new housing developments.

Cllr David Hughes asked what happened to the overflows at the Readymoney pumping station. Mr Gilpin responded that these would be fed into the town quay system

Police Report

No report

12/220 Minutes of Meeting of 12th December 2012.

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

12/221 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

12/222 To receive and note the minutes, if any, of FTC Committees

Finance – no report.

Planning - minutes noted.

FAC – no report.

Town Hall – no report.

Environment – no report.

12/223 To receive the Mayors Report

No report.

12/224 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor

No report.

12/225 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies

Fowey Estuary Partnership – no report.

Forum – no report.

Community Network Panel – no report.

Cornwall Towns Association – no report.

Chamber of Commerce – The Mayor confirmed that he had informed the Chamber about Cornwall Council's intentions with regard to the future of the public conveniences in the town but had not received a clear indication of the Chambers position with regard to this.

12/226 To receive the Town Clerks Report

The Clerk reported that

- The Forum was not in a position to pay for siting the Heritage Board on the quay but hoped that FTC would look favorably on letting it remain there as it was not a commercial venture. After discussion Cllr Boosey proposed, Cllr Alexander seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Board should be treated as an exception and relocated to its original position on the outer quay at no charge. Cllr Mason abstained from voting.
- Annual Reports were needed in electronic format for inclusion in the printed Report in Fowey News

12/227 Accounts for Approval

Cllr Vincent proposed, Cllr Alexander seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £5543.70 be approved.

Cllr Mason left the room.

It was proposed by Cllr Boosey, seconded Cllr Willmore and RESOLVED that FTC should pay £1200.00 towards the provision of the traffic manager during 2012 but, as FTC's priorities would have to be reevaluated, with the proviso that a more formal arrangement must be entered into with the Chamber of Commerce if FTC was going to support the scheme in the future.

Cllr Mason returned.

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

It was proposed by Cllr Mason, seconded Cllr Mrs Vincent and RESOLVED that the Clerk should transfer £10,000.00 from the FTC current account into the Beale account and that this account should in future be called the Town Hall/Town Quay 'sinking fund.'

12/228 Correspondence

The correspondence file was left 'on the table' for Cllrs attention.

12/229 Resolutions from Councillors

Cllr Mason proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC offer a bursary of £250.00 to Fowey Primary School for the children to investigate aspects of Fowey history. Cllr Boosey abstained from voting

Cllr Mrs Vincent proposed that FTC should set up a new committee, possibly called the Estates Committee, in view of the return to Fowey of assets such as Squires Field, the public lavatories and the land designated for allotments, plus the Town Hall and Town Quay. She further proposed that FTC should employ a part-time employee to assist the Town Clerk, due to the increased workload and responsibility that the acquisition of new property had generated. However, members considered that these were matters for the new council to consider and neither proposal was seconded

12/230 Public Conveniences in Fowey

The Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had now offered a 'Tenancy at Will' on the toilets as it would not be possible to finalise any future arrangements before 2nd April. This would mean that FTC would have to take over the day to day management of the facilities from

that date, including cleaning, repairs, utilities and rates payments. Cornwall Council had warned that FTC had not entered into such an agreement by 2nd April then Cornwall Council would mothball and implement operational changes to selected facilities with effect from 8th April. Members considered that FTC was being placed in an impossible situation and that the timescales were ridiculous; public toilets were essential in a town dependent on tourism. The Town Clerk confirmed that an urgent meeting had been arranged in Truro the following Tuesday with Jon James (Cornwall Council) to discuss the situation.

12/231 Squires Field

It was hoped that the Annual Parish Meeting would give FTC a steer on whether parishioners wanted the council to accept the transfer of this property from Cornwall Council. However, it was noted that, whilst ownership would secure the future of the asset for the town, it would be necessary to generate some income on the site.

12/232 Neighbourhood Plan

Cllr Alexander reported on a meeting held the previous Monday. Arrangements were moving forward but it was becoming increasingly clear that this was a massive undertaking. Currently membership of the Steering Committee was restricted to Cllrs but, hopefully, members of the public would be able to join in the near future as their input would be crucial. The Town Clerk confirmed that she would be in a position to submit the Neighbourhood Area Application as soon as the minutes of 11th March were available.

12/233 Town Hall Hiring Charges

Cllr Mason proposed, Cllr Boosey seconded and it was RESOLVED that the hiring charges should revert to the pre vat figures and that the Charity rate should be abolished. Cllr Mrs Vincent abstained from voting.

12/234 Allotments

The Town Clerk reported that she had received a complaint that it was impossible to access the allotments apart from with a 4 x 4 vehicle as the access track had washed away. She had reported this to Jonny Alford, who had agreed to investigate.

12/235 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex

The Town Clerk confirmed that the new ticket machine would be installed on the quay on Monday 25th March and that A & S Parking Services were now actively carrying out enforcement.

12/236 Busking in Fowey

Cllr Willmore referred members to his email explaining the options available. He confirmed that he had spoken to PCSO Thomas who had confirmed that the Restormel Byelaw was still legally enforceable and he reported that she had suggested that FTC create a document identifying specific areas where buskers could perform, including time limits. Cllr Willmore agreed to produce such a document for members' consideration.

12/237 St Catherines Castle Lights

The Mayor had yet to visit the site but undertook to do so in the near future.

12/238 Meeting Date

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded Cllr Finlay and RESOLVED that, in order for the new council to meet soon after the elections, the June meeting date should be moved forward to 5th June.

12/239 Pornichet Yacht Race

The Mayor reported arrangements were well in hand.

12/240 Questions under Standing Order 21

Thanks were recorded to Cllr Alexander for producing the poster advertising the Annual Parish Meeting and Public Consultation.

Date of Next Meetings

Annual Parish Assembly – 27th March 2013

Planning – 17th April 2013

Council – 17th April 2013

Annual Meeting of the Council and Mayor Making – 15th May 2013

Meeting Closed 9.00pm