

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 17<sup>th</sup>**  
**APRIL 2013 AT FOWEY TOWN HALL**

**12/254 Present**

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

**In Attendance**

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent  
Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain (part)  
Jon James, Cornwall Council (part)  
Cornwall Cllr D Hughes (part)  
25 members of the public (some part)

**12/255 Apologies**

None.

**12/256 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

As Jon James (Cornwall Council) had yet to arrive the Mayor directed that Public Questions would be moved down the agenda to await his arrival.

**12/257 Minutes of Meeting of 12<sup>th</sup> December 2012.**

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

**12/258 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)**

12/229. Cllr Mason reported that he had not yet had an opportunity to visit the primary school.

**12/259 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.

**12/260 To receive the Mayors Report**

The Mayor reported

- He was saddened that only 7 nominations had been submitted for FTC; the remaining seats would be filled by co-option.
- He had been asked by the Bowling Club to bowl the first bowl of the season but the event had been cancelled due to the poor weather conditions.

- As they had not stood for re-election he wished to record thanks to Cllr Mason, Cllr Mrs Vincent, Cllr Vincent and Cornwall Cllr Mrs S Bain for their dedication to FTC during their time as Cllrs.

**12/261 To receive the Report from the Cornwall Councillor**

No report. Cllr Bain thanked members for their support during her time as Ward Member. Cllr Mason queried if Cllr Bain had managed to solve the problem of first time home buyers/shared equity buyers of Fowey being unable to indicate Fowey Parish as the area of choice to live when they registered on [www.southwesthomes.org.uk](http://www.southwesthomes.org.uk), which he had previously reported 3 months previously. Cllr Bain stated that she had been unable to do so.

**12/262 To receive and consider reports from representatives of the Town Council on other bodies**

**Fowey Estuary Partnership** – no report.

**Forum** – Cllr Boosey reported that the Forum AGM had been postponed due to it being badly publicised.

**Community Network Panel** – no report.

**Cornwall Towns Association** – no report.

**Chamber of Commerce** – The Mayor reported that the forthcoming Festivals had been discussed at the last Chamber meeting.

**12/263 To receive the Town Clerks Report**

The Clerk reported that

- The Greenpeace ship, Arctic Sunrise, would be in Fowey between 30<sup>th</sup> May and 2<sup>nd</sup> June. The ship was currently touring through 9 countries showing Greenpeace's alliance and support for small scale fishermen. Permission had been requested to set up a small marquee on the quay and stage various 'quayside activities.' It was agreed that the Town Clerk should issue a Licence for this.
- Neil Hartwell had requested permission for the Trigg Morris Dancers from Bodmin and Tywardreath to perform on the quay for 30 minutes on 8<sup>th</sup> May as part of the Pornichet.entertainment. It was agreed that the Town Clerk should issue a Licence for this.
- A response to the consultation on street names for the Hillhay Estate extension was required. It was agreed that this would be agreed via email between members.

Jon James arrived.

**12/264 Public Questions/Police Report**

Police Report – no report

Public Questions

A significant number of the public at the meeting were residents of Polkerris and had attended to put forward arguments for the retention of the public conveniences in the village including, *inter alia*

- Polkerris is a tourist attraction; to close the facilities would amount to putting a 'closed' sign at the top of the hill.
- The council should close Readymoney and keep Polkerris open
- Malcolm Bell (Visit Cornwall) considers that priority should be given to beach facilities
- Why close the toilets while negotiations are ongoing with FTC?

- 23,000 visitors come to Polkerris every year and at least 40% of them use the toilets – closing them is not an option.
- Charging was inappropriate at Polkerris

Jon James explained that his budget for maintaining toilets had been cut from 3 million last year to 1 ½ million this year. Cornwall Council just could not afford to retain all 253 public toilets in the county – half must be mothballed or ownership transferred to town and parish councils. If all the toilets were to be kept open the budget would run out by the end of June.

Whilst he sympathized with the people of Polkerris, Cornwall Council had made the decision to retain only those premises where it had freehold ownership and to surrender leaseholds; the toilet building in Polkerris was owned by the Rashleigh Estate. The cost of running the Polkerris facility was over 9K per annum. Whilst he didn't disagree with any of the arguments being put forward for the retention of them, the bottom line was that there was insufficient money in the budget and the decision had already been made by Cornwall Council to close leasehold premises.

Cllr Mason stated that, of course, everybody wanted to keep all the toilets open; the discussion that should be taking place was how could FTC work with the local community to achieve this? Jon James confirmed that FTC could decide to retain leasehold premises if it agreed to accept the transfer of any, or all of the toilets. Cornwall Council would undertake renovations, including the installation of charging mechanisms if required. If FTC wanted to keep the Polkerris toilets open in the meantime the cost would be £350.00 per week. Currently they were due to be mothballed on 15<sup>th</sup> April.

Some suggestions were then put forward by the public

- Local companies could undertake the cleaning more cheaply than Cormac
- Polkerris businesses could take on the cleaning and public liability responsibilities.
- Were any of the Fowey businesses offering to help with expenses?
- If Polkerris set up a CIC to take over the running of the toilets, would FTC undertake to keep them open until this had been done?
- Whatever the outcome, alternate ways of raising revenue would have to be found if FTC decided to retain any of the toilet blocks in the parish.

Jon James left

### **12/265 Public Conveniences in Fowey Parish**

The Mayor confirmed that he had spoken to Sir Richard Rashleigh, who had undertaken to help with the running costs of the Polkerris toilets.

Cllr Boosey, while welcoming this offer, stated that FTC simply could not afford the current cost of running the toilets, where would the money come from?

Cllr Finlay stated that she didn't disagree that all the facilities warranted retention, but FTC must be realistic in what it could afford.

Cllr Alexander stated that she considered that the position with regard to leasehold or freehold ownership was irrelevant; FTC should take on all the toilets, mothball those it could not afford to run and try to come up with strategies for generating income. However, a new, shorter lease should be negotiated for Polkerris.

The Mayor pointed out that, as a last resort, freehold ownership would enable the properties to be sold if FTC could not afford to run them.

Cllr Willmore considered that FTC could run the facilities for 12 months, whilst the grant was available from Cornwall Council and then make decisions about the future.

Cllr Mason agreed that this approach was feasible, although if alternate ways of raising income proved impossible the only way forward would be to raise money via the precept if Fowey residents were prepared to support this approach.

Cllr Finlay stated that people living in the parish must not be expected to meet the full cost; businesses must contribute.

The Clerk noted that a licence for the stationing the ice cream van during the summer months should generate some income at Readymoney.

After further discussion Cllr Boosey concluded that FTC had little option but to listen to the wishes of the public and to try to keep the toilets open and she proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC accept the freehold transfer of the public conveniences at Readymoney, Main Car Park and Caffa Mill and assume responsibility for the public conveniences at Town Quay and Polkerris, provided that Cornwall Council refurbished all the properties to FTC's satisfaction (including the provision of charging mechanisms if requested) and that a new lease could be negotiated with the Rashleigh Estate for the Polkerris facilities. Voting was unanimous.

#### **12/266 Accounts for Approval**

Cllr Boosey proposed, Cllr Alexander seconded and it was RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £7340.37 be approved.

#### **Adoption of the Annual Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Cllr Mason confirmed that he had checked the annual accounts produced by the Town Clerk and found no errors or cause for concern. Cllr Mason then proposed, Cllr Mrs Vincent seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Annual Accounts to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 be adopted by FTC

#### **Adoption of the Statement of Assurance to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013**

Members having indicated affirmative responses to the questions, Cllr Gudmunsen proposed, Cllr Willmore seconded and it was RESOLVED that the Statement of Assurance to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2013 should be adopted by FTC.

#### **12/267 Correspondence**

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

#### **12/268 Resolutions from Councillors**

None.

#### **12/269 Squires Field**

The Mayor referred members to the financial forecast he had circulated to members following the APM, when the public had indicated strong support for FTC accepting the transfer of this property from Cornwall Council. Members noted that the only possible means of generating income to cover maintenance costs were the pavilion and the car park. Cllr Mason stated that, whilst he knew that there would be resistance to any form of charging at the car park, the public must accept that FTC would have to raise revenue if the transfer took place. The general feeling was that Cornwall Council would certainly introduce a Pay & Display system on the site in the foreseeable future so it would be preferable for FTC to assume ownership and at least keep charging to a minimum. The Mayor confirmed that if FREE were to be permitted to install PV panels on the car park the group would not be in a position to pay any rent.

#### **12/270 Allotments**

The Mayor confirmed that the transfer was on track and would be dealt with at the same time as Squires Field.

**12/271 Traffic Manager 2013**

Cllr Mason stated that by agreeing to the acquisition of the public conveniences FTC had committed itself and the Fowey taxpayers to a huge expense and he proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded and it was RESOLVED that any donation towards the cost of a traffic manager for the 2013 season should be held in abeyance until FTC finalised how the toilets would be financed.

**12/272 Co-option of Councillors**

It was agreed that the names of anybody wishing to be considered for co-option should be sent to the Town Clerk.

**12/273 Town Hall/Town Quay Complex**

The Town Clerk reported that

- She had spent some time with a professional risk assessor on the quay and in the Town Hall and his Assessment should be available shortly.
- She had asked Tony Bartlett to carry out the necessary PAT testing on equipment in the Town Hall.
- The railings and lampposts on the inner quay would be repainted in the near future, although it would be quite a lengthy job due to neglect over recent years.
- Rhona Foster had given her a cheque in respect of the proceeds of the 2012/2013 quizzes in the Town Hall but had confirmed that, sadly, these would be discontinued. Since 2001 the group had raised £3630.82 towards disabled access to the hall and had requested that its plaque showing the winning teams should be displayed in the Hall.

**12/274 Busking in Fowey**

Cllr Mason proposed, Cllr Boosey seconded and it was RESOLVED that the policy on busking produced by Cllr Willmore should be adopted by FTC. Cllr Gudmunsen abstained from voting.

**12/275 St Catherines Castle Lights**

The Mayor reported that he had visited the castle and could not see any problem with the flagpole; he would contact English Heritage about the matter.

**12/276 Pornichet Yacht Race**

The Mayor reported arrangements for the event had been finalised. The French Civic party would be formally welcomed by himself at St Fimbarrus Church on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May and he hoped as many Cllrs as possible would attend the event. He then proposed, Cllr Alexander seconded and it was RESOLVED that up to £500.00 from the allocated budget should be used to entertain the dignitaries for such things as guided walks, a civic lunch etc. The Mayor confirmed that he and his wife would be travelling to France for the beginning of the race and requested permission to take the Mayors chain out of the country. This was agreed, subject to the Town Clerk checking the position as regards insurance.

**12/277 Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Alexander reported that a meeting was scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> April to discuss the new tranche of money that had become available. This meeting was restricted to Cllrs but Cllr Alexander was hopeful that members of the public would shortly be invited to get involved.

**12/278 Questions under Standing Order 21**

Cllr Mason thanked members for their support during his time as a Cllr but explained that he had decided to stand down as he considered that, as a Cllr, his hands were being tied.

**Date of Next Meetings**

Planning – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2013

Annual Meeting of the Council and Mayor Making – 15<sup>th</sup> May 2013

**Meeting Closed**      9.04pm