

Minutes of the Fowey Town Council Annual Parish Meeting held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 21st May 2014

14/09 Present

The Mayor

Cllr J Berryman

Councillors

Cllr Mrs K Alexander

Cllr Mrs A Boosey

Cllr T Delves

Cllr Mrs C Eardley

Cllr Mrs S Gudmunson

Cllr D Hughes

Cllr D Willmore

14/10 In attendance

The Town Clerk, Mrs Sally Vincent

PCSO Lloyd Paynter (part)

3 members of the public

14/11 Apologies

The Deputy Mayor

Cllr Finlay

14/12 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, I admit however at times it has been hard work but still rewarding when you see the Council's plans coming to a satisfactory conclusion and very frustrating when the opposite happens.

My thanks go to all the committee chairs for their hard work during the year and to all the Cllrs. We started the year as a newly elected council with Cllr Tony Delves as a new member, hope you have enjoyed your 1st year. Our first task was to fill the 3 empty seats, we welcomed Cllr Carol Eardley and Cllr David Hughes on board, I thank the 3 of them for their early grasp of council life and their readiness (or keenness) to become heavily involved with the workings of the council. Our special thanks to Cllr Hughes for his representation of Fowey at Unitary level.

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

Fowey Town Council properly acquired the freehold ownership of the Town Hall and the Town Quay 24 months ago and since then we have been getting to grips with the many different aspects associated with owning and running the properties. We, as a council, are proud to have assumed ownership on behalf of the community and we are committed to investing in both the hall and the quay. At our last Council meeting we voted to transfer another £10000 to a special fund, as you are all fully aware we can add to this fund each year thus building up a capital reserve to meet any future unforeseen problems. As for unseen problems you do not need to be reminded of Polruan Ferry Company's application to extend their use of Town Quay. This was probably a blessing in disguise as it has forced us to meet the permit and license allocation and terms head on. Eventually all TQ users will be working under a FTC license and not one which we inherited when ownership was transferred.

As I reported last year this council was offered the return of 2 previously owned assets, firstly the Allotments and the 1 acre Meadow, the transfer has taken place. The

second is the return, freehold, of Squire's Field and the adjoining parking area. This still poses a major problem as a considerable annual cost would be incurred, maintenance of the field, pavilion and the newly equipped play area, also the surface of the parking area. A total annual cost in the region of £7-9000 would not seem excessive. The asset at the moment has no earning capability, and it has lost a small income from the pavilion (once every 4 years voting days

Finally I come to the problem of the continued provision of the public conveniences in Fowey. I stated last year that we had been offered the freehold of 3 toilet blocks, Readymoney, and the 2 car park toilets, now as you all know in order to be given an annual grant we will be given a long lease, freehold comes with NO grant. The freehold of the Town Quay toilet block is ours, CC lease them from us, 3 years to run. As cribbed from Mayor Making, our soon to be adopted ship HMS Montrose has been involved in the removal of material used in the manufacture of chemical weapons from Syria along with ships from Denmark and Norway .She arrived back in Plymouth on the 12th March. The frigate will now have a short maintenance period before taking up her role as the Royal Navy's high readiness on-call warship. It would be most fitting if she could be in Fowey for her adoption over the Remembrance week-end.

14/13 Annual Report of the Planning Committee – Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey

I do believe that the volume of applications has decreased in the past year – at least the volume that has come to us has.

It is becoming more and more apparent that the views of your Planning Committee count for fairly little in the general scheme of things at Cornwall Council. Some of the applications that we have refused have been passed without any consultation with us on the ground, so to speak, and some that we have approved have been rejected. Localism is a strange beast. But we struggle on and do our best, and living in a largely AONB area makes the job even stranger!!.

I am delighted that the Windmill scheme is started. The old Windmill House turned into rather an anomaly, and the new one will cater solely for the needs of the elderly and slightly infirm.

We continue to do our best to protect Fowey from the more extreme ideas that come up from time to time, but our best is very little. But we will battle on. At least I believe that Fowey has reached its quota on new houses as set out in the new Cornwall Plan – some good must come out of the houses being built on the Wainhomes estate!

We await a new planning year with interest and a certain amount of trepidation. We are grateful to our Cornwall Councillor, David Hughes, for his advice on some applications, his knowledge on planning is extensive and he is always on hand to discuss planning matters

14/14 Annual Report of the Environment Committee – Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay

Members: Cllr J Berryman (Mayor), Cllr Mrs K Alexander, Cllr Mrs C Eardley, Cllr Mrs R Finlay

Schedule of grass cutting @4430 m2 x4 cuts @5.59 pence per cut = £990.55

Weed treatment 9.323 km @£157.46 per km =£1468.00

Weed treatment 1.92km @£78.73 per km =£151.16

Total = £2609.16

Total budget £8200.00

I became chairman for the Environment Committee in July 2013, at this meeting in July, it was agreed that the contractor for the OGS's, "Piggy Lane" and "Hydrangea Row" Roger White, should work ¾ day every two weeks in season and ¾ day every month out of season.

Grass cutting is through the contractor, Lanhydrock Services, 9 cuts @ £230 per cut (CC pays for 4 cuts, total £990)

Footpaths Fowey TC responsible for Gold Status footpaths (Saints Way)

Weed spray contract allows for 2 sprays @ £705 each spray (CC grant of £1468)

The work of this contractor is efficient and completed up to standard.

Old Grammar School Garden

It was agreed in our October meeting to consider ideas for the redesign of the OGS's to revitalise the lower part of the garden as we had received some complaints about the state of the garden, overgrown shrubs which were obliterating the views at the sides of the garden, most of the seating was also of concern due to lack of regular wood treatment meant the seats were becoming an "eye sore" in this well-loved public garden.

It was decided we should look at a local garden designer and choose materials which reflect Fowey, the river and the sea. We approached Ali Siddall of Arvorek Garden Designs and she was very keen to take on this work. By December of 2013 she had produced some outline ideas and photographs to create a mood board; these were presented to full Council to seek its approval for the design.

Remaining finance from this financial year (2013-2014) of £1000.00 was allocated for landscaping materials to be used in the first phase of the redesign in May 2014.

Fowey in Bloom

One of the aims of the Environment Committee was to keep in contact with the Fowey in Bloom group to support their activities and to monitor Fowey TC's grant of £500 to them.

Members of the Environment Committee attended the Cornwall in Bloom awards held in the Eden Project on October 2013, this was a surprisingly inspirational evening to hear about all the different projects around Cornwall and we were pleased and proud that our local chair of Fowey in Bloom, Barbara Orchard received the Cornwall "Local Hero" overall winner.

The annual prize giving in Fowey was held in November and it was useful to see which of our local traders were involved and who received prizes. This was again, a very positive event, which drew in a wide variety of local people.

We attended their AGM in April and heard Fowey in Bloom were not going to take part in either the National or Cornwall in Bloom competitions.

We asked if they could create a new category for "New allotments" which will be part of our local Fowey in Bloom.

Allotments

The allotments were handed over to Fowey TC in December 2013 and on the 5th December, we had our first meeting of current and prospective allotment holders. This meeting was well attended and it was agreed to update a current waiting list from the three lists we had inherited.

Over December and January all those on the waiting list were written/phoned or emailed to and the final list was created.

14 February 2014 there was a meeting between the newly elected Readymoney Allotment Association and members of the Environment committee where the running of the allotments on a day to day basis was discussed and agreed upon.

A second public meeting was organised for March 3 2014, it was agreed a working party would be organised, keys for access from Readymoney allotments to be cut, a fence to be erected. Parking was also discussed as a concern once the winter parking restrictions changed to summer parking.

Between March and April there were five working parties and a lot of work was undertaken on the clearance of brambles, trees cut down etc. most working parties had about ten to fifteen people and were positive and very pleasant sessions.

The plots were then divided into 21 individual half allotment plots of 5 Rods or 9 x14 metres and allocated to all those on the waiting list.

Tenancy agreements were issued to all allotment holders to bring these agreements into line with the financial year.

14/15 Annual Financial Report – Cllr David Willmore

Fowey Town council finances are in a strong position; we have raised the precept to help cover the short fall in services that used to be covered by Cornwall Council.

Again we have put another £10,000 in to the ‘sinking fund’ to be used in any unforeseen circumstances to maintain the Town Quay and the Town Hall. We lost some income from the Town Quay parking due to the bad weather over the winter, the leases, permits and licenses were looked at and we added a small increase, we will, however, be reviewing all of these in depth this year. We are still awaiting the outcome of the Toilets which will be another financial ball game altogether. All of the various committees that make up the Town Council have worked very hard to keep to their budgets which they have done; As usual the annual accounts will be available for the public to see very soon. I would like to thank all the members for their hard work over the last year.

14/16 Report of the Town Hall Committee – Cllr Sherlee Gudmunsen

Committee Members: Cllrs. Mrs. Sherlee Gudmunsen, Mr. David Willmore,
and Mrs. Carol Eardley and Mrs. Lesley McCartney

Caretaker Caroline Lewis

Meetings are held when and where necessary, usually on a Friday. All meetings have set agendas, and are open to the public, and allow for questions to be put to the Committee for the first twenty minutes of the meeting. All our meetings are advertised on the notice board outside the Town Hall and are in accordance with Standing Orders and the Code of Conduct.

One of the main items is generation of Finance for the upkeep of the Town Hall, which is a listed building, so all maintenance and repairs have to be done to listed building directives. The money is generated by, for example, Craft Fairs, Flea Markets, Stage Performances, Parties, Meetings, Wedding Receptions, Musical Entertainment and Fowey Festival of Words and Music, better known as the du Maurier Festival.

There are rules and regulations for our clients which are exhibited in the Town Hall and are also given to the client when hiring the hall.

We have a budget for staff wages (caretaking, cleaning). Our Caretaker, Mrs. Caroline Lewis and Handyman, Russell McClaren of RDM Maintenance both do an excellent job. The Town Hall Committee check the overall running, maintenance and caretaking and ensure all safety checks are carried out annually. Risk Assessments, Health & Safety Checks and Fire Risks are carried out on a yearly basis and the appropriate certificates posted on the notice board.

Fire extinguishers and alarms are regularly checked and appropriate certificates, with Certificate of Insurance can be seen on the notice board on the top landing opposite the office.

Work done 2013/2014 so far include removing old stain and varnish from main floor and stage area, repainting and repairs where necessary including the window on the upstairs landing, controlling the damp on various walls. We are still looking into the many repairs and improvements still to be done and we continue to look into the need for disabled access.

A very detailed survey for Risk and Fire Assessment has been undertaken for the entire building from the roof space to the lower floor, for asbestos and Legionnaires Disease.

The ownership was passed back to Fowey Town Council April 2012 by Cornwall Unitary Council. The Committee and the Council have a commitment to make sure the building is safe and well maintained. We are also aware that the boiler that runs the central heating in the building needs to be inspected on a regular basis as it was installed in the 1980s.

The Town Hall Committee is conscious of its' duty to the people of Fowey and will endeavor to maintain this historic building with Fowey Town Council keeping it in good condition for the People of Fowey.

14/17 Police Report – PCSO Lloyd Paynter.

Obviously there have been a few changes in the Policing Team covering Fowey in recent months so I thought I would start by confirming the structure of the team covering the area.

The Sector Inspector is **Tony Joslin** who is based at St Austell Police Station. Our Neighbourhood Team Leader is Sergeant **Innes Dowlen** who is responsible for the St Blazey area and works out of both St Austell and St Blazey Police Station. PC **Andrew Barnicoat** remains as Neighbourhood Beat Manager and also works out of St Blazey along with myself, your PCSO.

Recorded Crime Analysis

As this is my first AGM Report I thought I would go back over the past three years so that a comparison on reported crimes can be made, it also gave me a chance to look at the type of crime experienced in the area. Upon looking at the Police Computer I found the following statistics, for the purposes of my report each year includes crime from 1st May until 30th April inclusive;

	2013/2014	2012/2013	2011/2012
Crimes Recorded	58	78	127
Detections	8	17	22
% of Detections	14	22	17

Further analysis of the 2013/2014 figures shows that an additional 8 Crimes were resolved using Restorative Justice. Restorative Justice, providing it is mutually concluded between both parties, does give a positive outcome but is not recorded as detected on our internal systems. So, effectively, it would be fair to say that, of the 58 crimes recorded this year, 16 have had a positive outcome. This effectively increases the detected percentage this year to almost 28%.

The Crimes (58) recorded this past year can be categorised as follows;- D = Detected, R/J= Restorative Justice

Theft of a conveyance other than a Motor Vehicle 2

Theft (Non Specific)	8
Communications Act 2003	2 (1 R/J)
Common Assault and Battery	4 (1 D)
Possession of a Class B Drug	1 (D)
Cause Harassment, Alarm or Distress	2 (1 D) (1 R/J)
Burglary	6 (1 D)
Take or Ride a Pedal Cycle without Consent	2
Complaint re Dogs (Minor Injury)	1 (1 R/J)
Take Conveyance other than a Motor Vehicle	1
Racial/Religious Aggravated Public Order	2 (1 (R/J)
Criminal Damage to a Dwelling	1
Sexual Assault on a Female	2 (1 D)
Theft by Employee	2 (1 D)
Criminal Damage Property	4
Theft/Steal in a Dwelling	2
Theft from a Motor Vehicle	3
Cause Fear/Provocation	1 (D)
Criminal Damage to a Building	1 (R/J)
Theft from a Vehicle other than a Motor Vehicle	2
Criminal Damage to a Motor Vehicle	3
Assault/ Occ ABH	6 (1D) (3 R/J)

So, in conclusion, a wide range of different crimes but, when you consider that the total of 58 crimes for one year equates to just over one crime per week, Fowey remains a very low crime area.

Having already spent time with the excellent people involved with Fowey Boatwatch, I feel that their sterling efforts, and the work carried out with the Golant Boatwatch, have helped to reduce the threat of Marine Crime. Both schemes are really pro-active and, with the intention to carry out more routine patrols already in the pipeline, I feel very positive about their work.

Parking issues are always a concern to communities and already I have had to deal with several issues in and around the town. One particularly worrying aspect is the insistence of people leaving notes on vehicles that are parked outside of their properties. I would like to remind people that, providing a vehicle is taxed and insured the owner has a right to park in a safe and legal place on a public highway. No-one has a given right to park outside of their property unless they own the land. I think it is also important that people show a level of tolerance with builders and other tradesman working on properties and give consideration to when they call Police about what they perceive as an obstruction. Somewhere where parking is at a premium is always difficult but likewise, we all need maintenance carried out at times. My concern is that, whilst dealing with a parking issue, which is often the remit of Cornwall Council, I cannot be dealing with more potentially important issues.

As we come in to the busy summer period I hope to get to know more people in and around the town and surrounding areas. I also hope to be able to start a regular Police Surgery, possibly once a month in the town. I look forward to the next few months with real enthusiasm and encourage people to stop and chat whenever they see me out and about. I don't bite!!

14/18 Report of the Cornwall Councillor – Cllr David Hughes

This time last year we were on the last lap of the elections to Cornwall Council. I am grateful to have been re-elected, albeit by a closer margin than I would have liked. Although I had the privilege of being one of the Councillors representing Fowey in the old Restormel Council, it has taken me some time to catch up on the particular pressures and issues facing Fowey. I must say that it has been very helpful to have been co-opted onto the Town Council as this allows me to become much more intimately involved in the activity of the town and to speak with more authority when representing the town's interests at County level.

The new Cornwall Council has a different political balance and, perhaps even more importantly, has nearly 50% of "new" Members who have introduced fresh ideas. Some might claim that we are still in a "honeymoon period" but, so far, in my opinion the functioning of the Council has been far more positive, inclusive and constructive than we had become used to.

This is very important as Cornwall Council is having to face enormous pressures, especially from the massive cuts in Central Government funding whilst having to take on more and more responsibilities. This is already showing in cuts to important services; deterioration of roads and footpaths, toilet closures, reduced library hours (although, unlike many other Councils, we have not had any library closures - yet). What is less apparent is the ongoing reduction in back-room staff. This is starting to be felt in delays in getting key information and in such things as transfer of assets to Parishes.

If the further cuts in government funding already announced come into effect, it is predicted that the Council will be unable to provide anything but those services for which it has a statutory obligation within the next five years. This will have a knock-on effect for Town and Parish Councils, or at least those who see their role as ensuring that their locality remains a vibrant and community in which people want to live. If we consider such facilities as playgrounds, tidy open spaces, public toilets, allotments etc, historically provided by District and County Councils, to be available, it will be up to the Parish Council to provide and maintain them.

This will require a radical change in the way Parishes operate. We will have to take the lead in managing these facilities and funding them. Town and Parish Councillors will have to make difficult decisions on priorities for their neighbourhood and come up with solutions. It will no longer be a case of asking their Cornwall Councillor to get "County" to do something about it. In turn, this will put an increasing load on the Parish Clerk as the "Proper Person". We are very fortunate to have a highly competent Clerk, who puts in far more hours than she is contracted for. With the increasing workload we will have to take urgent action to restructure our activities. We owe her an enormous debt of gratitude for the huge amount of work which she has put into the transfer of the Town Hall, Quay and allotments.

This time last year I would have hoped that we would have resolved the problems regarding transfer of assets, particularly toilets and Squire's Field before now, following the successful transfer of the Town Hall, Town Quay and the allotments. I believe that there is a genuine will on the part of the Cabinet to find solutions but progress has been very slow, partly because the severe budget cuts have reduced the number of officers available to process the work, partly because senior officers, pressured to maintain services with diminishing resources, are loath to relinquish income generating assets which would enable the Town Council to take responsibility for key services within the constraints of its limited precept. The Clerk and

Councillors have put in a lot of hard work to overcome these obstacles and I sincerely hope that I will not have to repeat these remarks next year.

We are all conscious of how lucky we are to live in such an attractive location as Fowey, with a long and proud history and strong sense of identity. In the past we have relied to a considerable extent on outside bodies such as District and County/Unitary Councils to provide many of the services which maintain this distinctiveness. Whether we like it or not, the financial constraints imposed by central government mean that it will be up to the local community to find ways to maintain all but the most basic essentials and the Town Council will have to provide a strong lead in doing this. However, more than ever before, it is up to us, residents and tradespeople, to work together to come up with solutions.

Over the past year the start of development of the latest phase of development at Hill Hay has created a number of problems. Working with Town Councillors, I have tried, not always successfully, to deal with them and I suspect that further conflicts will occur until work is completed. I will continue to use all means at my disposition to seek acceptable resolutions.

I would like to thank the Town Council, and in particular the Clerk, for their help and support over the last year and look forward to working with you in the coming year.

14/19 Public Questions

Concern was raised that an increasing number of houses in Custom House Hill and North Street were being used as holiday accommodation and that advertising boards were being erected outside the properties. As this constituted business use should planning permission be obtained before putting these boards up? Cllr Hughes confirmed that planning permission should be obtained but warned that this may be treated as a minor infringement by the Cornwall Council Planning Enforcement Team. However, he encouraged concerned members of the public to report such matters to Cornwall Council.

Tony Ryde raised the subject of the affordable housing associated with the new Wainhomes development as he had heard that it was not going to be implemented as detailed in the Plan. The Mayor replied that this was not the case but that Wainhomes had advised him that they were under some pressure to increase the number of 4 bedroom affordables on the site. Cllr Hughes confirmed that nothing major could change from the original application without it going back through the planning process and added that local knowledge would suggest to him that the greatest demand in the Fowey area would be for 2/3 bedroom properties.

Meeting Closed 7.47pm