



FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL

ANNUAL REPORT 2013/2014

Welcome again to the Annual Report, which has been produced by your Town Council to try to keep you informed about the work of the Council and of any significant issues affecting Fowey. This Report has been distributed to all households in the parish via the Fowey News and is also available on the Fowey Town Council website www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk or via email by request to me, the Town Clerk, at sallyvincent957@btinternet.com. Any appropriate feedback is welcomed, particularly suggestions for additional items for inclusion in the next Report.

Sally Vincent, Town Clerk

YOUR COUNCILLORS 2013/2014

Cllr Mrs Katherine Alexander

Lankelly House, Lankelly Lane, PL23 1HN

01726 833839

Katherine has been a member of the Environment Committee and the Planning Committee and she is also one of our Neighbourhood Plan representatives. Katherine will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

Katherine can be contacted at alexander.katherine@yahoo.co.uk

Cllr John Berryman

4, Lanwithian Road, Lostwithiel, PL22 0ES

01208 872253

John is the Mayor of Fowey and has just completed his fourth term of office. He moved to Lostwithiel in early 2014 but still maintains an active role at Penhale Farm. John is a member of the Finance Committee and the Environment Committee but, as Mayor, he is also an *ex officio* member of all the Town Council committees. He will continue as a Councillor and as Mayor of Fowey during 2014/2015

John can be contacted at john@penhale-fowey.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Anne Boosey

26, Polvillion Road, PL23 1HF

01726 833793

Anne has served as the Deputy Mayor of Fowey and during the last twelve months she is also the Chairman of the Planning Committee and as a member of the Finance Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

Anne can be contacted at anneboosey@btinternet.com .

Cllr Tony Delves

01726 833715

74, Hillhay Close, PL23 1EN

Tony joined the council during the year and is a member of the Planning Committee and the Finance Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

Tony can be contacted at ac.delves@btinternet.com

Cllr Mrs Carol Eardley

01726 833164

21, Pentreath Close, PL23 1EP

Carol joined the council during the year and is a member of the Environment Committee and the Town Hall Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

Carol can be contacted at carol.eardley@btinternet.com

Cllr Mrs Ruth Finlay

47, Vicarage Meadow, PL23 1EA

01726 832762

Ruth is the Chairman of the Environment Committee and a member of the Planning Committee. She will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015 in her new role as Deputy Mayor.

Ruth can be contacted at ruthfinlay@live.co.uk

Cllr Mrs Sherlee Gudmunsen

Place Lodge, Passage Lane, PL23 1JS

01726 834847

Sherlee has been the Chairman of the Town Hall Committee and will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

Sherlee can be contacted at sherleegud@gmail.com

Cllr David Hughes

01726 812982

Fiddlers Green, Castledore Road Tywardreath, PL24 2TR

David joined the council during the year and is also the Cornwall Councillor for Fowey and Tywardreath. He will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

David can be contacted at d.hughes@cornwall.gov.uk

Cllr David Willmore

01726 834811

4, South Street, PL23 1AR

David has been a member of the Planning Committee, the Town Hall Committee and is the Chairman of the Finance Committee. He will continue as a Councillor during 2014/2015.

David can be contacted at d@willmore.eclipse.co.uk

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE COUNCIL 2013/2014

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.

Also, 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 weekend.

John Berryman, Mayor of Fowey

REPORT OF THE TOWN HALL COMMITTEE 2013/2014

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 during 2013/2014 includes 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 endeavour to maintain this historic building with Fowey Town Council keeping it in good condition for the People of Fowey

Sherlee Gudmunsen, Chairman Town Hall Committee

REPORT OF THE FINANCE COMMITTEE 2013/2014

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.

David Willmore, Chairman Finance Committee

REPORT OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE 2013/2014

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

Anne Boosey, Chairman Planning Committee

REPORT OF THE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE 2013/2014

I became chairman for the Environment Committee in July 2013.

Old Grammar School Garden

It was agreed in our October meeting to consider ideas for the redesign of the OGSF'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.

Ruth Finlay, Chairman Environment Committee

REPORT OF THE CORNWALL COUNCILLOR 2013/2014

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' 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.

David Hughes, Cornwall Councillor for Fowey & Tywardreath

AND FINALLY

Remember that meetings of the town council are held in the Town Hall and are advertised on our notice board and on our website www.foweytowncouncil.gov.uk. Minutes are also published on the website and on the Town Hall notice board as soon as is practicable after meetings. At every meeting there is an agenda item for public participation and this is actively encouraged. Please support your councillors by letting them know what you think about any aspect of life in Fowey – your input is crucial if they are to make the right decisions for the town. Alternatively, I can be contacted by telephone on 01208 871159, by post at Colcerrow Farm, Par, PL24 2RZ or by email at sallyvincent957@btinternet.com.

Sally Vincent, Town Clerk

