

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 THE MEETING OF FOWEY TOWN COUNCIL HELD ON WEDNESDAY 20th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, LANGURTHO ROAD, FOWEY

24/113 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr Mrs F Day, Cllr Revd Mrs C Edleston,
Cllr Mrs R Finlay, Cllr C Gibbon, Cllr A Harris-Guerrero

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
2 members of the public

24/114 Apologies

Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr A Dellow, Cllr Mrs Y Patterson
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

24/115 Declaration of Interests

- α. Pecuniary – None.
- β. Non Registerable – None
- χ. Dispensations – The Town Clerk had extended a dispensation to Cllr Finlay to participate in any discussion pertaining to the Fowey allotments until 2025.

24/116 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public noted that it was good to see all the youngsters using the new facilities in Squires Field.

A member of the public queried why the pavilion was not being fully used, given the cost of the build. The Mayor responded that FTC was working towards utilizing the space effectively and already FTC meetings were being held there, she was looking to introduce Councillor Surgeries and there was a meeting the following week to progress the library plans. Cllr Finlay recorded that getting the pavilion fully operational would take time, particularly as Councillors were volunteers and not paid staff. It was pleasing, however, to see more locals attending FTC meetings following the move from the Town Hall, which was an important feature in the decision to develop the building, given that locals had urged FTC to provide more services at the top of the town.

24/117 Minutes of the Meeting held on 16th October 2024

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

24/118 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

Cllr Finlay referred members to the revised plans issued by Cormac in relation to the Town Quay summer pedestrianisation, which now included the possible introduction of additional disabled parking on Albert Quay and a new disabled space opposite Boots. Members agreed that they were fully supportive of these additions if they could be achieved.

24/119 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted
Town Hall & Quay – no report
Finance – no report
Environment – minutes noted

24/120 To Receive Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

None.

24/121 To Receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor gave the following report

I want to congratulate the directors and all the volunteers at Squires Field Community Centre on receiving the Kings Award for Voluntary Service. They fully deserve National recognition. On 23rd October I attended the CAP meeting which was held at The House of Young People in Polkyth. The meeting focused on how to foster economic regeneration by empowering young people in Cornwall. It good to learn that there is plenty of career support available. I thought that “Cornwall Opportunity”, a one stop career website was particularly good because it has a Youth Hub which provides help and support in developing a career. Town and Parish Councils were encouraged to share the support the information presented and increase engagement with young people. I will be outlining the support available in the Mayor’s Column of the Fowey News.

Preparation for the Town Hall Christmas Market is going to plan. Special thanks go to Paul Finlay who has planned the hall set up and this evening been at the town hall to help prepare the first 4 tables. He will there on Thursday and Friday to help the rest of the artists set up.

24/122 To Receive the Town Clerk’s Report

- A stakeholder meeting would be held in Pavilion House on Friday 22nd November, called by the NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board in relation to the future of the Fowey Hospital site. This would be followed by a public drop-in session, also at Pavilion House, on 7th December. The organisers would be putting posters around the town to advertise the event.
- An extra table and 5 more seats had been obtained for Pavilion House and the coffee machine would be installed in early December

24/123 To Receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report

New Road Hill From Highways: “Following the successful delivery of the first phase of work to stabilise a section of the embankment along New Road Hill in Fowey earlier this year, our team will return to the site from Monday 25 November, to Friday 29 November, to complete the project. To ensure the safety of road users and our workforce, two-way traffic lights will be in operation from 6.00 am to 7.00 pm each day. Additionally, overnight road closures will also be in place between 7.00 pm and 6.00 am to reduce disruption to the local community. Thank you for your patience and cooperation while we complete this work.”

Lantic Road / Burrington Estate / Traffic Island I have received the following update from Highways: “Our Estates Adoption team are currently liaising with the developer in relation to the revised design requirements of the highway works - pedestrian refuge and speed limit signing. There are a couple of amendments required, so this is being finalised at the moment.”

Christmas Market Weekend I wish everyone a very successful weekend. I have written to Andrew Weaver to ensure the traffic parking restrictions on Tower Park / Hanson Drive are repeated as per the arrangement last year.

25 Bus Route Issues I have spoken with Transport for Cornwall regarding the recent difficulties of the 25 bus turning left from Tower Park up to Gallants Drive. This appears to be due to parking opposite the junction by vehicles associated with the building work ongoing in that area. Transport for Cornwall have been out to speak with the vehicle owners. I would encourage Town Councillors to also speak with any vans parked inconsiderately to educate them on the trouble caused. There is ample free parking this time of year in the nearby Readymoney Car Park. Parking historically has not been problematic in this area due to the properties having off road parking. Building works often cause temporary traffic problems that are difficult to manage. However, if we make long term changes to parking for short-term inconvenience, we are at risk of making poor policy. At this time of year, the parking on Hanson Drive at the viewpoint is popular with visitors, particularly those who are more frail. If conversations with the inconsiderate parking is not helpful, then the bus company will likely change the route so that the bus turns around in main car park.

If the Town Council is minded to support a wider traffic parking restriction in that area, for consideration for the Network Highway Schemes, please can you be cognisant of the unintended consequences such a parking change would cause for our residents.

The Town Clerk reported that since submitting his report Cllr Virr had spoken to Andrew Weaver about parking arrangements and had sent FTC the following email.

I spoke with Andrew Weaver today and unfortunately he has not arranged for traffic cones to be placed on Hanson / Tower Park for the Christmas Market weekend. I think there is a risk of problematic parking. Two years ago cars struggled to leave Gallants / Tower Park due to cars parked all along the road by the view point and being unable to overtake the parked cars. The cones we had in place last year resolved this successfully. I have reminded Andrew that the event is responsible for the parking arrangements. He has agreed to keep an eye on the situation. Should any difficulties arise then Andrew needs to be contacted. Cornwall Council is not responsible.

24/124 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Day, seconded Cllr Edleston and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £41,446.72 be approved.

24/125 Correspondence

Correspondence was left 'on the table' for Councillors attention. A hard copy of the dilapidations schedule for the OGS garden had been received from Lantic Surveyors.

24/126 Resolutions from Councillors

None

24/127 Parking on Hanson Drive

Cllr Edleston stated that having read Cllr Virr's report she considered that he did not appreciate the full extent of the parking problems on Hanson Drive/Gallants Drive/Tower Park, She also noted that he had referred to 'frail people' parking to enjoy the view and that this opportunity would be compromised if parking restrictions were introduced. However, Cllr Edleston pointed out that a lot of 'frail people' actually lived in the Hanson Drive/Tower Park area and if the number 25 bus route was changed to turn around in Main Car Park as had been suggested then these 'frail people' would suffer. Cllr Day added that the current situation was completely unacceptable; earlier in the day a bus had managed to get as far as Gallants Drive but then had to reverse back because it could not get past the cars parked there. Both Cllr Edleston and Cllr Day felt that it was imperative that Cllr Virr attended the area for a site visit that they would

facilitate as the loss of the number 25 bus to elderly/infirm residents would be completely unacceptable. Cllr Finlay added that if this should happen it would be another nail in the coffin for rural transport links. Given the call for a site meeting with Cllr Virr, Cllr Edleston proposed, Cllr Day seconded and it was RESOLVED that a decision on submitting a request for amendments to the existing waiting restrictions under the CNP Highway Scheme should be deferred until a site meeting had taken place.

24/128 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke had supplied the following report

1. The pump track was opened on 19.10.24 and has generally been very well received. I was away so my thanks go to Cllr Harris-Guerrero for coordinating the opening and keeping everyone well updated on social media.
2. A few snagging issues - we need a fence between pump track and play area (quote from Andy Inglefield); children playing loud music (quickly shut down by Cllr Harris-Guerrero); concerns about children riding bikes to/from the pump track in the dark with no lights. We must stress the importance of road safety and being visible at night when moving around, both on bikes and on foot.
3. Final CIL claim has been done and will be submitted tomorrow, along with a project completion report.
4. We have received a quote from Wicksteed of £18,592.62 for the supply and installation of a big slide, monkey bars and a small accessible roundabout. This has been reviewed and accepted by the working group and a purchase order raised. The lead time is 12 weeks so we are looking at preparatory ground works and installation in March 2025. In the meantime SFWG will put together a working group to remove the old bank slide and tunnel.
5. Works on the MUGA are due to be complete in 2-3 weeks. The EC meeting has approved money for the signage with Parc Signs and this will be in production once the wording is finalised.
6. Cllr Harris-Guerrero will update you on benches and donations.
7. The football goals have arrived and will be installed imminently by Andy Inglefield. Many thanks to Cllr Virr's Community Chest fund and FTC for funding their purchase and installation.

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported that he had put out a request on social media for sponsorship for benches and he had quickly received pledges to fund 13 benches together with a sizable donation to cover the cost of concrete plinths. Local builders had also agreed to install the benches. Members congratulated Cllr Harris-Guerrero for this fantastic achievement; the benches would be a great addition to the facilities at Squires Field.

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported that the Working Group had agreed that FTC should be asked to consider an application for Change of Use of the old Scout Hut to a kiosk selling teas/coffees/ice cream and suchlike and also the provision of toilet facilities. Cllr Finlay pointed out that FTC was not in a position to fund such a scheme at present but Cllr Harris-Guerrero confirmed that the idea would be to lease the hut and the tenant would be responsible for conversion and running costs. Cllr Finlay then reminded the meeting that it had long been the intention to refurbish the hut to provide basic changing facilities but Cllr Harris-Guerrero confirmed that this would not be possible due to stringent regulations relating to facilities such as this. Cllr Edleston queried if Cllr Harris-Guerrero had canvassed local people about this idea as this would be a substantial change in a residential area. Cllr Harris-Guerrero responded that this had not been done to any great extent and agreed to follow up on this and report back prior to any decision being made.

24/129 Alldays Fields

No update.

24/130 Fowey Christmas Market 2025

It was agreed that Lucy Daniel (Fowey Chamber) should be contacted and asked if she would be prepared to run a survey to better understand opinions of the Market and if any improvements/changes could be made going forward. It would be particularly interesting to get feedback from business owners and to see if they could be more involved in the event. This would need to be done promptly after the 2024 Market to facilitate arrangements for 2025. The Town Clerk confirmed that a couple of alternative dates for the 2025 Market had been suggested to Andrew Weaver, given FTC's view that the dates already put forward were too early. Andrew Weaver had undertaken to consider these and get back to her.

24/131 Devolution from Central Government

A draft Statement for Devolution had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Mayor proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded and it was RESOLVED that this be approved

24/131 Housing Allocation in Cornwall

Lanteglos Parish Council had requested support for their call for a change in Cornwall Council's social housing policy and details of this had been n circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Finlay noted that a lot of the issues raised were covered in the Fowey NDP but considered that the broad spectrum of the document was very good. Members agreed that long-term renting was a big issue for local people and changes would be welcome. Cllr Day proposed, Cllr Gibbon seconded and it was RESOLVED that the call for change by Lanteglos Parish Council should be supported.

24/132 Squires Field Car Park

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported that there had been a mixed response to the suggestion of introducing a form of Pay and Display to better manage the car park. He also reported that Cllr Dellow had floated the idea of having solar panels installed on the site above carports (as had been suggested several years ago and had obtained planning permission at the time) with proceeds potentially subsidising electricity costs for Fowey residents. It was agreed that this should be investigated further.

24/133 Old Grammar School Garden

Members noted that the Trustees of the OGS Garden had chosen to put an article in the Fowey News advising that FTC's lease of the garden would not be renewed in June 2025. The article also suggested that areas of the garden have not been suitably maintained, but given that FTC has spent many thousands of pounds on the upkeep of the gardens since the original lease was granted back in the 1990's it was agreed that FTC should take the unusual step of setting the record straight by submitting a response to the Fowey News. A draft response had been circulated among members prior to the meeting and, subject to Cllrs Gibbons amendment that one point should be strengthened, it was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded Cllr Gibbon and RESOLVED that the draft should be approved and submitted for publication. Cllr Finlay also reminded the meeting that the garden was designated as an open green space in the Fowey NDP. The Trustees (via Lantic Surveyors) had also served a very substantial dilapidations schedule on FTC and it was proposed by Cllr Finlay, seconded the Mayor and RESOLVED that Stephens- Scown and Vicary Holman should be reappointed to deal with this on behalf of FTC.

24/134 Questions/Reports from Members

None.

Date of Next Meeting 11th December 2024

Meeting Closed 8.41pm