

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 11th DECEMBER 2024 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, LANGURTHO ROAD, FOWEY

24/135 Present

The Mayor, Cllr Mrs L Simms
Councillors: Cllr J Berryman, Cllr Mrs R Cooke, Cllr Mrs F Day,
Cllr Mrs R Finlay, Cllr C Gibbon, Cllr A Harris-Guerrero,
Cllr Mrs Y Patterson

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
4 members of the public

24/136 Apologies

Cllr A Dellow, Cllr Revd Mrs C Edleston,
Cornwall Cllr A Virr

24/137 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.

24/138 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public handed a media statement to the Mayor but did not comment on it.

A member of the public queried the benefit of the Christmas Market to the town. The Mayor confirmed that she intended to refer to the Market in her report.

A member of the public raised concerns about the proposed lighting around the new MUGA. She considered that this would affect the residential amenity of the surrounding residents and that she was supported in this view but other householders. The lady also considered that a local letter-drop was essential before any schemes were considered; reliance on social media was insufficient and marginalised some residents. Cllr Harris-Guerrero responded that the Working Group had commissioned a light pollution survey and any decisions would be delayed until this data was available, although he pointed out that youngsters were currently having to travel outside of Fowey to use MUGA facilities. Cllr Cooke confirmed that there would be public consultation on the proposals, at present this was simply a scoping exercise; the Working Group would not make recommendations to FTC that did not reflect public opinion.

A member of the public queried why the entirety of the Mayors column in the Fowey News had focused on the OGS situation. The Mayor responded that this decision had been made as it was such an important issue for the town.

24/139 Minutes of the Meeting held on 20th November 2024

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

24/140 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

24/141 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted

Town Hall & Quay – no report

Finance – minutes noted

Environment – no report

24/142 To Receive Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

None.

24/143 To Receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor gave the following report

I am pleased to report that the Christmas Market weekend on 22nd, 23rd and 24th November was as usual, very successful despite the inclement weather conditions. Friday evening was particularly enjoyable with the Christmas celebrations at the church, the light switch on ceremony and the street entertainment. My thanks go to the many volunteers and sponsors including Fowey Church, Fowey Town Council, Fowey Forum, James Dowrick who supported Fowey River Lions to provide the Christmas Lights, our local businesses and shops, Paul Finlay for his help setting up the Town Hall Market, and Andrew Weaver and his team from Live Events South West. Cllr Finlay added that £200 had been raised in the Charity Café in the Town Hall.

On Saturday 7th December, Pavilion House hosted a public engagement event to discuss the future of local health services and of Fowey Community Hospital, organised by NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Integrated Care Board. Over 90 people attended including our local MP Noah Law. More information and a survey to be returned by midnight on 5th January can be found at cios.nhs.uk/fowey. Paper surveys will also be available. I think that Fowey Town Council should voice its concerns about what might happen to the land if the hospital site were closed. Cllr Finlay agreed that, sadly, it was clear that there was no future for the hospital but that FTC and residents should complete the survey as local people must have a say in the future of the site. It was clear that a MIU would not be delivered and the site would be sold but given the aging population of Fowey and bad transport links the possibility of sheltered housing could be one potential option. There was no money for a Care home but the site needed to be secured as a community asset.

On the afternoon of the 7th the Fowey River Lions had its Senior Citizens Christmas Party in the dining room at Fowey River Academy I was delighted to attend in my role as Mayor and very much enjoyed meeting the attendees, many of whom I already know. It was a wonderful event with good company, food, and festive entertainment from Lankelly Shout. Thank you, Fowey River Lions and all the volunteers, involved.

24/144 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report

- A Cornwall Council consultation has just gone live on a 2024 Off-Street Parking Places Amendment Order affecting Readymoney Car Park. The intention was to revoke the Order and introduce the The Cornwall Council (Off-Street Parking Places) Order 2025, which would result in some car parks no longer being managed by CC and instead leased out, potentially to Corserv, which would allow ANPR systems to be introduced. Cllr Finlay raised concerns about this as access to the allotments for both allotment tenants and deliveries was through the car park. Cllr Day added that this would

potentially exacerbate the parking issues in Hanson Drive/Tower Park. Cllr Finlay proposed, Cllr Day seconded and it was RESOLVED that FTC should object on this basis. Members also considered that FTC should be given the opportunity to bid on the ownership/management of the car park and that this should be an agenda item in January.

- The cost of cleaning the steps on the Town Quay slipway will increase to £82.50 per month from 1st January 2025.
- We have received £209.01 from the electric charging point at the pavilion.
- The issue with the heating in the Town Hall was caused by a faulty radiator. Currently it has been isolated but I have made arrangements for it to be renewed.
- I have received a letter from Cornwall Council advising that the Main Car Park toilets will be closed. FTC will be offered the opportunity to accept the devolution of the site. Cllr Harris-Guerrero considered it was imperative that public toilet provision at the top of the town was maintained as the withdrawal of the service would have a negative effect on tourism and on local people. He recognized that the financial burden on Fowey precept payers would be significant if FTC accepted the devolution of the facilities but he maintained that they couldn't be allowed to close. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item in January.
- I received an email from Lantic Surveyors with a letter from the OGS Trustees attached on my phone when I was travelling to the meetings this evening. I will forward it to you all when I return to my desk.

24/145 To Receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

Cllr Virr had supplied the following report

Hanson Drive / Tower Park Bus Route 25 I have had correspondence with FTC Councillors regarding obstruction to the Fowey 25 Bus Route by the temporary parking of works vehicles associated with two building projects on Tower Park. I understand the actions of speaking with the builders, property owners and the placing of traffic cones has provided some relief.

If the Town Council wishes to put in a bid for Network Highway Scheme funding for an all year-round parking restriction then this application would be available in the next financial year. It is unlikely to be completed until late 2025/early 2026. As the traffic causing the bus difficulties is temporary due to building works, continued dialogue with those obstructing the bus route is the best option for now. Thanks to the FTC councillors for taking such positive action.

Fowey Christmas Market Congratulations to everyone involved in the Christmas Market and for making it such a success again, despite the challenging weather.

Happy Christmas Thanks to all the Councillors for their hard work. You have achieved much this year, including completing the two projects in Squires Field. I wish you a restful time with family and friends over the holiday period.

24/146 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Patterson and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £11,335.80 be approved.

24/147 Correspondence

Correspondence was left 'on the table' for Councillors attention.

24/148 Resolutions from Councillors

None

24/149 Pavilion House

Cllr Finlay, Cllr Day and the Mayor had met with representatives on the library service to discuss the relocation of the library to Pavilion House. Subjects discussed included, *inter alia*,

- Encouraging young people to use the facilities
- Increasing the services that SFCC is currently able to offer
- Training for volunteers, particularly in connection with the proposed electronic systems
- Timetabling
- Contract details
- Arrangements with SFCC for a successful transition
- Arrangements for a proposed 'soft' launch with a larger event later

24/150 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke had supplied the following report

1. I met with Andy Inglefield on site last Friday to discuss putting a fence between the pump track and play area. He is going to provide a quote to be considered at the next Environment Committee meeting. This is really important to keep the two areas separate and was raised on the initial ROSPA inspection.

2. The sockets for the football goals are being welded to create greater length and then Andy Inglefield will look at installing them when the weather permits.

3. I contacted Sandra Crawford at Cormac about cutting the grass on Squires Field and in the play area - they will come this week to cut it and this will set it up well for the winter.

4. The final CIL claim has been processed and remittance advice has been received by the Town Clerk. This closes out the funding stream for the pump track and the walkways.

5. The Town Clerk has paid the deposit for the concrete pads for the benches; these will be installed in January 2025. 12 benches have been ordered. We would like to thank all the businesses/individuals who have kindly agreed to sponsor a bench and create seating opportunities around Squires Field.

6. The installation of the MUGA is currently delayed due to supply issues; Flashman's Track and Trail are working hard to resolve this quickly.

7. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Cllr Harris-Guerrero and the members of SFWG for their continued hard work, commitment and support throughout the past year in delivering the upgrades at Squires Field; without them this project would not have happened. It is wonderful to see residents using the new facilities.

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported that any plans for the old Scout Hut had been put on hold for the moment following concerns raised by local residents about any type of café being introduced there.

24/151 Alldays Fields

No update.

24/152 Budget 2025/2026

Cllr Berryman explained the reasoning behind the allocation of the Earmarked Reserves proposed for 2025/2026 and the Finance Committees recommended budget. He confirmed that the Finance Committee had tried to keep any increases as low as possible but, in particular, the impact of the devolution of the Main Car Park toilets if FTC considered they must be retained and essential maintenance to Squires Field Car Park meant that it was inevitable that the precept

must rise. However, adjustments in other areas had been made to mitigate this as far as possible. He then proposed, Cllr Harris-Guerrero seconded and it was RESOLVED that a precept requirement of £198,416.00 should be submitted to Cornwall Council

24/153 Squires Field Car Park

It was noted that the hedges around the car park were badly in need of trimming. Cllr Berryman agreed to investigate the possibility of doing this with a tractor hedge trimmer but if this was not possible a local contractor would be sought to undertake the work by hand.

Cllr Dellow was investigating the possibility of the installation of a PV system in the car park to support ongoing maintenance costs. He had supplied the following report.

- I have had a discussion with a community PV firm and but they are not interested. FTC could generate 250kW at peak from the site but the problem is using the power when it's generated. The nearest big users are the schools but they would be drawing much less than this and are shut in summer during peak output. We would ideally need a shopping centre or other big consumer to sell the power to. Another problem is if we want to sell the power to customers (residents) directly we would need to become a supplier, which is impossible at that scale. That leaves us with selling to the grid which is not very cost effective. We could put batteries in and sell at peak time in the evening but that is at significant extra capital outlay, which would need more number crunching and probably still not be effective. But still worth still pursuing and I will investigate with some more of my contacts.

24/154 Old Grammar School Garden

The Town Clerk confirmed that she had re-appointed Stephens-Scown and Vicary Holman to deal with the termination of the lease and the dilapidations schedule as she had been instructed to do at the November FTC meeting.

24/155 Parking on Hanson Drive

Cllr Day noted that it was good to see the report from Cllr Virr, which suggested that he was less opposed to an application for a TRO to manage the inappropriate parking. It was agreed that this should be an agenda item at the January meeting.

24/156 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Berryman reported that he had spoken to Palace Printers about the publication of an anonymous letter in Fowey News. The editor had been very apologetic and confirmed that this had been a genuine mistake; he would make a public apology in the next issue.

Date of Next Meeting 15th January 2025

Meeting Closed 8.29pm