

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 19th MARCH 2025 AT 7.00pm IN PAVILION HOUSE, LANGURTHO ROAD, FOWEY

24/205 Present

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

In Attendance

The Town Clerk, Sally Vincent
2 members of the public (1 part)

24/206 Apologies

Cllr Mrs Y Patterson.

24/207 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.

24/208 Public Participation & Questions

A member of the public queried the economic benefit of a twinning arrangement with Binic-sur-Mer and asked if could FTC justify supporting it. Contrary to the gentleman's understanding, the Town Clerk clarified that FTC was not leading on this project, rather it was headed up by a group of Fowey residents who had asked FTC to consider a donation towards a planned civic reception; all other arrangements including the cost would be met by this group. The Mayor added that she felt that the twinning would be of great benefit to the town as a cultural event and that the expected French visitors would clearly spend money in the town, which would help businesses. Members would make a decision on the request for a donation later in the meeting. Cllr Berryman confirmed that there was no budget line in FTC's budget for twinning.

A member of the public introduced himself as one of the organisers of a meeting held at SFCC aimed at saving Fowey Hospital. He reported that 130 people had attended the meeting and everybody there wanted the hospital to re-open as a fully staffed NHS resource. A petition had also been signed by over 1000 people. The gentleman appealed to FTC to support this demand that the hospital be repurposed as a step-down facility for Treliske; unelected NHS bureaucrats should not be allowed to dictate to the public. Cllr Finlay responded that, of course, FTC would very much like to see the hospital re-opened and that FTC had been engaged in meetings about this for several years. Many people would remember the well-attended Public Meeting called by FTC in 2019 when Phil Confue, then head of the NHS, and a group of London architects had been in attendance and had reported that they were working on designs for a new modern facility on the site. The Fowey NDP had then recognized the importance of the hospital and there were sections in the document fully supporting it. Since the Public Meeting (with a pause

for the pandemic) there had been almost weekly meetings with stakeholders, including FTC and the Fowey GP's, with everybody trying to save the hospital, but sadly a re-opening could not be achieved. Many different avenues had been explored but NHS England were adamant that the site is too small to house a viable unit and it had very reluctantly been accepted by everybody, including the Fowey GP's, Cornwall Cllr Dr. Virr and FTC, that the next best option would be to secure the site as a community asset. This was clearly not what people wanted but all other avenues had been explored and sadly had hit a brick wall. The Mayor added that she had been contacted by Noah Law MP offering his support to FTC. Members agreed that this was an excellent offer as any decisions regarding the hospital site going forwards would ultimately be made by the government and having our MP onside would be important; FTC would continue to investigate any viable options. The Mayor confirmed that she would share Noah Law's offer email with the meeting in her Mayor's Report. Cllr Harris-Guerrero queried if an alternative site could be found in the town that could be investigated. This suggestion was noted.

24/209 Minutes of the Meeting held on 19th February 2025

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

24/210 Matters Arising not on the Agenda (for report only)

None.

24/211 To Receive and note the Minutes (if any) of FTC Committees

Planning – minutes noted

Town Hall & Quay – no report

Finance – no report.

Environment – no report

24/212 To Receive Reports from Representatives on Other Bodies

None.

24/213 To Receive the Mayors Report

The Mayor gave the following report

- FTC would love to see Fowey Hospital re-opened. It was always a very special part of Fowey and we all remember the wonderful team of nurses there who provided such an important local service. However, FTC has had several meetings with the ICB and it has been made clear that re-opening the hospital as it was is just not an option, however much we would like it to be. There are all sorts of well-rehearsed reasons for this, including that Health & Safety wise the building does not comply in many ways and because the facility is so small staff do not get the all-round experience to enable them to maintain their competence. Consequently, FTC has concluded that the next best option would be for the site to be utilised for the community in some way, as was explained to the gentleman by Cllr Finlay earlier in the public part of the meeting. Some of the suggestions that have been put forward are as a Care Home, for social housing and for retirement housing, although I'm sure there will be other ideas. What FTC would not like to see is for the site to be sold for executive housing at prices that are out of the reach of local people and this has been made very clear to the ICB. I have been contacted by MP Noah Law who said 'With yours and FTC's permission I will put pressure on the trust to find a way to make it work for them to avoid simply selling it to the highest bidder and allow the community to make an alternative offer. Separately I

will explore with the Department of Health whether there are any potential health and care based opportunities for the revitalisation of the site that we have overlooked but I think that the baseline approach must be to secure it as a community asset and go from there whilst looking rationally, separately, at what place based health care provision is needed in Fowey. I remain at the Council's disposal in case you would like to meet about this.' Members endorsed this opportunity and the Mayor undertook to make arrangements to meet with Noah Law.

- Following the report of low-level disruption in Fowey at the February Council meeting, I have been in contact with Helen Toms the Community Safety Officer for Mid Cornwall for advice. When I met with her on Monday 17, she had already spoken to the police about the incidents and the actions taken. PCSO Wade from St Austell Police Station is going to bring copies of the Safer Communities Tool Kit to the Library for the public to take away. I will put links to the Safer Communities Tool Kit, Devon and Cornwall Police and Street Link into the Mayor's Column of the Fowey News. I now have links to <https://safercornwall.co.uk/safer-communities-toolkit/>
<https://www.devon-cornwall.police.uk/>
<https://thestreetlink.org.uk/>

24/214 To Receive the Town Clerk's Report

- As reported at the last meeting, the surface of the quay is in a poor state
- I requested a site meeting at the main car park toilets as the outside area they are looking to transfer over looks to be too small and I felt that we should have a look inside to see if they are fit to reopen without any work being done. The response was an offer of a Teams meeting using Google maps, which took place yesterday and I confirmed that we would want some additional space on the left of the building. I also asked for a donation towards the installation of a Healthmatic coin/cardpay system so that we could utilize the automatic nighttime door locking system. I have also requested at site visit to enable you to have a look around inside the facilities. Members endorsed this approach and authorized the Town Clerk to continue negotiations on this basis.
- I am still battling with npower about incorrect estimated invoices for Pavilion House.
- I have been dealing with the brewery in respect of the unauthorised parking on Town Quay. The builders offered £250.00 for the ability to park 3 vans for 28 days, which I approved on your behalf but there is now an issue as they want to park different vans and not specified ones. I have to register any vehicle of the enforcement company's website, which is quite time consuming so I have told them that this is not possible and they are now going to make other arrangements.
- I have received a new contract from Alliance Parking. This is largely in line with the existing contract but includes new signage, the addition of the Pavilion House area and details the fact that permit holders will need to pay a £20 charge if they incur a PCN due to a failure to display their permit for inspection. It was proposed by Cllr Berryman, seconded Cllr Dellow and RESOLVED that the revised contract should be accepted and signed by the Town Clerk and the Mayor.
- Trigg Morris will be dancing on the quay on 3rd July at 8pm

24/215 To Receive the Report of the Cornwall Councillor

No report.

24/216 Accounts for Approval

It was proposed by Cllr Edleston, seconded Cllr Cooke and RESOLVED that accounts to the value of £9,118.27 be approved.

24/217 Correspondence

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

24/218 Resolutions from Councillors

None.

24/219 Pavilion House

The Mayor reported that she was pleased to confirm that the volunteer Library training session went ahead on Tuesday 11th March. Earlier today two shelving units were collected from the Micro Library at SFCC to be used in the Pavilion and tomorrow (Thursday 20th) members of the Library Service would bring and set up the books in readiness for the opening on Saturday 22nd

The Town Clerk referred members to the CC service contract for running the library, which was awaiting signature. She had sourced a quote from the FTC solicitors for dealing with this, which was circa £1,000.00, but as it was a fairly straightforward document, albeit with a 10 year term, she queried if members wished to use the services of the solicitor. Cllr Finlay agreed that the contract was fairly standard and the general feel of the meeting was that £1,000.00 could be better utilized in other areas. Following further discussion it was proposed by Cllr Harris-Guerrero, seconded Cllr Berryman and RESOLVED that solicitors should not be retained to deal with this issue and that the contract should be accepted and signed by the Mayor and Town Clerk.

24/220 Squires Field Working Group

Cllr Cooke gave the following report

1. I would like to extend my sincere thanks to Cllr Harris-Guerrero for carrying out the plaque draw and installing the plaques on the relevant benches. They all look great.
2. The pirate ship was taken out of action at the last inspection due to a broken platform but Andy Inglefield has renewed the top sections to bring it back into use and will replace the side sections in due course.
3. Jasper Flashman is in to flatten the mound in the play area at the end of this week; this is in preparation for the new play equipment arriving.
4. The MUGA is progressing well and will be finished off soon. The wording for the MUGA signage is with Parc Signs and will be sent through for review shortly.
5. Further to resident feedback one of our next jobs is to think about noise reduction measures on the north side of the MUGA. I have asked Andy Inglefield to quote for a couple of different options of higher fence to run along the north side, as well as investigating options for planting some trees to also soften the area aesthetically.
6. We are thinking about doing a formal opening of the new facilities on Saturday 14th June - this will be discussed at the next SFWG meeting.
7. I will speak to Andy Inglefield about perhaps fitting some mesh infills to the fence between the play area and pump track in order to close off the large gaps.

24/221 Squires Field Car Park

Cllr Harris-Guerrero reported that he had obtained a further quote for resurfacing but this did not include drainage. It was possible that up to ten drainage baskets would be needed. The next stage would be to obtain a comparable quote but this would involve finance.

24/222 Old Grammar School Garden

Work to the walls is being undertaken by Leighton Paull as agreed at the February meeting.

24/223 Town Quay

Cllr Gibbon reported that he had met on the quay to discuss repairs to ‘Steve’s Steps.’ The work required was quite extensive and he was waiting for a structural engineer to contact him regarding a follow-up visit. Cllr Gibbon would chase this up.

24/224 Request for Funding

The Mayor reported that a request had been received from the group organizing the Binic twinning event for top-up funding for the reception planned in the Town Hall. The event was taking place for the Mayor of Fowey to formally receive the Maire of Binic, Paul Chauvin, and approximately 60 guests to the town. The Mayor considered that it was a reasonable request and that FTC should support this cultural community event. Cllr Berryman proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded and it was RESOLVED that a donation of £250.00 should be made.

The Town Clerk reported that a request from Shop Cornish for a donation of £750.00 plus vat had been received towards the running costs of the Christmas Market. This was the same figure as had been agreed for the 2024 Market. The Mayor confirmed that she was happy to organise the Town Hall Market for the benefit of local artists/crafters, offering them the same rates as last year to cover this £750.00 outlay. This would then not financially impact on the Town Council directly and would help sponsor the entertainment during the event. The Mayor then proposed, Cllr Finlay seconded and it was RESOLVED that a donation of £750.00 plus vat should be made to Shop Cornish. Cllr Edleston and Cllr Day voted against the proposal.

24/225 VE Day 80

The Mayor reported that the following arrangements had been firmed up.

9.00am The Proclamation. 6.30pm Bell Ringing. 7.00pm Service on the Quay. 7.30pm Mount Charles Band. 8.30pm Lankelly Shout. 9.15pm The Council meets at the Church to process to the Town Quay. 9.30pm Beacon Lighting followed by The Proclamation, The Tribute and the community singing of ‘I Vow to Thee My Country’ led by Lankelly Shout.

24/226 Election Arrangements

Wednesday 6th November 2024. Casual vacancies no longer to be filled via election.

Friday 14th March 2025. Publish of notice of election and candidate packs available. Pre-Election Period (formerly "purdah") begins.

Wednesday 2nd April, 4pm. Deadline for submission of candidate nomination papers. Deadline for withdrawals of nomination

Thursday 3rd April, 4pm. Publish of statement of persons nominated no later than 4pm

Wednesday 23rd April. Publish of notice of contested polls Notice of Uncontested Election issued if applicable

Thursday 1st May. Polling day. Pre-Election Period ends at 10pm when polls close.

Tuesday 6th May, 2025. Change of Council - Former Cllrs term ends, new Cllrs begin. Earliest point for issuing summons for Annual Council Meeting Point at which any remaining vacancies can start to be filled via co-option Monday 13th May to Tuesday 20th May (inclusive). Period where Annual Council Meeting must take place. Declaration of Acceptance of Office to be signed before Annual Council Meeting.

Thursday 29th May. Deadline for return of election expenses forms.

Deadline to submit Register of Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

Wednesday 5th November. Deadline for Code of Conduct training to have been completed by all Councillors.

24/227 Election of Mayor Elect 2025/2026

The Town Clerk reported that one nomination had been received by the closing date. Cllr Day proposed, Cllr Gibbon seconded and it was RESOLVED that Cllr Simms should serve as Mayor Elect for the 2025/2026 Civic year.

24/228 Election of Deputy Mayor Elect 2025/2026

The Town Clerk reported that no nominations had been received by the closing date.

24/229 Questions/Reports from Members

Cllr Finlay highlighted that time was running out for nominations for the forthcoming elections. Cllr Day queried why her Council Tax demand was showing a 11% decrease in precept for FTC for 2025/2026. The Town Clerk would ascertain.

Date of Next Meeting Council 16th April 2025 @ 6.30pm in the Town Hall
Annual Parish Meeting, 16th April 2025 @ 7pm in the Town Hall

Meeting Closed 8.35pm