

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Special Meeting of the Planning Committee held on Monday 10th April 2006 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 6.00 p.m.

PRESENT

Councillors: M R Brain (Chairman), Mrs A J Biggins, G W Chin-Quee, Mrs L S Coles, Mrs. M. Davies, S. D. Eva, L J Lloyd, Mrs. M. Ryan, Dr. D.A. Sterratt, Mrs. L. A. Trenchard, M. A. Varney and Mrs M H Wengrad

In Attendance: AM Williams (Town Clerk)

S. J Polglase (Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer)

D. Lang (Falmouth Town Centre Manager)

Inspector D. Scott (Falmouth Police)

J. Slaughter and J Bottomley (Falmouth Town Forum)

Councillor Mrs. C. Ager (Carrick District Council – Arwenack Ward)

Councillor O Cramp (Cornwall County Councillor – Arwenack Ward)

In addition 40 members of the public attended including representatives of the Falmouth Town Forum, Port of Falmouth Chamber of Commerce, National Maritime Museum Cornwall, Falmouth Taxi Association and Association of Falmouth Traders.

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P3271 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Body (ill), Evans (work) and Hobbins (work)

P3272 INTERESTS

None received.

P3273 PROPOSED PEDESTRIANISATION OF CHURCH STREET AND ARWENACK STREET BY REDUCING THROUGH TRAFFIC

The Chairman welcomed those attending to consider the Town Forum interim proposal for traffic measures for the Summer 2006.

The Town Clerk updated those present on the deliberations of the Traffic Infrastructure meeting that had rejected the interim measures. He also advised that the County Council had indicated that a consensus of local support would be required. He also reminded Members that the Council had formally indicated support for traffic reversal proposals for 2007.

Mr. Slaughter outlined the interim measures for the Summer 2006 that should be in force for 24 hours, not 11 am to 4 pm as per the current loading and waiting restrictions. The interim measures were relatively low cost, included two way traffic in Market Street, virtual pedestrianisation in other areas and was in line with 'shared' thinking utilised in Europe and Kensington.

Mr. Slaughter and Mr. Bottomley then responded to questions.

Inspector Scott reminded the Council that current restrictions sought to reduce pollution levels by addressing traffic congestion. He did not support the interim measures and felt the areas referred to in Europe were not appropriate comparators. Market Street could not safely accommodate two-way traffic and this would exacerbate congestion problems and cause vehicular and pedestrian conflicts.

Inspector Scott then responded to questions. He advised that tickets were issued to those that abused restrictions but funding would not allow a further full-time traffic warden. The street was a clearway and there was no grace period for those who abused the restrictions. The delineation between pavement and carriageway was defined as shared-space.

The Chairman then opened the meeting to public comment and a full debate ensued.

Councillor Ager advised that some of the suggestions put forward at the meeting such as camera enforcement, use of rising bollards and full pedestrianisation had been fully considered by the Traffic Infrastructure Group and Town Council and were not viable options. Hence the proposal to reverse traffic flows.

The Chairman then requested the view of those present on the interim measures proposed. A clear majority did not support the proposals.

The Chairman then requested the view of those present on traffic reversal proposals imposed without a trial. A clear majority did not support the proposals.

He thanked all those who had attended and closed the meeting at 7.05 pm.

Signed:

Dated: