

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 23rd October 2006 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors: Councillors G F Evans (Chairman), Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, Mrs L S Coles, Mrs M Davies, B A E Hobbins, L J Lloyd, Mrs M Ryan, D A Sterratt, Mrs L A Trenchard and M A Varney.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
S J Polglase (Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer)
D Lang (Town Centre Manager)
M Trevarthen (Services for the Environment, Carrick District Council)

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F 3374 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors R J Bonney (recovering from surgery), G W Chin-Quee (District Council business), S D Eva (holiday), Mrs M Wengradt (family illness).

F 3375 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Body declared an interest in Minute F3382 as his partner worked for the Falmouth Tourist Information Centre.

F 3376 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Davies, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that Part I of the Minutes of the meeting held on 11th September 2006 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F 3377 **GRANTS**

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Coles and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the letter of thanks from Vitalise for award of grant be noted;
- (ii) no retrospective grant be made to the 2006 Falmouth Oyster Festival;
- (iii) £1000 be included within the 2007/08 budget as a contribution towards the 2007 Falmouth Oyster Festival;
- (iv) Rubicon Marine Ltd submit a formal application form for the Council to consider a grant award.

F3378 **FALMOUTH PRIDE INITIATIVE**

Mr M Trevarthen, Head of Environmental Services at Carrick District Council, updated the Council in respect of actions taken to date under the initiative and those that were proposed. He had hoped to show Members a number of images but was unable to do so.

The Council then considered a budgetary contribution to Falmouth Pride Initiatives in 2007/08, which included to confirmation of the successful community warden pilot scheme.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that

- (i) Mr Trevarthen be invited to repeat his presentation to the Council;
- (ii) £5000 be allocated for Falmouth Pride Initiatives in 2007/08.

(An amendment proposed by Councillor Mrs Trenchard and seconded by Councillor Lloyd that £15,000 be allocated for Falmouth Pride Initiatives was lost. A motion by Councillor Varney that £25,000 be allocated was not seconded.

F3379 **CORNWALL HOUSING REPORT**

RESOLVED that the correspondence from Matthew Taylor MP for Truro be noted.

F3380 **APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT MEMBERS TO THE POLICE AUTHORITY**

RESOLVED that the vacancy be noted.

F3381 **BOSVALE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION**

It was proposed by Councillor Varney, seconded by Councillor Sterratt and

RESOLVED that in accordance with Section 133 of the Local Government Act 1972 a grant of £1,000 in 2007/08 as an annual award be made to Bosvale Community Association.

It was further proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Sterratt and

RESOLVED that the Council reviews all annual grant awards in 2007/08 and requests that grant applications from organisations dealing with youth and young persons provide adequate assurance to the Council that child protection policies and Criminal Records Bureau checks are in place.

F3382 **FALMOUTH TOURIST INFORMATION CENTRE**

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Sterratt and

RESOLVED that £1,000 be contributed towards the operational costs of Falmouth Tourist Information Centre in 2007/08.

F3383 **2005/06 ACCOUNTS**

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that the 2005/06 accounts be approved and the Chairman of the Committee, Town Clerk and Deputy Clerk / Finance Officer be thanked for their continuing efforts in respect of financial management.

F3384 **INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT**

The Town Clerk reported upon the findings of the Council's Internal Auditor.

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that the report be noted and endorsed and that the recommendations therein be implemented as practicable.

F3385 **BUDGET MONITORING**

RESOLVED that the budget monitoring report be noted.

F3386 **2007/08 FINANCIAL YEAR**

The Chairman reported upon his budget recommendation. The further budget of the life of the current Council. Several programmes had been initiated in that time including Kimberley Park (railings and drainage), Bowling Green (fencing, gates and equipment) and Falmouth Cemetery (paths, gates and lodge repairs). He expected the Council to continue work at these sites and the Trescobeeas Recreational area.

He reported an increase in grounds maintenance costs (6%) and felt that the Council may wish to review these arrangements in due course as well as seek to remove the District Council levy.

The Art Gallery budget would increase by 2.5% overall. A problem with flooring would need addressing (£10,000) probably due to the great success of the Curator in attracting so many visitors, schools and elderly alike. With such heavy usage the works must be undertaken on health and safety grounds.

He stated that annual grant awards had been longstanding and felt the Council should reassess these. Community grant fund should be set at £10,000, which he felt was fair, as there was an additional £7,500 for tallships festival (repeated contribution in 2008/09) and £21,000 for the town forum as a contribution to the town centre management costs and shopmobility. Total grant funding therefore in 2007/08 of £43,000.

As per policy agreed over the last four years general fund reserves would be increased to 2.25 months to continue to strive towards the recommended amount.

Continuing projects would see £20,000 to extend the path refurbishment programme at Falmouth Cemetery and renew seats. Bowling Green £1,000 to continue capital works. Kimbeley Park £10,000 (with £55,000 from the projects fund for toilet provision). Trescobeas Recreational Area £15,000 for match funding.

He reported salaries and maintenance expectations and with the decisions made at the meeting would require a precept call of 4.8% in excess of 2006/07.

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Sterratt and

RESOLVED to recommend that the draft budget presented by the Chairman be approved by the Council and a precept call made accordingly.

(Councillor Varney requested that his name be recorded as having voted against this decision).

The meeting thanked the Chairman for his efforts.

F3387 ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that the accounts and petty cash schedules (attached) for September 2006 be approved.

F3388 KIMBERLEY PARK (EXTRA ITEM)

The Town Clerk reported a request from Cornwall County Council to conduct percolation tests at the site whilst looking at a possible situation to resolve surface water disposal problems in the area.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that Cornwall County Council be permitted to conduct tests subject to appropriate making good of areas tested.

The Chairman agreed to take this as an additional item to the agenda so that the County Council could expeditiously progress surface water disposal improvements.

F3389 TRESCOBEAS RECREATIONAL AREA

The Town Clerk reported upon the recent meeting of the sub-committee and its recommendations to the Council; which included additional drainage survey works.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Trenchard and

RESOLVED that the additional drainage survey works recommended by the Council's consultant be approved up to a value of £2,000.

F3390 **RESIDING IN VEHICLES**

The Chairman reported that this had become an increasing problem in residential areas of the town. The Town Clerk reported the Police views thereon.

RESOLVED that comments of the Police be noted.

F3391 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Davies, seconded by Councillor Evans and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable in the public interest that the public and press be excluded from the meeting.