

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 4th December 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, G W Chin-Quee, Mrs L S Coles, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva, L J Lloyd, Mrs M Ryan, 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)
Captain M Sansom (Falmouth Harbour Master)
M Reynolds (A & P Falmouth)
K and Mrs A Ayres (The Cornish Store)

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F 3394 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Bonney (civic duties), Sterratt (work) and Mrs Wengradt (family illness).

F 3395 **INTERESTS**

None received.

F 3396 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that Part I of the Minutes of the meeting held on 23rd October 2006 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F 3397 **CRUISE SHIP PROJECT**

Captain Sansom and Mr Reynolds gave an update on the reasons for, and progress to date, in respect of the project. The global cruise market was increasing significantly, but the increasing size of vessels meant they were unable to come alongside at Falmouth. The proposals sought to provide longer berths, deeper water in channel and alongside and modern reception / visitor facilities. This would realise significant economic benefit for the town.

An Environmental Impact Assessment costing £500,00 would be undertaken.

Before leaving the meeting Captain Sansom and Mr Reynolds responded to questions. It was established that the Council continued to fully support the proposals; that when dredged the channel would remain stable and not require more than occasional dredging thereafter; the works would not significantly disrupt planned cruise ship visits; to better support cruise calls town traders should contribute to initiatives, cleanliness of the town needed to be addressed and

shops should accept Euros or American Dollars; there were agreements with trade unions regarding the use and type of labour force; and the works would benefit all aspects of the docks and town.

F3398 **FALMOUTH TOWN CENTRE SURVEY**

Mr & Mrs Ayers presented the results of the recent traders survey to Members, and highlighted some of the findings which were discussed.

It was established that most users travelled to the town centre by car and only spent three hours on their visit. It was widely felt that the environment could be enhanced to make it more attractive and a large proportion wished to see pedestrianisation. The town was not user friendly particularly in respect of disabled visitors.

They wished for the town council to work with partners to take the lead in addressing the issues identified.

A debate then ensued and the Town Centre Manager advised that a strategic vision or focus as to what position the town wanted to be in in ten years should be determined and planned towards, which would form the basis of the Area Action Plan direction.

Mr & Mrs Ayers then left the meeting.

F3399 **ENVISION AUDIT REPORT**

RESOLVED that the report on the Municipal Buildings be noted and recommendations implemented where appropriate to do so.

F3400 **GRANTS**

The Town Clerk advised that as the 2006/07 grants budget was practically expended grant applications were being advised to defer applications for consideration in the 2007/08 financial year. He also reported letters of thanks for grant awards from the Falmouth Festival of Literature and Arts and Falmouth Youth Club.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

F3401 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS 2006 ANNUAL CONFERENCE – PLYMOUTH**

The Town Clerk apprised Members of his attendance at the conference and reported upon a number of current issues that had been debated.

RESOLVED that the report be noted.

F3402 **MODERNISATION (OR REORGANISATION) OF THE CORNWALL REGISTRATION SERVICE**

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Trenchard, in consultation with the Town Clerk, responds to the consultation on behalf of the Council.

F3403 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

RESOLVED that the update by the National Secretary of Unison regarding negotiations on the scheme be noted.

F3404 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

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

F3405 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Varney, seconded by Councillor Eva 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.