

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 22nd January 2007 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, R J Bonney, G W Chin-Quee, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva, L J Lloyd, Mrs M Ryan, Dr D A Sterratt, Mrs L A Trenchard and M A Varney.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
D Lang (Town Centre Manager)
SDO J Sweeney (Cornwall Fire Brigade)
SO Ashburn and Firefighters (Falmouth Fire Station)

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F 3408 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Mrs Coles (family bereavement), and Mrs Wengradt (family illness).

F 3409 INTERESTS

Councillors Evans and Body declared an interest in minute F3411 as they were related to employees at Falmouth Fire Station.

F 3410 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that Part I of the Minutes of the meeting held on 4th December 2006 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F 3411 CESSATION OF 24 HOUR MANNING AT FALMOUTH FIRE STATION

Senior Divisional Officer Sweeney apprised Members of the proposal to downgrade Falmouth and Camborne Fire Stations shift status to day status. These stations were the only two remaining in Cornwall with twenty four hour cover. This was as a consequence of decreasing budgetary provision. Overall thirty five full time jobs would be cut, twenty eight of these by reducing Falmouth and Camborne from four shifts to two, mainly by natural wastage.

Sub Officer Ashburn advised members that Cornwall County Fire Brigade staff strongly objected to the IRMP proposals on the grounds of public safety. There would be no guaranteed response at night in the County. Falmouth had an increasing elderly and student population as well as sensitive and commercial operations. The additional response times also endangered fire fighters as fires would be more advanced on arrival. Assurances had been given when Penryn station was closed that 24 hour cover would be retained at Falmouth.

Councillor Sterratt confirmed his motion “that the Council strongly objects to the proposals by Cornwall County Council that ceases 24 hour cover at Falmouth Fire Station on the grounds of detriment to public safety”.

In response to questions it was established that £700,000 would be saved by the proposals. The County Fire Brigade budget was £16.1 million.

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

RESOLVED that the Council strongly objects to the County Council proposals that sought to cease 24 hour cover at Falmouth Fire Station on the grounds of detriment of public safety.

(Councillor Evans and Body had declared an interest in the above matter and Councillor Bonney took the chair).

F3412 **COUCIL TAX PRECEPT INFORMATION**

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

RESOVLED that the Council’s information sheet include budgetary and account detail, Councillor contacts and general contact information regarding current Council initiatives.

F3413 **SMOKE FREE CORNWALL GUIDE**

RESOLVED that it be noted there was now no need for the guide following recent legislative change.

F3414 **JAPANESE KNOTWEED ON PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

RESOLVED that Cornwall County Council be requested to address areas of Japanese Knotweed at Swanpool, Berkley Vale and Maenporth.

F3415 **DEVELOPMENT AT 4 RESTORMEL TERRACE, FALMOUTH**

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

RESOLVED that the Council confirms it has no objection to the glazing proposals within the development and confirms that the Council’s land will continue to be utilised as allotments.

F3416 **OYSTER FESTIVAL**

RESOLVED that the visitor survey for the 2006 Oyster Festival be noted.

F3417 **COUNCIL TAX 2007/08 – TAX BASE INFORMATION**

RESOLVED that the tax base information be noted.

F3418 **CHRISTMAS LIGHTS / TOWN DRESSING**

RESOLVED that the correspondence from the Port of Chamber of Commerce be noted and that the Chair, Mrs Churcher, be invited to attend the next meeting of the Committee to apprise the Council of 2007 proposals.

F3419 **URBAN SEAGULL NUISANCE**

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

RESOLVED that the Council contributes £100 towards the cost of Professor Rock's presentation on tackling urban gull nuisance.

F3420 **INDEPENDENT AUDITORS REPORT – 2003/04 AND 2004/05**

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

RESOLVED that the Auditors Report for the 2003/04 and 2004/05 statement of accounts be noted.

F3421 **FALMOUTH POST OFFICE**

RESOLVED that the Council reaffirms both its support of protecting Falmouth Post Office and Local Sub Post Offices and its support of the current sustainable communities bill.

F3422 **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that the financial regulations attached as an appendix to these minutes be adopted by the Council.

F3423 **BUDGET FORECASTING – OCTOBER TO DECEMBER 2006**

RESOLVED that the 2006/07 third quarter budget forecast be noted.

F3424 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

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

F3425 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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