

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of Falmouth Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2007 at 7.00 pm for the purpose of transacting the following business.

Present: Councillors: M A Varney (Town Mayor), A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, Mrs J A Booth, G W Chin-Quee, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, B Elliott, S D Eva, Mrs V E Eva, G F Evans, Ms D E Merrett, D Noakes, Mrs M Ryan and Dr D A Steratt

In attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)  
S J Polglase (Deputy Clerk & Finance Officer)  
D. Lang (Town Centre Manager)  
Mrs L Dwelly (Affordable Housing and Strategy Manager, Carrick District Council)  
Mrs G Newton (Strategic Director, Carrick District Council)  
D Read (Corporate Planning and Performance Officer, Carrick District Council)  
D Edmondson (Deputy Development Control Officer, Carrick District Council)  
Councillor F J Greenslade (Leader, Carrick District Council)  
D Bascombe (Spokesperson, Save the Rec Campaign)  
Reverend B Bennetts (Mayor's Chaplain)

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### **C3394 APOLOGIES**

None received.

### **C3395 INTERESTS**

Councillor I J Body declared a personal and prejudicial interest in item C3397 as he was Chairman of Falmouth Rugby Club.

Councillor Mrs A J Biggins declared a personal interest in item C3397 as her husband and sons were playing members of Falmouth Rugby Club.

Councillor Sterratt declared an interest in items fourteen and fifteen on the proposed site list.

Councillors S D Eva and Mrs V E Eva declared interests in item eight on the proposed site list.

### **C3396 QUESTIONS**

The Mayor referred to several questions that were submitted in accordance with the Councils usual policy and reported responses thereto. Attached as part of these minutes.

### **C3397 FALMOUTH RUGBY CLUB AND REDEVELOPMENT OF THE RECREATION GROUND**

The Mayor reported that the meeting had been convened to consider a request from Carrick District Council seeking either: the full endorsement of the above project; or should that endorsement not be forthcoming, then the Council identify suitable priority sites to enable the District Council to deliver affordable housing expeditiously in Falmouth to meet the current pressing local need.

He intimated that Carrick District Council and the Save the Rec Campaign had requested an opportunity to address the Council.

Mrs Dwelly outlined the background to the matter and reminded the Council of the pressing and unquestionable need for affordable housing provision in Falmouth. The proposed scheme for the Recreation Ground had been developed over three years and met that key rationale as well as assisting the Falmouth Rugby Club to move to a more appropriate site whilst developing good sports facilities for the town. Planning permission had been secured for the new facilities at Menhay Farm. The Recreation Ground was also in local authority ownership thereby ensuring affordable housing could be provided viably without high land acquisition costs.

A change in council constitution following local elections had meant the matter was being reviewed hence the formal request of the Council to reaffirm its commitment to the proposal before the District Council proceeded to seek expressions of interest from developers.

Councillor Body and Mrs Biggins now left the meeting and Mrs Dwelly responded to questions.

It was established that the current physical boundary constraints of the town hindered housing development and Carrick operated some of the most robust housing allocation criteria in the UK. Only fifteen affordable houses had been provided in five years in Falmouth, the requirement was two hundred and thirty five per year, with seven hundred and fifty individuals currently on the housing register. She also apprised the Council of affordable provision at the Goldenbank development and current policies regarding addressing under accommodation in housing stock.

Mrs Newton advised that no legal covenants had been breached nor had her Council been negligent in overseeing the lease with Falmouth Rugby Club. Mr Edmondson stated that if the site were progressed then a development brief would include an appropriate mix of housing and traffic impact assessment.

Mr Bascombe advised that the Save the Rec Campaign was not opposed to affordable housing but did not feel the recreation ground was the right venue. He presented the Council with a five thousand signature petition to this effect. He felt that historically the site had been acquired for 'town recreation' and it should be retained as such, providing a safe green open space in a predominately urban setting.

In response to questions he advised that the site had been owned by the former Falmouth Borough Council and passed to Carrick District Council in 1974.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Elliott and

RESOLVED that Carrick District Council be advised that Falmouth Town Council did not wish to see Falmouth Recreation Ground developed for housing and that it be retained as a green space.

Councillor Sterratt requested that his name be recorded as having voted against this decision. Councillor Body and Mrs Biggins now returned to the meeting.

Further it was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that the Council do not exclude the press  
and public for the remainder of the meeting.

The Town Mayor referred to a list of suggested sites by the Save the Rec Campaign and requested the Council give consideration to those as potential development sites for the District Council to investigate.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Eva and

RESOLVED that the attached list of sixteen potential  
affordable housing sites in Falmouth be recommended  
to the District Council for further investigation.

Councillors Noakes and Sterratt requested that their names be recorded as having voted against the above decision.

There being no further business the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30 p.m.

Signed: ..... Date: .....