

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 1st June 2009 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:00 pm.

Present: Councillors A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, Mrs J E 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 Merrett, D J Noakes, Mrs M Ryan, Dr D A Sterratt and M A Varney

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
S J Polglase (Deputy Town Clerk and Finance Officer)

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F3714 **APOLOGIES**

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillor Body (work).

F3715 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Biggins declared an interest in F3720 (Falmouth Oyster Festival) as she was related to one of the partners of Falmouth Festivals Ltd, she did not speak or vote thereon.

F3716 **CHAIRMAN**

There being only one valid nomination it was proposed by Councillor Mrs Ryan, seconded by Councillor S D Eva and

RESOLVED that Councillor G F Evans be elected
as Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing
municipal year.

There being only one valid nomination it was proposed by Councillor Ryan seconded by Councillor Elliott and

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs V E Eva be elected
as Vice-Chairman of the Committee for the ensuing
municipal year.

F3717 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held
on 20th April 2009 be confirmed as a correct record
of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F3718 **CEMETERIES WORKING PARTY**

Further to Note C24 the Town Clerk advised that he would report receipt of the tenders in Part II of the meeting.

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

RESOLVED that the recommendations of the Cemeteries Working Party of the 18th May 2009 be approved.

F3719 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V E Eva, seconded by Councillor Ayres and

RESOLVED that

- (i) that the recommendations of the Finance Sub-Committee of the 22nd May be approved;
- (ii) including the formal response to the Internal Auditor as recommended.

Further it was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor S D Eva and

RESOLVED that from 2010/11 the Council creates an annual earmarked capital reserve to provide for rolling infrastructure improvements to Christmas Lights.

F3720 GRANTS

It was duly noted that Minute F3688 addressed the extensions of the Bray Theatre company grant award as well as the letters of thanks from the Falmouth Shanty Singers Group and the Street Pastors scheme.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Falmouth Spring Flower Show be granted £1,000 towards the 2010 event.

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

RESOLVED that consideration of the grant request by Falmouth Festivals Limited for the 2009 Falmouth Oyster Festival be deferred for the submission of audited accounts and details of cash assets in accordance with the award criteria. Further the applicant be advised to request assistance from Falmouth BIDS.

(Councillor Ayres had advised that Cornwall Council could be the grant recipient. A Motion proposed by Councillor Chin-Quee, seconded by Councillor Ayres that the grant award be made was Lost).

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972 the Cornwall Film Festival be granted £750.00 towards the 2009 event.

(A Motion was proposed by Councillor S D Eva and seconded by Councillor Elliott that the request be deferred for further clarification was Withdrawn. Councillor Elliott requested that his name be recorded as having abstained from voting on the above award decision).

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Carnon Carers be granted £150 towards its activities. The applicant be requested to look to publicise its service more within the Falmouth Community.

(Councillor Elliott requested that his name be recorded as having voted against the above decision).

F3721 **POLICY FOR PRESS RELEASES**

Councillor S D Eva requested amendment to the Councils policy for press releases in pursuance to his formal questions of the Town Mayor.

The Town Clerk reported that often time constraints prevented review by all Councillors and some press statements related solely to the civic role of the Town Mayor.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Elliott and

RESOLVED that

- (i) all draft press releases relating to general Council business are emailed to Councillors before publication for review. Publication should not be delayed for response but a reasonable time allowed for Councillors to respond;
- (ii) quoted statements for (i) above to refer to 'the Council'

F3722 **COUNCILLOR RESPONSIBILITIES**

Councillor S D Eva requested that the Council gives consideration to the creation of 'portfolio' or 'Councillor Champions' for specific areas of service delivery and that meetings between the Town Mayor and other partner agencies and authorities include the relevant Council Committee Chair or if unavailable the Vice Chair.

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

RESOLVED unanimously that

- (i) the Chairman calls a special meeting of the Committee to review the current structure of the Council, review Standing Orders, and consider the creation of Councillor Champion roles;
- (ii) when the Town Mayor meets with key partner agency and authority representatives the appropriate Committee Chair is invited to attend, and if unavailable the appropriate Committee Vice-Chair.

F3723 **REGENERATION AND COMMUNITY INITIATIVES**

Councillor Mrs Booth requested a review of minutes C3379 and C3393. The Chairman ruled that minute C3393 would not be considered as it was not on the agenda.

A full debate ensued. The Town Clerk advised that Minute C3379 was resolved as a response to the principal authorities who were seeking to engage with the Council on regeneration schemes and needed a conduit. It was wholly appropriate for the Town Mayor to be the spokesman for the Council in that regard. He confirmed that it was the Council that had the power to make decisions and that could not be delegated to Councillor(s).

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

RESOLVED that minute C3379 be rescinded.

(Councillor Noakes requested that his name be recorded as having abstained from voting).

F3724 **FALMOUTH AND HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION**

The correspondence from the Chief Executive of the Commission updating the Council on the forthcoming Equality Bill was duly noted.

F3725 **2008/09 FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND ANNUAL RETURNS**

The Deputy Clerk and Finance Office reported the 2008/09 Financial Statements and Annual Return and recommended approval thereof. The Chairman thanked the Deputy Clerk for his efforts in the constrained timescale available.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Mrs V E Eva and

RESOLVED unanimously that the 2008/09 Financial Statements and Annual Return (attached as part of these minutes) be approved and duly signed and submitted.

F3726 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor Noakes, seconded by Councillor Mrs V E Eva and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for April 2009 be approved.

F3727 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs V E Eva, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies 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.