

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 22nd November 2010 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:15 pm.

Present: Councillors Dr D A Sterratt (Chairman), A K Ayres (Vice Chairman), Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, Mrs J A Booth, C H Choak, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, Mrs S Hrydziuska, A J Jewell, D M O'Brien, Mrs M Ryan and D W Saunby.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)

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F3908 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor Cramp (ill).

The Chairman advised that Councillor Ms Merrett would not be attending the Committee meetings for three months.

F3909 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Evans declared a personal interest in Minute F3201 Car Parking Charges Consultation as he sat on the Car Parks Committee at Cornwall Council. He did not vote thereon.

F3910 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th October 2010 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F3911 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 CHICKS – Children's Charity be granted £317.50 to provide respite breaks for Falmouth children.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 133 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Youth Cornwall be granted £276.41 to provide Duke of Edinburgh Open Award Centre at the Dracaena Centre.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor O'Brien and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 133 of the Local Government Act, 1972 the 6th Falmouth Sea Scouts be granted £400 to provide a road boat trailer.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 133 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Falmouth over 60's Club be granted £180 to provide a members Christmas Lunch.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 Cornwall Blind Association be Granted £315 to provide transport for Falmouth members to attend the Dance Club.

The current grant expenditure to date report was duly noted as was the letter of thanks for grant award from Mr Paul in regard to the Merlin Challenge Motorcycle event.

F3912 AMENDMENT TO GRANTS SCHEME

The Chairman reported recommended amendments to the grants scheme.

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

RESOLVED that the Council's grants scheme be amended as follows:

- (i) small grants of up to £200 will no longer require match funding
- (ii) grant applications may only be made once every three years as standard
- (iii) grant applications made more frequently than (ii) above be accompanied by a Special Circumstances Form and considered by the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Meeting prior to committee consideration
- (iv) the annual grant budget is allocated at an approximate ratio of 60:40 to larger/smaller grant requests

F3913 FINANCIAL REGULATIONS

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

RESOLVED that the Council adopts the Financial Regulations that are attached as part of these minutes.

F3914 **BUDGET MONITORING**

The Finance Officer reported upon the current budgetary position which was duly noted.

F3915 **INVESTMENT FUNDS**

The Finance Officer made a number of recommendations for investment that were in accordance with the Council's adopted policies.

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

RESOLVED that the Finance Office reports further on this matter including the presentation of options for the Council to consider at its next meeting.

F3916 **FEES AND CHARGES**

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

RESOLVED that the Council retain the status quo for fees and charges in 2011/12.

F3917 **STAFFING ESTABLISHMENT CHANGES**

The Chairman of the Staffing Committee reported that her Committee could not inform the 2011/12 budgetary process as Cornwall Council could not yet advise upon active partnering implications it should therefore assume no significant changes to the staffing establishment.

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

RESOLVED that the report of the Staffing Committee be duly noted for the purposes of the 2011/12 draft budget.

F3918 **CCTV PROVISION**

The Town Clerk reported upon the Cornwall Council consultation of CCTV provision.

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

RESOLVED that Cornwall Council be advised that the Council were disappointed with the reduction in service but noted the Three Centre Solution (Peak Time Monitoring) was an interim compromise and would support that option subject to:

- liaison with the Police regarding optimising peak hour monitoring
- liaison with the Police identifying the 'home' position of cameras

- an equitable contribution system for benefitting towns be established however as it will not be decided in time the budget amount of £7,739 in 2011/12 be retained as the Council's contribution
- the move towards a central centre solution as resources permit be agreed in principle
- the Council recognises that peak time monitoring should prioritise the night time economy, particularly around licensed premises in the main streets
- Cornwall Council to remain as the provider to ensure tenure and availability
- arrangements are put in place to ensure the speedy accessibility of recordings for the Police
- liaison occurs with the Police and Town Manager to identify those times for proactive monitoring in addition to the peak times (e.g. events)

F3919 CORNWALL COUNCIL : COUNCIL TAX 2011/12

The correspondence from Cornwall Council regarding Council Tax and the implications of the Localism Bill was duly noted.

F3920 DRAFT BUDGET 2011/12

The Finance Officer reported further in regard to further notifications by Cornwall Council of proposed reductions.

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

RESOLVED that:

- (i) The 2011/12 draft budget (attached) as previously considered be recommended to the Council with a 0% increase in precept over the 2010/11 budget subject to the delivery of Town Management to be prioritised over Tourist Information if necessary.
- (ii) The Town Clerk be instructed to write to Cornwall Council objecting on behalf of the Council to the cumulative effect on Falmouth services of planned reductions.

F3921 CORNWALL COUNCIL – CAR PARKING CHARGES CONSULTATION

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

RESOLVED that the Council strongly object to the Consultation on the following grounds:

- (i) the Council understands that the income from car parking is used to offset Council Tax demands but feels fundamentally that money generated by car parks in a certain area should be retained, ideally wholly, but at least partially for the delivery of services in that area

- (ii) the Council objects specifically to the overnight charge for car parking especially as most car parks in the County will be free overnight
- (iii) the council objects to the creation of distinctions between towns and therefore charging amounts
- (iv) there is concern that the proposals include large hikes in permits and reserved spaces charging

F3922 **THE AUDIT COMMISSION**

The Council noted the following matters in relation to the Audit Commission:

- Audit Practice Annual Quality report 2010 and Quality Review Programme Annual Report 2010.
- Report Protecting the Public Purse : Fighting Fraud Against Local Government and Local Taxpayers
- As the Commission had been unable to procure audit services in Cornwall that Lee Budge had been appointed the Commissioner's in house auditor for the audit of the Council's 2011/12 accounts.

F3923 **COUNCIL DOCUMENT RETENTION POLICY**

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

RESOLVED that the Document Retention Policy attached be approved and operated by the Council.

F3924 **INFORMATION COMMISSIONER – DATA PROTECTION**

It was duly noted that the Council had renewed its registration under the Data Protection Act, 1998.

F3925 **CHEQUE PAYMENTS**

It was duly noted that the Government proposed to rationalise cheque payments processes for Local Councils.

F3926 **FIRST: BUS SERVICE NO 88**

The response of the Commercial Director of First Devon and Cornwall Ltd to the Council's representations regarding the No.88 Service was duly noted.

F3927 **GYLLYNGVASE STAKEHOLDERS MEETING**

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

RESOLVED that Councillor Mrs Davies represents the Council on the Byelaw Review Group of the Gylllyngvase Stakeholders Group.

F3928 **FALMOUTH SKATEPARK**

The Finance Officer reported upon priority works to the equipment at the site identified by risk assessment that were being undertaken. The report was duly noted.

F3929 **TRESCOBEAS RECREATIONAL AREA**

The Finance Officer reported upon priority work to the play equipment at the site identified by risk assessments which were in hand and involved resiting. The report was duly noted.

F3930 **COMMUNITY SAFETY SERVICE PLAN CONSULTATION 2011/14**

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be delegated to make the consultation response if appropriate on behalf of the Council.

F3931 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for October 2010 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.55pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....