

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 21<sup>st</sup> November 2011 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors Dr D A Sterratt (Chairman), A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, Mrs J A Booth, G W Chin-Quee, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, Mrs S Hrydziuska, D M O'Brien, Mrs M Ryan and D W Saunby.

In Attendance: Mr A M Williams (Town Clerk)  
Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)  
Councillor G Chappell (Cornwall Council)  
PCSO McDonnell (Devon and Cornwall Police)  
Ms M Bailey (Falmouth School)

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### F4067 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillor Body (holiday), Choak (ill) and Jewell (meeting).

### F4068 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Evans declared an interest in Minute F 4082 Swanvale Allotment site as he was the President of the Falmouth and District Allotment Association.

### F4069 **PRESENTATION TO PCSO S MCDONNELL AND MS M BAILEY**

With the permission of the Chairman the Town Mayor formally acknowledged and presented gifts for the efforts of PCSO McDonnell and Ms Bailey in establishing and maintaining the Waterfront Crew. PCSO McDonnell had also recently been recognised by an award from Devon and Cornwall Police.

PCSO McDonnell and Ms Bailey thanked the Council for its recognition and also for supporting the initiative.

### F4070 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> October 2011 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

### F4071 **GREENBANK GARDENS**

The Chairman agreed to move this item forward on the agenda to facilitate the attendance by a large number of members of the public.

The Town Clerk reported an update from the Senior Legal Officer (Litigation) at Cornwall Council who advised that a lease from the Greenbank Hotel (Falmouth) Limited had expired and Cornwall Council remained in occupation. This provided amenity space and level access to the water. The Hotel had issued notice that they now wished to use the land. Cornwall Council made an application to the Court to grant a new lease, although the parties were in negotiation.

Cornwall Councillor Chappell confirmed that position and that it was important that the site was retained for its current use.

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

RESOLVED unanimously that the Council requests Cornwall Council to continue to use its best endeavours to secure a new lease to retain the use of the site and provide access to the water, if necessary to consider Compulsory Purchase powers to achieve this. The Town Council would continue to support the protection of the site as public open space and water access.

#### F4072 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, CHICKS be granted £797 to subsidise the cost of free respite breaks for two disadvantaged children from Falmouth.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972, and in accordance with the Council's small grants procedure then the Fal Energy Partnership be granted £200 to develop a plan for local energy wealth.

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

RESOLVED that the Council do not make a grant to Cartel Photos as it was not demonstrated that other sources of funding had been requested including from University College Falmouth.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hrydziuszka and

RESOLVED that consideration of the grant request from Sepctrum be deferred and the applicant be requested to provide demonstrable evidence of Falmouth community gain from the fundraising project.

Letters of thanks for recent grant awards from the League of Friends of the Falmouth Hospitals (£250), Cornwall County Playing Fields Association (£250) and Falmouth Gig Club (£1,000) were duly noted.

The 2011/12 Grant Schedule was duly noted.

F4073 **OLYMPIC TORCH ROUTE**

The Town Clerk reported that Falmouth had been successfully chosen as one of the communities on route for the Olympic Torch. A Working Group would be formed to administer the event and the Council should consider making a financial contribution.

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

RESOLVED that it be noted with pleasure that Falmouth had been chosen and that no financial contribution be made until an event programme had been developed.

F4074 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Town Clerk reported the Cornwall Council Public Convenience Strategy that would be ratified on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2011. Councillor Evans reported that this strategy had now been withdrawn by Cornwall Council. This was duly noted.

F4075 **LOCALISATION OF BUSINESS RATES**

The Town Clerk reported correspondence in this matter pursuant to F4062. Councillor Evans reported that Mrs Sarah Newton MP was due to meet with the Minister on this matter on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2012. This was duly noted.

F4076 **DRAFT BUDGET 2012/2013**

The Chairman reported his draft budget proposal for 2012/13 that represented a 0% increase in precept. He reported new capital schemes and Community Chest amounts for each Ward Member.

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

RESOLVED that the Council be recommended to approve the draft budget proposal for 2012/13 and set the precept accordingly.

F4077 **PRECEPT NOTIFICATION 2012/13**

The Town Clerk reported a request from Cornwall Council for the Town Council to provide its 2012/13 precept notification by 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011 and details regarding publication and referendums. This was duly noted.

F4078 **LOCALISM BILL**

The Town Clerk provided an update on the Localism Bill and a request from Cornwall Association of Local Councils regarding views upon the Code of Conduct.

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

RESOLVED that CALC be informed the Council supports a single Code of Conduct for Cornwall applicable to all Councils and administered by Cornwall Council with appropriate powers of enforcement and censure.

F4079 **PROPERTY AND LAND REGISTRATION**

The Town Clerk reported upon progress regarding formal registration of the Council's land holdings. This was duly noted.

F4080 **COUNCILLOR SURGERIES**

The Town Clerk reported that due to Police cutbacks there would not be an attending Officer at Councillor surgeries. However an Officer would be available by telephone to advise or attend as required. This was duly noted.

F4081 **SEASIDE TOWNS FUND**

It was duly noted that Falmouth BID had been unsuccessful in its funding bid to Cornwall Council for the Visitor Interpretation Project.

F4082 **SWANVALE ALLOTMENTS - LEASE**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Brien, seconded by Councillor Mr Hrydziuszka and

RESOLVED that the Council incorporates into the lease renewal the suggested amendments as reported.

F4083 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for October 2011 be approved.

F4084 **OFF STREET PARKING PLACES ORDER – URGENT ITEM**

The Chairman reported that this matter would be reported as an urgent item as a consultation response was required before the Committee next met.

It was proposed by Councillor Cramp, seconded by Councillor Mrs Hrydziuszka and

RESOLVED that the matter be referred to the Council meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> December 2011 to enable Councillors more time to consider the draft Order.

F4085 **FALMOUTH FORUM**

The Chairman reported this matter as an urgent item to enable an expeditious response.

The Chairman reported his concerns regarding criticism of the Town Council not engaging with the Localism agenda in the draft minutes of the Town Forum. Councillor Cramp advised that the draft minutes were not a fair reflection of the debate.

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to the Chairman of the Town Forum to establish if the minutes would stand as a record and if so the Council would wish an apology and retraction as the Council was engaged with 'Localism' and was proactively delivering community services. The Council would consider suspending contact with the Forum if this was not achieved. The Council would also request that the Chairman attend a future meeting to seek to address the matter.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm..

Signed.....

Dated.....