

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held virtually by Zoom on Monday 19th October 2020 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors R J O'Shea (Chairman), B M A Ross (Vice-Chair), G G Chappel BEM, L D Coley, S D Eva, G F Evans CC MBE, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, P A Minson, A Parker, J C Robinson (from point mentioned), D W Saunby CC and J M Spargo

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
R N Thomas (Finance Officer)
H M Boex (Cultural Services Director)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council – Smithick Electoral Division)
Tamsin Chapman (Grant applicant)

F6442 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillor Morgan (illness).

F6443 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

F6444 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Part I Minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6445 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The applicant requested that the application be amended so that the request was to assist additional running costs due to Covid measures.

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

RESOLVED that the pursuant to ss 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 Merlin MS Centre be granted £250 towards the additional running costs of the Centre.

Further the 2020/21 Grant Schedule was duly noted.

F6446 CCLA – PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND

The September 2020 Market Report was duly noted.

F6447 COVID-19 EXPENDITURE

The expenditure to date on lockdown measures and community recovery plans was duly noted. The outcome of a grant request to Cornwall Council towards road closure and marshalling costs was still awaited. The local Member of Parliament continues to lobby the Government for direct funding for Town and Parish Councils and/or a compulsion for Unitary Councils to passport funding down.

Councillor Robinson now joined the meeting.

F6448 DEVOLUTION: TRANCHE 4

The Town Clerk reported that Ward Members had been provided with details of assets and services in their respective wards from the Devo 4 portfolio of asset and service devolution with Cornwall Council. The Council was concerned regarding the timescale for progression and wished to see completion or an agreed phasing plan for devolution committed to before May 2021.

F6449 PRINCESS PAVILION

The Cultural Services Director reported that following the Town Council's resolution then Cornwall Council had been requested to pass the unfettered freehold of the Princess Pavilion including Gyllyngdune Upper and Lower Gardens and the Former Stable Block to the Town Council. Councillor Kirkham confirmed that this was acceptable to Cornwall Council and would likely need Cabinet sign-off. The Cultural Services Director was preparing a business plan for the Council and consulting with stakeholders on that. Cornwall Council were arranging for valuations and confirming structural and grant requirement compliance matters.

The Mayor reported that he had received a 1300 signature petition, also delivered to Cornwall Council, requesting that Gyllyngdune Gardens be opened to the public as soon as possible. The Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council were undertaking grounds maintenance works to bring the site back to standard, and the site could be open now subject to Cornwall Council consent and confirmation of some matters for the Council's Insurer.

The Council unanimously requested that Cornwall Council expedite both matters.

F6450 BUDGET FORECAST 2020/21

The forecast was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

F6451 PEER REVIEW

The Chair and the Town Mayor reported upon the Local Government Association and National Association of Local Councils Peer Review Challenge Team feedback session on 16th October 2020. The report had been very positive and identified the Council's good community delivery and engagement, effective operating systems, positive staff and councillors. It also recognised the role the Council had played in Covid lockdown and recovery plans as well as already progressing matters from the Peer Review Preliminary Report from March 2020. A number of opportunities were identified for the Council for future improvement.

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

RESOLVED that the further Peer Review Report be acknowledged and endorsed by the Council, and

- (i) The Council confirms and commences a four-year strategic plan and budget commencing for 2021/22 (Minute F6452 refers).
- (ii) The Council continues to bring its General Fund Reserves to the recommended levels.
- (iii) A staffing reserve be created from the 2021/22 financial year.

- (iv) The Senior Management Team, and staffing structure be reviewed to meet the Council's needs and ambitions and address any shortcomings, including better enabling HR and staff wellbeing delivery in-house and better provide corporate communications and external messaging provision.
- (v) Committee structure be reviewed by the incoming Council administration post May 2021, with a direction that the composition and role of the Finance and General Purposes Committee be amended to enable better strategic focus.
- (vi) Democratic services be reviewed and additional IT and training provision for Councillors provided.
- (vii) The Council continues to replace its website provision as a matter of urgency

F6452 STRATEGIC PLAN AND FOUR-YEAR BUDGET

The Town Mayor stated that the Council should be proud of what it had achieved and as identified by its Peer Review. It should continue to engage and deliver and further adapt to better do that as per the recommendations of the Peer Team, particularly in developing a four-year strategy.

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

RESOLVED that the Cultural Services Director and the Finance Officer prepare a draft updated Strategic Plan and Budget report to the Finance Sub-Committee. Priorities within that should include: General Fund Reserve Balances; Website and Comms improvements; Review of Senior Management Team and staffing structure; Committee Review; Carbon Audit; Devo 4 transfers; Place-shaping development; Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Garden transfers; Dracaena Skatepark; Falmouth Green Corridor; Kimberley Park Lodge.

F6453 DOGS ON BEACHES

The Town Clerk reported Councillor submissions on the Cornwall Council consultation. The Committee resolved that those be collated and sent to Cornwall Council as the Town Council's formal response to the consultation, alongside but separate to the Falmouth Beaches Management Group response.

F6454 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

The Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council advised they were likely to amend the western and north-western town boundary as per the mutually agreed local changes between the Town Council and Budock Parish Council. The northern and north-eastern boundary requests would not be progressed in the current CGR as there was no mutual agreement between the Town Council and Penryn Town Council, the status quo would remain.

The report was duly noted as was the likely request from Budock Parish Council to agree locally with the Town Council a concord for a longer period than the two-year CGR stipulation before the municipal boundary is revisited. The Council would be sympathetic to this approach.

F6455 COMMUNITY MARSHALS

The Mayor reported following his recent meeting, both Falmouth and Exeter Universities would fund community marshals to advise and report upon matters of anti-social behaviour and social distancing, including late night noise on beaches in open spaces and residential areas of the town. The service commenced on 10th October 2020 was operated daily between 4pm to 4am and had already seen a marked reduction in incidents. The report was duly noted.

F6456 ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules for August and September 2020 (attached) be approved.

F6457 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in the public interest for the following business as it involves the consideration of property, funding, and contractual matters.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PART II

19th OCTOBER 2020

F6458 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 24th August 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6459 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Gardens

The Town Clerk reported further to Minute F6449 regarding aspects of the proposed transfer that were commercially sensitive. The report was duly noted.

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 7.20 pm.

Signed:

Date: