

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held virtually by Zoom on Monday 30th November 2020 at 6.00 pm.

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

F6460 APOLOGIES

None received.

F6461 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

F6462 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 19th October 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6463 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED that the pursuant to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976. Falmouth Golf Club Junior Section be granted £200 towards the costs of representing England at the Home Nations Championship Final.

Councillor Gillett now entered the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Minson, seconded by Councillor Saunby and

RESOLVED that the pursuant to section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976, Falmouth and Penryn Cycling Campaign be granted £150 towards the costs of creating its website and running costs.

Further the 2020/21 Grant Schedule was duly noted.

F6464 FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE

The Chairman presented the reports of the Sub-Committee dated 2nd September 2020, 19th November 2020, and 24th November 2020. He recommended approval thereof.

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

RESOLVED that the reports of the Sub-Committee dated 2nd September 2020, 19th November 2020 and 24th November 2020 (all attached) be approved and the recommendations therein actioned.

F6465 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUTABILITY RETURN 2019/20

The Council's External Auditor PFK Littlejohn had advised that there were no matters of concerns regarding the Council's governance and accounts. This would be published by the Finance Officer as required. That was duly noted.

F6466 2020/21 BUDGET FORECAST

The budget forecast at 31st October 2020 was duly noted.

F6467 2020/21 INTERNAL AUDITOR INTERIM REPORT

The Independent Internal Auditor's Interim Report was considered by the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report be accepted, and the Council responds to its Internal Auditor:

- (i) new Model Regulations will be applied in time for the next review.
- (ii) the Council had committed to restoring reserve levels and the Covid pandemic had seen unexpected expenditure. It would look to restore its reserve levels to the recommended level in a phased way commencing with provision in the 2021/22 budget.

F6468 2021/22 DRAFT BUDGET

The Finance Officer reported the draft budget recommendation of the Finance Sub-Committee including annual grants and ear marked reserve provision. A substantial growth item was the transfer of Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Gardens. It also sought to address the Internal Auditor's recommendation regarding increasing general fund reserve levels, albeit in a phased way. The Council Tax Support Grant was being phased out for future years and the Tax base information was noted.

Councillor Robinson updated in regard to proposals for Kimberley Park Lodge and Councillor Evans in regard to Traffic Regulation Schemes.

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

RESOLVED unanimously that the 2021/22 Council Budget (version V1) be set, along with the annual grants awards, as per the attached and the Council is therefore recommended to set a proposed precept for 2021-2022 at £2,723,023.93 (an increase at Band D level over 2020/21 of £64.45 per annum; or £1.24 per week).

F6469 STRATEGIC (4 YEAR) PLAN

Pursuant to Minute F6452 the Director of Cultural Services updated on work on the Strategic Plan that would be informed by the 2021/22 budget (year 1).

F6470 PUBLIC CONVENIENCES – BUSINESS RATES

It was noted that following the Town Council's Sustainable Communities request the Government had introduced the Non-Domestic Rating (Public Lavatories) Bill giving 100% business rates relief on all properties consisting wholly or mainly of public lavatories. Applied retrospectively from 1st April 2020.

F6471 TOWN VITALITY FUNDING (TCRF)

The Town Clerk reported on the availability of the fund and Councillor Kirkham updated the Council on the Falmouth Place Shaping Group, the Lavigne Lonsdale Report and various transport bids.

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

RESOLVED that the Council applies to Cornwall Council for £150,000 from the Town Vitality Fund to aid the Falmouth Place Shaping proposals as identified in the Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan. The Director of Cultural Services to liaise with the Falmouth Place Shaping Group to formulate and submit the bid.

F6472 PRINCESS PAVILION AND GYLLYNGDUNE GARDENS

The Cultural Services Director reported that she had submitted to Cornwall Council the Council's aspirational bid for the asset transfer. That would be supported by an Executive summary. Cornwall Council would now undertake a site valuation and that would determine process, which could need Cornwall Council Cabinet's executive sign off in February 2021. Easter 2021 would be the hoped for re-opening date of the facility and café. She had had a constructive meeting with GLL the outgoing contractor.

Gyllyngdune Gardens would be opened to the public ahead of the transfer, and subject to resolving some insurance and liability issues, that was hoped to be 2nd December 2020.

F6473 COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW

Pursuant to Minute F6454 the Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council would seek the consent of the Local Government Boundary Commission for England for a Re-organisation Order to implement the changes listed in the Cornwall (Electoral Changes) Order 2019. This was duly noted. Further Budock Parish Council had requested a legal undertaking from the Town Council not to seek to revisit the western town boundary for a period of 25 years.

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

RESOLVED that consideration of the Budock Parish Council request be deferred to the Council to consider as the Committee felt it was not realistic to fetter the matter beyond the Cornwall Local Plan life to 2030 at the latest if at all.

F6474 BENEFITS ADVICE UPDATE

The update on the virtual service delivery was duly noted and resolved that it continues to be supported by the Council as a virtual service for the time being.

F6475 COMMUNITY MARSHALS

The tri-funded scheme continued to be effective and would continue until the universities terms ended in December 2020. Town Centre re-opening would have marshalled street closures to traffic during December to maintain social distancing.

RESOLVED that the report be noted and that the Council meets the cost of the street closure support and looks to reclaim that via grants support from Cornwall Council.

F6476 TRAFFIC REGULATION ORDERS – COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL

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

RESOLVED that Falmouth prioritised schemes by the Community Network Panel be supported by the Council and that the £5000 earmarked in the 2021/22 budget be allocated towards them.

F6456 ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH

It was proposed by Councillor O’Shea, seconded by Councillor Minson and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedule for October 2020 (attached)

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

Signed:

Date: