

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth on Monday 3rd February at 6.00pm.

Present: Councillors S D Eva (Town Mayor), P A Minson (Deputy Mayor), R J Bonney, G G Chappel, L D Coley, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, R J O'Shea, J C Robinson, B M A Ross, D W Saunby CC and J M Spargo.

In Attendance: A M Williams	(Town Clerk)
R J Gates	(Town Manager)
Councillor J Kirkham	(Cornwall Council – Smithick ED)
M Bradley	(Falmouth Fairtrade)
J Richards and E May	(Falmouth Benefits Advice Service)
PC M Cummins	(Falmouth Community Police Team)
Reverend C Blizzard	(Mayor's Chaplain)

PRAYERS

Prior to the formal commencement of the meeting prayers were said by the Mayor's Chaplain Reverend Blizzard.

C5295 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Evans (ill), Morgan (ill) and Parker (family commitment).

C5296 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

C5297 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th December 2019 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C5298 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor reported upon a busy civic diary over Christmas and the successful Falmouth Winter Wonderland Weekend. He had attended the HMS Raleigh passing out parade and the Harbour Lights Sponsored Community Heroes event. He had asked the Captain of the town's affiliated vessel RFA Mounts Bay to extend greetings and civic gifts to the people of Falmouth, Antigua as part of its visit there. He congratulated Councillor Chappel on the award of his British Empire Medal.

C5299 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor reported upon her civic diary that included attendance at the Phoenix presentation and passing out parade to Pencalenick School students. She requested Councillors consider donating to the Phoenix initiative with Community Chest funds.

C5300 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

C5301 FALMOUTH WELFARE BENEFITS ADVICE SERVICE

Jenny Richards and Emma May updated the Council on the service and thanked it for its continued support. With an in-town fully accessible venue the service was able to support more clients, with an appointment and drop-in service (3 hours on a Thursday morning). Last year 350 clients had been assisted with 860 issues. Unclaimed benefits of £21,000 had been

accessed and transformed peoples lives. A high proportion of clients were elderly. There was a current need for a handbook.

Most clients had issues with Personal Independence Payments, Disability Living Allowance, Motability, fitness to work and Universal Credit. Often clients were distressed and dealing with complicated pro forma and bureaucracy. The service assisted many appeals against decisions. This had impacts on mental health and wellbeing. Tribunals were delayed on average of 42 weeks, the service had a 78-80% success rate of assistance with tribunals. The service was exceptionally busy but difficult to expand given funding and the providers circumstances. They responded to Councillors questions and the Town Clerk reminded the Council regarding funding and hosting arrangements for the service.

C5302 POLICE REPORT

PC Cummins reported on the resolution of long-standing issues presented by a local family. Additionally the police had been dealing with homelessness, street drinking and cybercrime with a staying safe initiative. He also updated on policing over the Christmas period. He responded to Councillors questions.

C5303 FAIRTRADE

Mary Bradley presented the Fairtrade Report that was duly noted.

C5304 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

None received.

C5305 COMMUNITY NETWORK REPORT

The report of the Community Link Officer and the minutes of the Falmouth and Penryn Community Network Panel (CNP) of 19th November 2019 were duly noted.

C5306 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Boslowick

Councillor Jewell reported that construction had commenced at the Linden Homes site, an appeal decision was still awaited. He felt the highways schemes at Bickland Water Road were uncoordinated. He updated on Cornwall Council's Community Governance Review as well as the Community Network Highways schemes, he was concerned at the high cost of the administrative process for those.

Trescobeas

Councillor Saunby also had concerns regarding the high cost of highway scheme feasibility studies. He updated regarding some housing matters and a backlog for Cornwall Housing Repairs Inspectors. He also reported on some tree issues and the former Roslyn Hotel site development.

Smithick

Councillor Kirkham reported on Cornwall Councils changes to the dogs on beaches restrictions. She also advised of her concerns regarding purpose built student accommodation development without sprinkler systems fire protection. She commented on the good work by Sophie Webster of Cornwall Council assisting local homelessness. Street drinking remained any issue. She was also requesting that business rates in the town centre be reduced and that Falmouth look to benefit from the Cornwall Council High Streets fund.

Arwenack

No report

Penwerris

No report.

C5307 COUNCIL VACANCY

The Town Clerk reported Councillor McCarthy's letter of resignation that the Council accepted and instructed the Clerk to notify Cornwall Council of the vacancy on the Council for the Penwerris Ward.

C5308 **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 13th January 2020 was presented by Councillor O'Shea, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 13th January 2020 be approved.

Councillor Bonney requested that his name be recorded as having voted against approving the report as he was concerned at the delay regarding an information request. The Mayor advised this was not related to the report.

The Planning Committee Report dated 23rd December 2019 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 23rd December 2019 be approved.

The Planning Committee Report dated 13th January 2020 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 13th January 2020 be approved.

The Cultural Services Committee Report dated 6th January 2020 was presented by Councillor Gillett, Vice-Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 6th January 2020 be approved.

C5309 **TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Town Manager presented the Town Management Report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C5310 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Town Clerk presented his report that was duly noted and

(1) Kimberley Park Lodge

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

RESOLVED that the appointment of Quality Surveyor and Structural Engineer for the development of the Lodge for the Community Radio Studios and Community Café provision be progressed.

(2) National Peer Review

The Town Clerk reported upon the arrangements for the Review visit on 10-12th February 2020 and that all Councillors should attend the feedback session at 12.30 on 12th February 2020. The report was duly noted.

(3) Website

Pending the tender process for the new website the Council prepares and publishes an accessibility policy.

(4) Trees

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

RESOLVED that if there is a shortfall in external and grant funding for scheduled tree works in Kimberley Park, Dracaena Fields and Falmouth Cemetery (total cost £3,559.26 including VAT) then this be made up from the Environmental Projects Budget.

(5) MIND

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

RESOLVED that Cornwall MIND be permitted to use office space at the Council Offices one day a week and have use of the meeting room (once a month) free of charge to enable them to retain a local service.

(6) Off-Street Parking Places Order

The Council supported and endorsed the consultation submission made by the Town Team to the proposed Order.

C5311 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters and personal information it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Councillor Kirkham, PC Cummins and R Gates now left the meeting.