

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held virtually by Zoom on Monday 7th September 2020 at 6.00pm.

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

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
R G Gates (Town Manager)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council – Smithick ED)
Sergeant P Kelly (Falmouth Community Police Team)
Watch Commander T Nicholas (Falmouth Fire Station)
Reverend W Stuart-White (Mayor's Chaplain)

PRAYERS

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

The Town Mayor changed the order of business to facilitate the attendance of the Police and Fire Service.

C5339 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received and approved from Councillors Chappel (holiday) and Evans (family matter).

C5340 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

C5341 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2020 and the minutes of the Special meeting held on 10th July 2020 be confirmed as correct records and signed by the Chairman.

C5342 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor updated the Council on Council activity during Covid lockdown and town recovery plans. He was proud of what the Council had achieved in helping its community. The Council had continued to meet virtually and he reminded Councillors of the requirements for virtual meetings. He hoped for a return to physical meetings but that would not be for some time.

He updated on Mayoral budget expenditure and that civic activity had been restricted but events had been held for VE Day and VJ75 commemorations. A reduced remembrance programme would be provided in November and he hoped Councillors understood invitations would be limited. He had presented Tony and Lynn Newsham of the Friends of Boscawen Fields Group with the Spirit of Falmouth Award. He asked Councillor Parker to update the Council on the improvements to the Gyllyngvase to Swanpool Footpath to make it more accessible.

C5343 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor reported upon her attendance at remembrance events and highlighted the problems of helping those experiencing poor mental health during the current national restrictions.

C5344 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

C5345 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Kelly presented the Community Police Report. He advised that currently the team include 3 Neighbourhood Beat Managers and three PCSOs. This would be increased by recruitment of two additional NDMs by 2021. There had been an elevated level of service demand recently and he hoped as summer ended that would lessen. Some serious disorder incidents with the night-time economy were being investigated. Street drinking was a local priority and this had seen increased patrols recently and funded by the Police and Crime Commissioner. As was drugs and 5 arrests in one evening had occurred including intent to supply. Further 6 or 7 arrests had been linked to public order offences, including possession of Class A drugs. He had been pleased at the effectiveness of the additional patrols. He alluded to other efforts on ongoing matters.

In response to questions he advised further regarding street drinking, anti-social behaviour measures and rough sleeping outreach services

C5346 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

Watch Commander Nicholas updated the Council on measures to enable the Fire Crews to provide service safely in the current environment and provided an overview of summer operations, that included assisting the Council with its Sand Safe initiative. Fires and unsafe barbeque disposal continued to be an issue for beach safety. The issue of car parking preventing appliance access in certain roads remained a significant issue.

C5347 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORTS

The Mayor thanked all the Falmouth Electoral Division Members for their help in lobbying for delaying the removal of Cornwall Council payment facilities from the Falmouth Information service.

Smithick

Councillor Kirkham reported that Cornwall Council would continue to run virtual services and remote working arrangement at least until Christmas 2020. It would soon be consulting on its budget for 2021 and was faced with a deficit and the need for service reductions and prioritisation. Penwerris Lane residents continued to have issues with compliance to construction conditions by builders. Falmouth and Exeter Universities were meeting with Safer Falmouth regarding managing the return of students, including a Covid testing facility on campus.

Boslowick

Councillor Jewell updated on the FIS (Falmouth Information Service) and Cornwall Council payments; the service had been extended to March 2021. Falmouth TC had been the only local Council that wanted to keep the service. He supported that as it was important to keep face to face services, especially for vulnerable residents. He was disappointed at the lack of consultation and the disrespect shown to the Town Council as a service partner. Linden Homes had been nominated for a design award

for their recent Falmouth development. He was concerned about the safety measures for returning students to Falmouth. He had also raised his concerns about street drinking in the town centre and the Moor and the continuing unavailability of Councillor McCarthy to represent Penwerris which was causing the adjoining ED Councillors to cover that area.

Trescobeas

Councillor Saunby echoed the concerns about the absence of Councillor representation in Penwerris which he had raised with Cornwall Council. There was a current consultation for traffic calming measures in Mayfield Road and waiting restrictions at Tregonigge Industrial Estate that the Highway Steward at Cormac had assisted him with.

Penwerris

No report.

Arwenack

No report

C5348 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 10th July 2020 was presented by Councillor O'Shea, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 10th July 2020 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 24th August 2020 was presented by Councillor O'Shea, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Part I Report of the Committee dated 24th August 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 16th March 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 16th March 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 20th July 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 20th July 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 10th August 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 10th August 2020 be approved.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 9th March 2020 was presented by Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 9th March 2020 be approved.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 2nd June 2020 was presented by Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 2nd June 2020 be approved.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 17th August 2020 was presented by Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 17th August 2020 be approved.

C5349 FAIRTRADE

The Falmouth Fairtrade report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C5350 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

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

The Council requested that as street closures had been well received, they be kept as long as possible into the Autumn. The Mayor commended the Town Team on the Covid recovery plans and work and felt some businesses would not have survived without that support.

C5351 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – PART I

(1) Benefits Advice Service

The Council noted the report and agreed that the Benefits Advice Service should restart virtually, with a regular review. Councillor Jewell advised that he would meet the cost of insurance for the service from his community chest.

(2) National Peer Review

It was noted that the Peer Review Team would report virtually to the Council on its recommendations. The Finance Sub-Committee had already considered some operational improvements as would the Staffing Committee in regards to organisational improvements shortly.

The Council re-affirmed its aspiration for a four year strategy and budget as well as further addressing its general fund reserve levels.

(3) Falmouth Information Service

Cornwall Council had agreed to continue its payment service through the FIS until March 2021. The Town Council continued to press for this service to be continued indefinitely.

C5352 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Gillett, seconded by Councillor Robinson 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.

COUNCIL – PART II
7th SEPTEMBER 2020

C5354 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Part II Minutes of the meeting held on 16th March 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C5355 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part II Report dated 10th July 2020 was presented by Councillor O’Shea, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Part II Report of the Committee dated 10th July 2020 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part II Report dated 24th August 2020 was presented by Councillor O’Shea, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Part II Report of the Committee dated 24th August 2020 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Signed..... Date.....

Fairtrade Falmouth Steering Group



Quarterly Report to Town Council Meeting 7th September 2020

Fairtrade Fortnight 24th February – 8th March 2020

The focus of Fairtrade Fortnight this year was on cocoa and cocoa farmers and the 'Living wage' campaign. A key campaign in 2019 as well as 2020, challenging consumers and governments to recognise the crisis facing farmers and take action to address exploitation and injustice in the cocoa trade in particular. We held two events and created two displays to raise awareness of this important campaign.

- The first event was held at Footsteps Community Café 27th February which included chocolate tastings and a Fairtrade stall.
- The second event, a coffee morning, at the Town Council Municipal building, was well attended. We are very grateful to Mayor Steve and his wife Victoria for accepting our invitation to attend and for the amount of time they spent with us. We thank the Mayor for his words of support for Fairtrade.

A huge thank you to the Town Council for the use of the municipal building. Fairtrade Fortnight is an important opportunity for campaigners to promote FT among the local community, and visitors, to our town, and the municipal building is the ideal location.

- The main display was erected in the library foyer and a smaller one inside the library. Both displays were on show for two weeks.

Planned Fairtrade Events/visits in 2020

Sadly, due to the outbreak of the Coronavirus, all our planned events: Parklive, Falmouth Tea Festival and Fun Palace have been cancelled. We have also postponed our planned visits to local retailers and will review this later this year.

Steering Group Membership

Expansion of group membership is still of great concern for us if we are to continue raising the profile of Fairtrade in our town. We are very fortunate to have five FT volunteers; without their hard work we would have great difficulty running public events.

Fairtrade Business Awards

The **Fairtrade Business Awards** were also cancelled along with the planned **Fairtrade Cornwall Steering Group** meeting in Truro.

Fairtrade Town accreditation

Our Fairtrade town accreditation renewal was due to be completed June 2020. However, due to the impact of Covid-19, the renewal date has been extended to September 26th September 2020.

South West Fairtrade Network

We have not been entirely idle during lockdown. Thanks to Sue Errington, our new SW Fairtrade Representative, keen to make contact with FT campaigners in the SW, organised a zoom meeting which was well attended and really encouraging. A second meeting followed and a third meeting is scheduled for September. One agenda item discussed at that first meeting was Nestle's decision to end their 10-year partnership with FT cocoa farmers

Nestle Campaign

We would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mayor for actioning a letter to Nestle on behalf of Falmouth Town Council, asking Nestle to review their decision to end their partnership with FT cocoa farmers.

We wrote three letters as a steering group and also signed the KEEP KITKAT FAIRTRDE petition. To date 282,079 have signed. A letter was also sent from the Southwest Network Team to the COOP expressing our concerns re Nestle's decision.

Town Council Award

We are very thankful to the Town Council for their award of £150 which helped cover the cost of events in 2019 and Fairtrade Fortnight 2020.



FALMOUTH

the spirit of the sea

Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 07/09/20

Positive Engagement Plan

Listed below are the many points (there is a lot) that have been implemented over the last few months. This started in March and continues to evolve.

Rollout of Positive Engagement Plan

- A wide range of assets and units have been installed in bespoke, Falmouth-branded colours and designs, all to budget and time.
- Sanitiser stations both wall mounted and free standing, signage, hundreds of stencilled floor markers, template posters for businesses and hundreds of branded #thinksocialdistance window decals distributed.
- The – ‘Signage locations...’ - document we’ve put together, gives greater detail on this available on Falmouth.co.uk.
- We’re undertaking research in respect of other larger scale sites to decorate and revamp, with more safety messaging or creative designs (the ex-Pandora site is a good example with more being worked on).
- In addition, and this very continues with various ideas and thoughts such as the think social distance stencils/signage/ Please wear a face covering stickers/characters in costume encouraging social distancing and keep left.

Marketing, messaging and comms

- Extensive work on ‘welcome back’ reassurance messaging and marketing campaign:
- Pirate FM – around 100, 30 second retail and hospitality themed ads throughout July and another 100 into August.
- Fernbank – bus shelter sites secured in and around Falmouth with safety and welcome messaging
- Twice weekly extensive Town Team briefings continue to the business community
- PR – national B2B campaign being ramped up that includes visually-led content, as well as a B-roll movie that has gone to national media, see below:

- Video reassurance messaging – we have produced a quality video to support the reassurance messaging and comms. In addition, we have put together a series of business videos to complement and these all feature on a video wall section of the website. These are being actively used as well, in collaboration with industry partners and Government departments such as Cabinet Office South West and DCLG. Please do view these here : <https://www.falmouth.co.uk/welcome-back-to-falmouth/>

The video above also linked to the senior visits from both the Minister Simon Clarke MP and Sir Keir Starmer Leader of the Labour Party.

Business Toolkits

- We have produced sectoral toolkits to support our business community
- The first was produced to aid the Retail Sector and distributed widely prior to the 15th June phased re-opening
- The second was produced to aid the Hospitality Sector and distributed widely prior to the 4th July phased re-opening
- This, along with the range of other advice, signposting and useful links, can be found in a comprehensive website section via the homepage of <https://www.falmouth.co.uk>

'Alfresco revolution'/Public Space Re-use

- A significant amount of behind-the-scenes activity to support the transformation of Church Street Car Park for use as a food and drink space, similar to Custom House Quay, has been taking place
- This is to support Church Street hospitality-sector businesses as well as other town businesses, who may wish to expand operations outside so as to adhere to safety and spacing guidelines. In addition to this there have also been the reduced rates for businesses parking within the lower section of the car park. This equates to £1.25 per day for the business with the option to use in different cars on different days.

Empty Unit Revamps

- We've been on the front foot to gain permissions from commercial agents/landlords to dress empty sites
- Permissions secured from the agents of the ex-Pandora site on Market Street as you will have seen with the install a few weeks ago.
- Designs were put together that mirrored the Falmouth rainbow branding and #thinksocialdistance messaging



Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 07/09/20

Anti-social behaviour

Linking in with everything taking place the numbers of street-drinkers and ASB has greatly increased over the summer months and this has been very time consuming for all staff and various organisations. There has been daily feedback from our office and Town Council staff to police and Cornwall Council and lots of the other measures in this document have helped with this. There has been frequent comms with various businesses and the community affected by this and no doubt the police report will give much further detail.

Monday Clean Club

- Adding value to the Town Team efforts, a volunteer clean club has been arranged
- Volunteers comprise town businesses and residents

Cornwall Business Cell

- Richard Wilcox has been asked to sit on, the Cornwall Business Cell. This has helped to push things forward especially if a particular topic is taking a while to sort. It is really useful that the Town Team have a direct link.
- The group has key senior sector reps on there from Cornwall, as well as sectoral Government/ERDF leads. It is chaired by Mark Duddridge, Chair of the LEO and officer-wise, led by Glenn Caplin Economic Development Director/CEO of Cornwall & IOS LEP
- Moving out of the emergency response phase, it has been agreed that this group will continue as the lead strategy group to support Cornwall's economic recovery.

Below is a summary of the funding availability that has been distributed via Cornwall Council. This is something we pushed out to the town as soon as the Town Team were aware.

Funding – three strands:

1 Business Grants Scheme

- To recap, £280m allocation for Cornwall
- The distribution was extremely efficient and indeed, has been the most effective in the country
- £231 million distributed to date and more than 20,000 local businesses supported

2 Discretionary Fund

- £13.5m allocation to Cornwall

- Entire allocation to Cornwall likely to be accounted for by end of this week
- With a total of 6,300 applications and EOIs received, demand exceeds the available budget by approximately £27 million
- Discussions and lobbying going on with Government in respect of this

3 Safely Re-opening Towns Fund

- The Town Team has been involved with Cornwall Council on developing and shaping the parameters, framework and comms on the allocation for the county
- £500,000 allocation to Cornwall
- Falmouth's Positive Engagement Plan has been utilised as a good practice template to support towns, parishes and villages across the Duchy

Cornwall BIDs/Towns Group

- The Town Team has provided leadership and advice as we work together, productively through the current challenge
- The group is Chaired and Co-chaired by the Falmouth Town Team

South West BIDs

- Richard Wilcox chairs the regional business group which has expanded to include Southern BID representation through Salisbury, Bournemouth and Winchester. From an operational point of view, I have fed into this to give advice to BIDS who perhaps do not have such a close link with their respective councils.
- Meeting via Zoom on a monthly basis, the group has supported the national lobbying efforts behind the BID Resilience Fund and Raise the Bar Campaign, and has been in dialogue with the region's LEPs on recovery plan matters

Events:

-As you will all know we made the sensible decision to cancel all summer events. We did go ahead with a virtual shanty festival which had over 100,000 views on the night from right around the world and was a great success.

-In terms of Christmas events no final decisions have been made on this yet and more work will be taking place during September.

You can see the vast majority of all the things implemented within this report via the homepage of Falmouth.co.uk.