

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday 11th April 2022 at 7pm held in the Atherton Suite of The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth. TR11 3QA

Present: Councillors S D Eva (Town Mayor), K J Edwards (Deputy Mayor), D E Clegg, L D Coley, D V Evans BEM, A J Jewell CC, J S Kirkham CC, J C Robinson, B M A Ross, A J Rowe, D W Saunby CC, J M Spargo and Z Young.

In Attendance: R J Gates (Town Manager)
R Thomas (Responsible Financial Officer)
Councillor L Magowan (Cornwall Council –Arwenack ED)

C5607 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors G W Chin-Quee (Cornwall Housing business), G F Evans (family business) and E Seiler (holiday) and the Mayor's Chaplin.

C5608 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

C5609 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Eva seconded by Councillor Edwards and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 21st February 2022 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C5610 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor reported on recent civic events including his recent visit to St Nazaire to commemorate the 80th anniversary of the event. He updated on the National Armed Forces Day bid for 2023.

C5611 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor advised that she had participated in the Falmouth St Nazaire commemoration event. She had attended various meetings regarding Ships and Castles, liaised with the Police regarding hate crime; attended integrated care forum with Penryn and Falmouth Surgeries; had a tour of the University campus at Tremough with the Vice-Chancellor; continued outreach in local schools; attended a Skatepark meeting and continued working with residents trying to assist with various issues. The Living Sea-Wall proposal was moving along as was the re-siting of the water fountain at Custom House Quay as planning permission for this had been granted. She had also assisted with the Spring-Clean, working on Trescobeas Park where a total of 24 bags of rubbish were collected. She also reported that the 'Yellow Fish' project had finally started and residents could start to see these popping up on drain covers around the town.

C5612 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

The following questions were received:

Julia Rowe attended and asked the following questions:

1. I attended the Cabinet meeting at County hall 30th March 2022 and was shocked to be told that discussions had already taken place with certain Falmouth Town Councillors the Town Clerk and CC Officers regarding the future of ships and castles and Falmouth headland. The result of that meeting was a desire from FTC to seek only partial devolution of the headland excluding the Ships and castles site incorporating the car park.
Is this correct ? If so ,I do not feel you have taken into account public opinion which you are here to represent.
2. I have spoken to many councillors and residents, it appears that public opinion is for the whole headland including Ships and Castles to be devolved to FTC to ensure total protection.
Whilst I understand the financial liability concerns, many residents are of the opinion that there is enough will and expertise already in the wings for there to be no liability for a FTC precept increase . Residents as far as Wendron have expressed concern. I understand surrounding parishes are willing to increase their precepts to enable the viability of Ships and Castles. With this offer in mind, surely this is the way forward. Only total devolution will secure the Headland .
Will FTC explore this option to secure the WHOLE headland from development for future generations to enjoy? By way of complete devolution.
3. If the site is truly unviable, then FTC would have served its residents by every means at its disposal, closing the site as a last resort . No liability incurred as there is a dowry for disposal attached to the site.
Will FTC support the CIC Pendennis Leisure to take control of Ships and Castles?
4. FTC openly promotes Falmouth as a holiday destination ! Closing another rainy day facility is surely going to reduce the tourist offer.
How can FTC not do everything in its power to support Ships and Castles reopening ?

Councillor Peter Williams CC submitted the following question in writing:

Dear Members can I ask for Falmouth Town Council to take over all assets of the Ship sand Castles and all green space , take complete control and launch a funding appeal to bring back this very valuable asset for our community network, and engage and work with local members on how we move forward I am very happy to help, in any way for this, we need to prove to our people in Cornwall we are up for the challenge, we will never get another chance to control this very special headland that mean so much to us all

Remington Hicks submitted an extensive letter (edited by the Town Clerk to the following question):

What will the Town Council do to ensure that Cornwall Council continue to fund the operation of a leisure centre and Pool at Ships and Castles?

As all questions related to the same subject there was a general discussion regarding current position. The Mayor confirmed that the Council has received no financial information from Cornwall Council, therefore Falmouth Town was unable to comment on financial viability. The Council had received correspondence from Cornwall Council detailing potential options and these were read out at the meeting. In order to help clarify misinformation and explore opportunities for grants to support the facility as without it the children and adults of Falmouth face years without adequate swimming, leisure and health facilities.

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

RESOLVED that the Council requests that Cornwall Council enter discussion with Falmouth Town Council and Pendennis Leisure to find solutions to the long-term viability of Ships and Castles with a view to reopening this much needed facility and protecting the headland. Cornwall Council are asked to provide up to date accounts, costs of closure and information on short term transitional support.

C5613 POLICE REPORT

None received.

C5614 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

None received.

C5615 COMMUNITY NETWORK MANAGER REPORT

None received.

C5616 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Arwenack

Councillor Magowan provided an update on matters relating to his electoral division.

Boslowick

Councillor Jewell provided an update on matters relating to his electoral division.

Penwerris

Councillor Kirkham provided an update on matters relating to her electoral division.

Trescobeas and Budock

Councillor Saunby provided an update on matters relating to his electoral division.

C5617 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Report dated 28th February 2022 was presented by Councillor Robinson, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 28th February 2022 be approved.

The Planning Committee Report dated 21st February 2022 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 21st February 2022 be approved.

The Planning Committee Report dated 14th March 2022 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 14th March 2022 be approved.

The Grounds and Facilities Committee Report dated 7th March 2022 was not available.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 21st February 2022 was presented by Councillor Saunby, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 21st February 2022 be approved

The Licensing Committee Report dated 21st March 2022 was presented by Councillor Saunby, Chair of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 21st March 2022 be approved

The Environmental Action Committee Report dated 28th March 2022 was presented by Councillor Edwards, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Edwards, seconded by Councillor D Evans and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 28th March 2022 be approved.

C5618 PRINCESS PAVILION WORKING PARTY

The Princess Pavilion Working Party Report dated 14th March 2022 was presented by Councillor Robinson, Chair of the Working Party.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 14th March 2022 was noted and approved.

C5619 FAIRTRADE

The quarterly report, presented by Councillor Ross was duly noted.

C5620 COUNCIL COMMITTEES

The Committee Review Recommendations were discussed.

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

RESOLVED that the review recommendations as attached be adopted.

Councillors D Evans requested that his name be recorded as voting against.

Councillors were asked to contact the Town Clerk if they were interested in sitting on specific committees.

C5621 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Town Managers report was duly noted.

C5622 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT PART I

The Town Manager presented the Town Clerk's report which was duly noted.

C5623 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Edwards 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 MINUTES – PART II

C5624 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT PART II

The Town Manager presented the Town Clerk's report part II which was duly noted.

There being no further business to transact the Town Mayor declared the meeting closed at 9.10 pm.

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

COMMITTEE REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

Background

The Council had a Peer Review undertaken two years ago and has now implemented organisational changes because of those recommendations.

Several of those Review recommendations related to the democratic process and the nature and number of Council meetings. To ensure the decision-making process was fit for purpose for a rapidly expanded council and to reduce the number of unnecessary meetings the Council has undertaken its own review, a group of the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Chairs of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, Cultural Services Committee, Environmental Action Committee and Grounds and Facilities Committee. A survey of Councillors was also undertaken.

The Council have already made interim changes during 2022, curtailing the number of meetings of working parties and sub-committees and regarding the composition of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, and the creation as standing committees of the Grounds and Facilities Committee (a former Sub-Committee) and the Environmental Action Committee (new).

As well as being more focussed this reduces the number of meetings per year from fifty-eight plus Working Parties to about forty-five.

The recommendations suggest a nominal number of 8 councillors (quorum of 3), but this could be in the range 6 to 8.

Proposed Standing Committees and Council

Town Council to meet quarterly with the addition of the Annual Meeting. All sixteen councillors with Town Clerk supporting.

Cultural Services and Leisure Committee to meet quarterly. 8 Councillors supported by Cultural Services Director and Town Manager. Delegation as per current Cultural Services Committee delegation and to include events and leisure services.

Finance and General Purposes Committee to meet six-weekly. 8 Councillors with Responsible Financial Officer supporting. Delegation as per existing.

Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee to meet bi-monthly (every two-months). 8 Councillors. Supported by Facilities Manager, Grounds Manager and Strategic Environmental Projects Officer. Current delegations for the Grounds and Facilities Committee and Environmental Action Committee combined.

Planning and Licensing Committee to meet three weekly. 8 Councillors with mandatory training qualification. Supported by the Administrative Officer. Current delegation for Planning Committee and Licensing Committee combined.

Staffing Committee to meet bi-monthly (two monthly), reverting to quarterly if workload allows. 6 Councillors with mandatory training qualification. Supported by Town Clerk. Delegation as per existing.

Working Parties and Sub-Committees

The Council have gradually reduced the use of these bodies and the recommendation is that they are discontinued except for the Princess Pavilion Working Party which continues as a 'task and finish group' whilst the site and operations are still being developed. A list of the current meetings is appended.

Otherwise, task and finish groups be created by the Council or Committees for specific projects as required.

Scheduling

Based on workload the proposed scheduling duration of meetings is included above. Councillor feedback sees a preference for meetings to be held exclusively on Monday evenings with 6pm commencements (except where 7pm statutory meeting starts are dictated).

Venue

Putting aside the national call for virtual and hybrid meeting provision, Councillor feedback has seen a preference for the use of the Atherton Suite in the Old Post Office for all standing committee meetings. The Mayor feels that the Council Chamber in the Municipal Buildings is retained as the venue for meetings of the full Council.

Councillor Champions Roles

From feedback it was felt these were still appropriate but could be better defined. Current list is attached.

Representatives on Outside Bodies

The current appointments are considered appropriate. Individual councillors would further advise on the worth to the Council of specific appointments and whether these could be better refined.

Standing Orders

If the above recommendations are agreed then Standing Orders will be updated along with the lists of delegations. These will include ensuring they are gender neutral.

Sub-Committees and Working Parties

- Cemeteries Working Party
- Dracaena Fields Working Party (including Skatepark Committee)
- Finance Sub-Committee
- Fairtrade Working Party (now operating as a distinct group from the Council)
- Kimberley Park Working Party
- Princess Pavilion Working Party
- Quality Council Working Party
- Trescobeas Recreational Area

COUNCILLOR CHAMPIONS 2021/22

Health and Safety	Kirkham
Safeguarding	Coley
University and Schools Liaison	Chin-Quee (plus Mayor for Comms Group)
Community Engagement (incl NDP)	Robinson
Town Centre/Night-time Economy	Young
Tourism/Events	Spargo
Environment/Sustainability	D Evans
Community Emergency Plans	Ross and Young
Armed Forces	Eva



FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES 2021/22

Age Concern	Eva
Beach Management Group	Edwards (alternate Seiler)
CCTV Stakeholders	Young
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	Ross (alternate Young)
Cornwall Association of Larger Councils – Local Councils Committee	Rowe
Cornwall Flood Forum	Ross (alternate Young)
Falmouth Conservation Committee	Chair and Vice-Chair Planning Committee
Falmouth Fairtrade	Ross, Seiler and Young
Falmouth Gardeners & Allotment Society	Clegg
Falmouth and Penryn Community Network	Edwards (alternate Young)
Falmouth Car Club Steering Committee	Rowe
Fal and Helford Advisory Committee	Ross (alternate Young)
Falmouth in Bloom	Rowe and Clegg
Falmouth Christmas Activities Committee	Eva, Rowe and Spargo
Falmouth Citizens Advice	Kirkham
Falmouth Green Corridor Group	Edwards and D Evans
Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan Stakeholders Committee	Rowe
Falmouth Place Shaping Group (CC)	Eva
Falmouth Twinning Association	Mayor (Ex-Officio) and Coley, Ross and Seiler
Maritime Line Working Party (Rail Branch Line)	Rowe (alternate Saunby)
Mencap	Rowe
Police Liaison/OPCC Advocate	Ross (alternate Young)
Plastic Free Falmouth	Seiler and Spargo

Safer Falmouth	Edwards (alternate Rowe)
Swanpool Nature Reserve	Clegg (alternates D Evans and Young)
Taxi and Private Hire Forum	Clegg
Universities Liaison	Mayor and Chin-Quee

NB: The Town Clerk represents the Council in the following aspects:

Moor Stakeholders, Management Group
Street Pastors Management Committee
CALC – Large Councils Committee
Falmouth Business Improvement Board (non-voting)
Falmouth NDP Stakeholders
Cornwall Council Place Shaping Group

The Town Manager represents the Council in the following aspects:

Events Committees/Groups
Falmouth Traders Group
West Cornwall CCTV Stakeholders Group

The Responsible Financial Officer in the following aspects:

LGPS