

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee held on 13th November 2023 at 6pm at the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors D E Clegg (Chair), J S Kirkham CC (Vice-chair) (from point mentioned), K J Edwards, A Rowe (to point mentioned), D W Saunby CC, and Z Young

Also present: Councillor S D Eva

In attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
A Medlin (Facilities Manager)
S J Penna (Grounds Manager)
K Hall (Strategic Environmental Projects Officer)

GFEA94 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillors Spargo (holiday).

GFEA95 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

GFEA96 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th September 2023 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Kirkham now entered the meeting.

GFEA97 GROUNDS MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Grounds Manager presented his report that is attached as part of these minutes. He presented further on storm remediation works and with Councillor Edwards on Skatepark development.

The Chair thanked the Grounds Manager and Councillor Edwards for their efforts with the Skatepark and the Grounds and Facilities Teams for their efforts with storm damage remediation. She also recognised cost efficiencies in bedding planting.

A contractual matter relating to the Skatepark Development was moved to Part II of the meeting on the advice of the Town Clerk.

It was proposed by Councillor D V Evans, seconded by Councillor Clegg and

RESOLVED that the report be noted and ongoing maintenance costings for Dracaena Skatepark be included within the Grounds Service budget.

GFEA98 **FACILITIES MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

The Facilities Manager presented his report that is attached as part of these minutes and was duly noted. The Chair thanked the Facilities Manager and Councillor Kirkham for their efforts with The ReSource Lodge Project.

GFEA99 **STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OFFICER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE**

The Strategic Environmental Projects Officer's report was received and is attached as part of these minutes and was duly noted.

GFEA100 **OCEAN RECOVERY DECLARATION**

The Strategic Environmental Project Officer reported that the declaration signed by the Council in 2022 need to be reviewed for progress upon the Council's net zero carbon target pledge to recover our ocean.

The Mayor advised that she would follow up with the South West Water representative if there remained unanswered councillor submitted questions from the presentation to the last Council meeting.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Chair, be delegated in consultation with Councillor Edwards and the Council's Environmental Strategic Projects Officer to review and update the Council's progress on the Ocean Recovery Declaration Pledge, and report back to the Committee thereon.
- (ii) the Council reiterates its decision not to consider the retrofitting of public toilets to composting toilets due to the substantial cost in doing so and the logistical and capacity considerations.
- (iii) that the Mayor renew the formal request of the Government for the various measures to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030.
- (iv) that Councillor Kirkham renew the formal request of Cornwall Council for the various measures to put the ocean into net recovery by 2030.

GFEA101 **MOTION BY COUNCILLOR YOUNG – CAMPERVAN WASTE DISPOSAL FACILITY**

A motion by Councillor Young that the Facilities Manager with the Environmental Projects Officer (sic) investigates the viability, in terms of siting, cost and ongoing operation to the Council, of providing a waste disposal point (sewage) for use by campervans and similar vehicles visiting Falmouth, was not considered as the seconder of the motion withdrew.

The Town Clerk advised that the subject of the motion was not an officer recommendation to the committee.

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

RESOLVED on an amendment that Cornwall Council be requested to consider providing a managed waste disposal point (sewage) for use by campervans and similar visiting Falmouth on a site maintained by them.

A motion by Councillor D V Evans, seconded by Councillor Young, that the Council investigates the viability, in terms of siting, cost and ongoing operation to the Council, of providing a waste disposal point (sewage) for use by campervans and similar vehicles visiting Falmouth, was lost.

GFEA102 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

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

Councillor Rowe now left the meeting.

Grounds Report 13/11/23.

Ponsharden Cemeteries

Landscaping works completed. Options for roadside bank priced for HE to scrutinise, following approval from HE an application to the lottery for further funds, but likely to be too much for HLF. Quote received for railings to enclose the lower of Jewish cems to make the site "inaccessible" when locked.

Skatepark

Second stage application submitted together with additional info requested, accepted by the NL and we have been awarded £130k capital funding and £15k revenue funding. Awaiting drainage quote back from Contractor. Rewilding works underway of surrounding areas other than area of drainage works. Working on CIL Application for phase 3 includes funds for basketball court.

Wild flower seeding and bulb planting of some surrounding areas outside of where the drainage needs to go next week.

Street weed spraying

Budock/Penryn completed. Falmouth to be treated in Jan following the clearance of seasonal leaf fall as we wish to see if this will give a better result than the usual Autumn application and have the town looking better next Spring.

Apprentice position

Re-advertised, unfortunately our original candidate dropped out.

Storm Ciaran

2 very large trees down in lawn cemetery(9 grave spaces.) 1 fallen across Madeira walk. 1 badly leaning at Dracaena. 1 down in old cemetery. 1 in Swanvale.....so far

KP

New tipping trailer purchased.

Seasonal bedding for the coming Spring all planted and looking good

EEEE's report

This is where our work has led us this month.

- Sand Safe Stand at the Wind and Fire Conference, Roswick Farm, Lizard OUTCOMES- Link to education project in Plymouth to follow up. Meet up with partner agencies.
- Environmental Education Stand at Falmouth Marine School Freshers Week – focusing on littering/cigarette disposable and how this impacts our environment. Also looking for volunteers. OUTCOMES We signed up the whole college for an impact day of cleaning up environmental issues through our town centre (date tbc), also a 60-hour volunteer work experience student for future projects 2024. We also made connections with the education team at Biffa, now looking at ways to work together on youth impact projects. Invite to give a talk in November.

- Healey's Cider Company, Gylly Beach Café. Meetings with Joe Healey and staff, looking at development plans and how we can work together to keep Gylly safe for everyone to use.
- Aqua Culture – working with Callum and team, introducing him to the beach management committee and looking as how best to manage seaweed in the summer months.
- Tregoniggy Woods – Eamonn supporting with ongoing grounds work, Tessa supporting woodland autumn guided walks – looking to expend to FGC guided walks in the future.
- Trescobeia Park – this month the Vine Church congregation came along to do a litter pick in the park and surrounding green spaces. Seven bags of rubbish were removed. E30 supported with equipment, and we managed to paint out in the inside of one tunnel despite the rain!
- Reggie Festival – Supported on Friday night – moving on campers incorrectly parked (in a nice way) and being a visual presence.
- Gave a report to Lee Trehwela BBC/Cornwall Live, with the support of Demelza. Very pleased with the article that went out, giving a full rounded view of how we are engaging with youth and the ongoing issues.
<https://www.falmouthpacket.co.uk/news/23841320.gyllyngvase-beach-falmouth-tackling-anti-social-behaviour/>
- Organised the instalment of the Recycled dog bin on Boscawen Field's. Promoting the 'scoop your dog's poop' initiative.
- Boscawen Field. We have started finding Dogs and their owners in the Dog free field, we have not encountered this before. Also had a dog in the Bowley. We will keep on with our dusk patrols and we will need to start FPN's if folk ignore. I will chase the Dog warden on this.
- Attended Safer Falmouth, Beach Management meetings.
- Dealt with email and telephone issues concerning Defibs, toilets, Cornwall Council and National Grid in a professional and efficient way.
- Vape recycling – Looking at ways to get disposable vapes recycled as they are causing fires in refuse trucks, and we are finding them down our drains. Working with Fire Brigade and police on this.
- Salvation Army – Monday and Thursday mornings 10-12 is outreach and we have been going along to be a presence from the council. Offering advice and signposting to all of those in need.
- We dealt with one incident of fly tipping on the high street and are still engaging with all parties for a resolution.
- We have one Dogs on Beach FPN (Fixed Penalty Noice) unpaid which I am in the process of filling to the magistrate. Hearing date TBC.
- Evening Patrols – now we are two, evening patrols are continuing. Much quieter now and large groups of youths are chilled out and seem to be from out of town. No issues this month.
- We have being talking to our young people have now worked with the Dracaena Centre to provide Youth Club every evening!! We had a request from our male 16 years olds that they wanted their own club with Pool and Table tennis – this has now been arranged. Full details to follow.
- Local Business – We have done an engagement patrol this month on Church Street Business. Outcomes – talks re bollard, ASB, Shoplifting, Town radios, Information sharing platforms. We encouraged everyone to report and discussed the platforms to do this.
- We intercepted a Palestinian protest on Fri 20th at 7pm.
- Assisted with the removal of the many 'Free Palestine' graffiti around town.



**Grounds, Facilities & Environment Committee
13th November 2023**

Facilities Manager Update:

1. ReSource Lodge Project

An external quotation process relating to the procurement of specialist services has been undertaken with the following consultants now forming the Project Design and Management team:

M.Hormann Architect, Falmouth
Crossley Hill Chartered Surveyors, Truro
Martin Perry & Associates Structural Engineers, Liskeard

The project team recently visited the Eden Project to review the operation of The Green Build Hub which is a BREEAM outstanding project delivering a living laboratory where eco-building products are installed and monitored to produce objective performance data in a real building setting. The building has been developed prioritising energy efficiency through sustainable design.

An option to partner with Cornwall Sustainable Building Trust (GBH) is currently being reviewed where an initial energy survey of the lodge will identify the appropriate technology to be installed delivering energy efficiencies whilst minimising operational running costs. It is anticipated that an air source heat pump, underfloor heating and solar panels will compliment extensive thermal and acoustic insulation.

The Trust currently partners with a local renewable energy provider (Blue Flame) and endorses operational water saving cistern installations from Propelair. (Vacuum flush cisterns which utilise 1ltr of water as opposed to domestic 7 ltr flushes)

Provisional programme timelines identify the tendering of the Principle Contractor build package in December with a planned site commencement of March 2024 (10 month construction phase period) Demolition of the rear structure will be undertaken prior to this period in early December.

The Community Engagement & Outreach Officer commenced duties on the 30th October. The role will initially focus upon the identification and engagement with all elements of the local community with a view to reviewing and supporting upskilling in the areas of digital, numeracy and literacy. The role is responsible for the evidencing of prescribed training targets and outcomes contained within the Grant Funding Agreement managed by CC.

2. **Changing Places Project**

Confirmation of works relating to the relocation of the ATM/kiosk are yet to be defined by BT Openreach. The date of these preparatory works directly affects the planning of the delivery and commissioning of the modular unit. FTC instructed the works in March and have now progressed matters to the Executive Complaints and Escalation Team at BT Openreach. The deadline for completion of works and release of grant funding is March 2024.

A contingency review of alternative sites within the town is currently underway in order to secure the project and funding. The limited availability of accessible locations, services and timescales will potentially risk the delivery of this project.

3. **Municipal Building**

RTP Building surveyors have undertaken a building condition survey which has been released in draft form. We are still awaiting the costed schedule of works (5 year plan) which will collectively inform priority and planned works with associated funding submissions. Energy option appraisal surveys have also been instructed to provide specialist information to support future green technology funding.

4. **Responsive Maintenance**

The team has recently been employed on storm / flood related drainage works at Prince of Wales, Webber Street and The Grove Place public conveniences. Flat roof repair quotations have been invited for various locations in the Municipal Building.

5. **Defibrillators**

Servicing work and registration of the following appliances has been updated on the national database. ('thecircuit'):

The Old Post Office, Grove Place PC's, Prince of Wales PC's, Princess Pavilion, Castle Beach, Swanpool Beach, Maenporth Beach and Gyllyngvase Beach.

Andy Medlin
Facilities Manager



**November 2023 – Strategic Environmental Projects
Report for Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee**

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
Environmental Projects/ initiatives	<p>Forest for Cornwall (F4C) – Prislow Fields event took place on 16 Sept and update provided to Full Council on 18 Sept.</p> <p>Christmas tree purchase from Watt & Co in Playing Place and disposal in place to re-use chippings post festive period.</p>	<p>Prislow Fields planting day on 25th November. Promotion to be undertaken.</p>
Carbon Reduction	<p>Princess Pavilion – Application for funding submitted for Community Ownership Fund</p> <p>Public Sector Decarbonisation Scheme (PSDS) deadline for submission was 11 Oct. Cost for creating the detailed decarbonisation plan too high and not feasible in the time scales so put on hold. Instead an Energy options appraisal will be undertaken to ensure council is prepared for future bids.</p>	<p>SEPO to update Carbon Audit once all energy consumption has been recorded for financial year 2022/23.</p> <p>Commission Energy options appraisal for Municipal Building</p>
Events	<p>Trial of Energy Advice Sessions by CEP negotiated. Two sessions held at PP.</p> <p>Forest for Cornwall engagement event held at Art Gallery on 23 Oct to promote tree planting especially at Prislow Fields.</p> <p>Initial discussion held with BIFFA regards improving recycling at our events.</p>	<p>Sustainable events strategy brief to be considered by Town Team.</p>
Water	<p>Draft emergency plan outline prepared, Princess Pavilion assessed and approved as rest centre.</p> <p>EA provisional plan supplied for Prince of Wales Pier flood alleviation - seeking MMO approval and then will submit a planning application.</p> <p>SWW presented approach at Council meeting on 18 September.</p>	<p>EA to provide details of flood alleviation plan once approved by MMO.</p> <p>Main construction works - 30/09/24 - 12/02/25</p> <p>Workshop to be held to populate Emergency plan (incorporating flood plan) – date TBA following discussion with Town Team</p>
Community Engagement	<p>SEPO attending F&P Climate Change Working group, Fal Energy Partnership and Transition Falmouth monthly meetings</p>	<p>Future of CCWG to be discussed as part of new CC CAP</p>

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
	F&P Climate Change Working group on hold until autumn 2023.	
Ocean Recovery	Declaration made in Jan 2022. SEPO attended SAC Management Forum meeting on 8 Nov 2023. Habitiles installed on harbour wall on Church Street Car Park on 3 Oct. Blue Meadows project underway by Ocean Conservation Trust. Update provided in separate summary.	SEPO exploring 'the sea starts here' campaign to replace yellow fish. Habitiles Interpretation panel to be produced and installed on railings in car park.
Communication	Discussions held with Communications Officer. Agreed to include specific environmental section on new website. Text supplied. Volunteer recruitment being promoted via Lovefalmouthvolunteers	Environmental section to be published when new website goes live. Environmental projects to be promoted; 'The Sea Starts here', Sandsafe, volunteering
Budget	£5,000 allocated in approved budget. Expenditure directed by F&GP committee; £950 to support Rotary Club Carbon Neutral event in March 2024 £982 to contribute to interpretation panel for marine habitats in Church St. car park. Additional commitment of £3000 towards Energy Plan for Municipal Building	Balance remaining £68

Decisions requested from **Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee;**

Prepared by Karen Hall, Strategic Environmental Projects Officer November 2023

Recycled waste tiles to transform harbour

By Paul Armstrong

A FALMOUTH harbour wall which had a sparse amount of wildlife is set to become a thriving habitat of marine flora and fauna due to the installation of tiles designed to increase biodiversity.

New "Habitiles" attached to the east wall of Cornwall Council owned, Church Street Car Park are designed to provide niche habitats for a wide variety of inter-tidal marine species, helping to increase and maintain biodiversity in the heart of the harbour.

Falmouth Harbour has been working with Cornish environmental charity Our Only World in partnership with Falmouth Town Council and ABC Marine - a British company providing environmentally friendly solutions to the marine industry.

"A flat harbour wall doesn't have the nooks and crannies which attract a diverse marine habitat and this is what the tiles aim to replicate," says Tina Robinson from Our Only World. "We'll see seaweeds and algae making their home here which then provide shelter and food for small invertebrates which in turn become a food source for larger animals."

The textured tiles designed by ABC Marine (recently nominated for the prestigious Earth Shot prize) are made locally in Truro, Cornwall utilising the waste by products from the granite and quarrying industries. ABC Marine's concrete has 91% reduced emissions when compared with Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC) and will soon be certified carbon neutral.



The new tiles made out of recycled quarry waste have been installed in Falmouth Harbour to promote marine life

They have also been certified to ensure they do not leach any toxic material into the environment and do not contain any plastics or steel reinforcement which can lead to concrete degradation once exposed to seawater.

Julian Chenoweth Manufacturing Director ABC Marine says "ABC Marine are proud to be delivering our products so close to our manufacturing facility."

"This project has already been a great learning experience in designing habitat enhancing features on existing sea walls and what species may benefit from rising and falling tides. We can't wait to see the colonisation of marine organisms in the coming months and to improve these designs further on a much larger scale!"

In March this year an ecological survey of the harbour wall was

completed to establish a baseline level for biodiversity, with an aim to repeat this process again next year to monitor whether biodiversity increases.

"This is such an exciting project as we thoroughly expect the sea wall to go from a fairly barren expanse to a complex area hosting a greater variety of species," says Falmouth Harbour's Environment Manager Vicki Spooner. "And this gives us a great opportunity to work with local schools, colleges and universities to monitor the colonisation of these structures and develop survey skills."

"We're really grateful to Our Only World and their funders Sea-Change and the Matthew Good Foundation for facilitating this installation and we can't wait to find out more about how these tiles can help to increase biodiversity within our harbour."

Cosy cottage with a view

A COTTAGE with one of the most important views in Helston for the people of the town has come on the market for £250,000.

If you want to see the Helia Flora Day dances from the comfort of your own home this cottage in Penrose Road is the perfect place for you.

The First Dance starts from the Guildhall and goes up Menage Street dancing its way out of a number of premises before coming back down a turning right into Wendron Street and Godolphin Road. Turning back at Godolphin House, it proceeds into Pen Road, Church Street and C Street. It moves down Pen Hill into St. John's Road, C Green, Monument Road and Coinagehall Street, ending at the Godolphin Club.

According to Rightmove the cottage offers spacious bedroom accommodation a generous amount of living space with a lovely warm rear and an attractive garden.

Police in speed crackdown on drivers at roadworks

SPEED checks will be carried out on a busy section of roadworks in Cornwall after fears were raised for the safety workers at the site.

Devon & Cornwall Police is deploying speed detection officers to carry out enforcement on the A395 around Threemilestone.

The route is currently undergoing work as part of the Chiverton Cross upgrade, Northern Access Road and the Saints Trails. Contractors Cormac have said some

drivers are not complying to the temporary 30mph speed limit.

As a result, the firm have expressed concerns about the safety of their workers and asked Devon & Cornwall Police to support with speed checks around the area.

Adrian Leisk, Devon & Cornwall Police's Head of Road Safety and chair of the Vision Zero South West enforcement group, said: "While I appreciate tempo-

rary speed limits can sometimes be frustrating, safety has to be our primary concern.

"We have a duty of care to those working on this road - as well as all other road users - so I would ask anyone driving on this route to respect the speed limits."

"Our speed detection officers will be operating in and around this area over the coming weeks to enforce the 30mph speed limit."



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Positive news coverage in Falmouth Packet for habitiles installation, Oct 2023