

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 27th February 2012 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:30pm.

Present: Councillors Dr D A Sterratt (Chairman), A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, Mrs J A Booth, G W Chin-Queen, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, A J Jewell, Ms D E Merrett, D M O'Brien, Mrs M Ryan and D W Saunby.

In Attendance: Mr A M Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)

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F4101 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Body (family commitment), Choak (work) and Mrs Hrydziuska (broken wrist).

F4102 **INTERESTS**

Councillor O'Brien declared an interest in Minute F4105 (Falmouth Taxi Marshall Scheme) as a Taxi Proprietor and Member of the Taxi Association and left the meeting during the consideration thereof.

Councillor Mrs Davies declared an interest in Minute F4104 (Falmouth Age Concern UK Day Centre Grant application) as she was a Member of the Falmouth Day Centre Management Committee and did not speak nor vote thereon.

F4103 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Mr Evans and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 23rd January 2012 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F4104 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Ayres, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, Falmouth Age UK Day Centre be granted £1,000 towards providing a sensory garden.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED that the Falmouth Gig Club and the Fal Energy Partnership be permitted to delay the take up of their respective grant awards into the 2012/13 financial year.

The 2011/12 grant schedule to date was duly noted.

F4105 **FALMOUTH TAXI MARSHALL SCHEME**

The Town Clerk presented the report of Sergeant Watts and pursuant to a reference from the Council (Minute C4062). A full debate ensued.

It was proposed by Councillor Ayres, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Council agrees to act as an accountable body for the administration of the Taxi Marshall Scheme.
- (ii) the scheme to be operated as a trial for 3 or 6 months and as directed by the Police.
- (iii) the Council was unclear as to the funding commitments for the scheme and would not make a financial commitment on that basis.
- (iv) Cornwall Council and the Police be requested to investigate the possibility of providing a temporary late night taxi rank near to the clubs e.g. Church Street Car Park or Church Corner.

F4106 **SECTION 137 EXPENDITURE LIMIT 2012/13**

It was duly noted that the expenditure limit for the 2012/13 financial year for the purpose of Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 has been set at £6.80 per elector.

F4107 **PRAYERS AT COUNCIL MEETINGS**

The Town Clerk reported the recent ruling by the High Court where it was established that the saying of prayers as part of a Council meeting breaches the Local Government Act, 1972. The Town Mayor had indicated that he wished for the practice of prayers to be retained and therefore prayers would be continued at Council meetings and said prior to the formal commencement of the meeting for business. This was duly noted.

F4108 **INTERNAL AUDIT ARRANGEMENTS 2011/12**

It was noted that the Council's Internal Auditor would shortly meet with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Committee to direct the 2011/12 audit.

F4109 **CCTV**

The Town Clerk reported upon the County CCTV Stakeholder Meeting held on 26th January 2012. Cornwall Council wished to determine if the continuation of CCTV was a desire and necessary for communities. If so there was a proposal to provide a central monitoring facility. Further he reported other current issues relating to CCTV provision.

The report was duly noted.

F4110 **FIRST BUS SERVICES**

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Ayres and

RESOLVED that First be advised that the Council were disappointed at the proposals to change the 2/2A/2B, 82/82A and 88/88A/88B Services as this would adversely affect Falmouth residents, particularly regarding access to RCH (Treliske). It was also noted that many buses particularly student services were overcrowded and inaccessible.

F4111 **SECTION 106 AGREEMENTS AND COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY**

This report had already been considered by the Strategic Planning and Regeneration Committee and the Town Clerk's notes were noted.

F4112 **NEW STANDARDS REGIME**

The update from the Principal Legal Officer Corporate Governance at Cornwall Council was duly noted.

F4113 **MAYORAL ALLOWANCE**

The Finance Officer reported upon options for the treatment of the Mayoral Allowance in regards to taxation purposes.

It was proposed by Councillor Sterratt, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ryan and

RESOLVED that all discretionary payments made by the Mayor to Charities or other such organisations or persons, be made from the Council's annual grant budget under S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, up to the annual limit of £500, without the need for further consideration by the Council.

F4114 **SHELTER AT 'SILVERSTEPS', CLIFF ROAD, CASTLE DRIVE, FALMOUTH**

The Town Clerk reported a proposal by Cornwall Council to remove the shelter on safety and appearance grounds and to prevent it being used as a focal point for anti-social behaviour. The local Cornwall Council Divisional Member, the Police and Town Manager all supported the proposal.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Ryan, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that the Council does not object to the removal of the shelter at Silversteps for the reasons reported.

F4115 **PLANTING ON HIGHWAYS ROUNDABOUTS**

The Town Clerk reported amended planting proposals for the Highway Roundabout on the A39 (near Sainsbury's Supermarket).

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Mrs Biggins and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Council note the change from seasonal to low maintenance landscape planting on the A39 roundabout and request that Cornwall Council are cognizant of the importance of the 'gateway' site to Falmouth in terms of South West in Bloom entry and visitor attraction.
- (ii) the Cornwall Council local Divisional Members be requested to use their devolved highway budgets to assist the scheme.

F4116 **SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS : REGIONAL AND PRACTITIONERS CONFERENCES 2012**

The Town Clerk updated the meeting upon his attendance at the Conferences that was duly noted.

F4117 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Biggins, seconded by Councillor Mrs Ryan and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for January 2012 be approved.

F4118 **BANK OF IRELAND (EXTRA ITEM)**

The Town Clerk reported changes to the Council's deposit protection arrangements as part of national alignment. There would be no changes to terms and conditions nor interest rates for the Council. The report was duly noted.

The Chairman had agreed to consider the matter as an urgent item so that audit arrangements could be informed.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....