

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 17th September 2012 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7:00pm.

Present: Councillors Dr D A Sterratt (Chairman), A K Ayres, Mrs A J Biggins, I J Body, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans, Ms D Merrett, Mrs M Ryan and D W Saunby

In Attendance: Mr A M Williams (Town Clerk)
Mrs R N Thomas (Finance Officer)
Mr D Martin (Public Spaces Officer, Cornwall Council)
Councillor G Chappel (Cornwall Council)

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F4175 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Booth (ill), Choak (work), Chin-Quee (work), Mrs Hrydziuska (holiday) and O'Brien (work).

F4176 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Mrs Davies declared a non-registrable interest in Minute F4179 (grant to Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together) as she is a member of the organisation.

F4177 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th July 2012 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F4178 **TREE MANAGEMENT AT DRACAENA AVENUE (URGENT ITEM)**

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item as it had been omitted from the agenda in error and so as to plan the works to, and replacement of, the trees.

Mr Martin, Public Spaces Officer at Cornwall Council reported he had met with local Councillors following recent storm events that had caused damage to mature trees at Dracaena adjoining the main arterial road route into Falmouth. Emergency tree works had been authorised and in the long-term the removal of the Poplars from the site would be required. This would have a large detrimental visual impact upon the site and he hoped the Town Council would work with Cornwall Council to plan and fund a replacement programme to start as soon as possible to mitigate the effects of removal. It was also an opportunity to look at the long-term opportunities for the Dracaena Playing Fields. In addition some established hydrangeas would need to be removed to eliminate the threat of disease spread to trees.

Councillor Chappel supported the proposal to prepare a management plan and suggested that Cornwall Divisional Councillors would utilise their devolved highway budgets to support that.

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

RESOLVED that in principle the Council supports a management plan for the phased replacement of mature trees at Dracaena Avenue. Cornwall Council to prepare this proposal, with costings, for further consideration by the Council.

F4179 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Sections 26 to 29 of the Local Government and Rating Act, 1997, the Merlin Project Mini-bus be granted £200 towards the running of the mini-bus to enable Falmouth residents to access the MS therapy centre in Cornwall.

It was proposed by Councillor Body, seconded by Councillor Ms Merrett and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act, 1976, the Dracaena Centre be granted £1,000 towards the running of youth work sessions in 2012/13.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act, 1997, Falmouth and Penryn Churches Together be granted £1,000 towards the cost of providing the Safe Space Scheme. The award would not preclude further application for funding for the scheme inside the usual three year exclusion.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Schools Oyster Festival Parade be granted £500 towards the costs of the 2012 parade.

Letters of thanks for recent grant awards from Falmouth Twinning Association (£1,500), Vitalise – Carer Breaks (£363) and Falmouth Spring Flower Show (£650) were duly noted as was the 2012/13 grant schedule.

F4180 **2011/12 EXTERNAL AUDIT**

The Audit Commission had advised that the Council's 2011/12 Annual Return had been externally audited and had been found to be in accordance with proper practices and the Council's financial management was adequate and effective with a sound system of internal control. The report was duly noted.

F4181 **EXTERNAL AUDIT – FROM 2012/13**

The appointment of Grant Thornton UK LLP as the Council's external auditor to audit the Council's Annual Return for five years from 2012/13 was duly noted.

F4182 **BUDGET MONITORING**

The budget monitoring report for the period April to July 2012 was duly noted.

F4183 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Town Clerk and Town Mayor reported upon the meeting with the Cornwall Council Portfolio-holder and had reaffirmed the position of the Town Council pursuant to Minute F1444. Cornwall Council had repeated the offer to transfer facilities to the Town Council. The report was duly noted.

F4184 **BEACH SEAWEED CLEARANCE**

The Town Clerk reported that a Stakeholders meeting had been scheduled for the 10th October 2012. Councillors Saunby and Evans reported the Cornwall Council position. The reports were duly noted.

F4185 **PRINCE OF WALES PIER – COMMUNITY INTEREST COMPANY**

The Town Clerk reported a holding response from Cornwall Council in response to the Council's concerns. The Committee duly noted the report and was disappointed that Cornwall Council had not provided the assurances in this matter.

F4186 **PROPOSED PROCEDURE OF DEVOLUTION AND ASSET TRANSFER FOR LOCAL COUNCILS**

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

RESOLVED that the procedure be noted. The Council reiterated its request that Cornwall Council reviews its policy on freehold transfer of strategic assets when there is tangible community gain.

F4187 **KIMBERLEY PARK GREEN FLAG SUCCESS**

The award be noted with pleasure as was the positive judges comments on the quality of the site and the community engagement it enjoyed.

F4188 **DRAFT SUSTAINABLE ENERGY ACTION PLAN (SEAP) FOR CORNWALL**

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk in consultation with Councillor Ms Merrett responds to the Action Plan proposal. Other Councillors to advise Councillor Ms Merrett of their comments for inclusion in the response.

F4189 **PENZANCE TO LONDON INTERCITY RAIL SERVICE**

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

RESOLVED that the Council supports the representations by Andrew George MP to protect a base line of at least nine through services from Penzance to London within the new rail franchise.

F4190 **BOWLY PLAY AREA – FENCING REPLACEMENT**

Pursuant to Minute F4158 the Town Clerk reported that work had been halted on site as some residents had requested additional height to that agreed to protect their properties from balls being kicked from the site. He reported the Contractors additional costs in doing so.

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

RESOLVED that subject to planning permission if required the additional fencing works be approved at a cost of £3,278 to be met from General Fund Reserves.

F4191 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

The Chairman reported he would shortly meet with a representative of the Civic Society and the Chairman of the Community Plan Group to consider Neighbourhood Plans. He again requested Councillors to input to this issue. The report was duly noted.

F4192 **ASSET VALUATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that the Asset Valuation report by Smith's Gore be accepted and utilised to update the Asset Register and Insurance Schedules. Further the recommended actions therein be agreed and Smith's Gore to continue to progress Land Registration and lease renewal matters for the Council.

F4193 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Merrett, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for June, July and August 2012 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.10pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....