

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 21st October 2013 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Ms C Atherton CC (Chairman), I J Body, Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel, G W Chin- Quee BEM, G F Evans CC, S Gray, O K Cramp, Ms D E Merrett, Mrs P A Minson and B M A Ross

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

F4324 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Cramp (ill), S D Eva (holiday), Mrs V E Eva (holiday), Jewell (Grasslands meeting), Mrs M Davies (ill) and Saunby (ill).

F4325 **INTERESTS**

None received.

F4326 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 9th September 2013 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F4327 **GRANTS**

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, the 1972 the City of Truro Pipes and Drums be granted £500 to provide piping and drumming classes and equipment. The organisation to also display the Town Councils Crest in regard to its website and other media.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the Falmouth and Penryn Sea Cadets be granted £200 towards the costs of equipment for Cadets undertaking the Duke of Edinburgh Award.

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Chin-Quee and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 234 of the Public Health Act, 1936 the Falmouth Sports Club be granted £250 towards the acquisition of a defibrillator.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972, the Falmouth Primary Schools Flag Project (John Frankland) be granted £250 towards the cost of silk flag making for use in Town events.

The 2013/14 Grant Schedule to date was duly noted. As were letters of thanks from grant recipients: Pendennis Brass (£500), EMPSEB 19 (£495.92 claimed), and the Gorsedh Kernow.

F4328 **FALMOUTH CAR CLUB**

Pursuant to Minute C4283 whereby the Council agreed to support the Falmouth Car Club Pilot Scheme the Town Clerk and Chairman reported upon the submitted proposals.

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

RESOLVED that the Council does not financially support the Falmouth Car Club Pilot at this time.

A MOTION proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Body that consideration of the request be deferred for the Falmouth Car Club to develop alternative and more detailed proposals was LOST.

F4329 **EXTERNAL AUDIT**

It was duly noted that the Council's Audit had been completed and was satisfactory and that the Council would now formally record and conduct its role as Trustee of Kimberley Park.

F4330 **INTERNAL AUDIT**

The Town Clerk reported that Officers had investigated several Internal Audit providers and recommended Mr Steve Hudson for this role.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the resignation of Mr Brian White as the Council's Internal Auditor be noted and Mr White formally thanked for his services;
- (ii) Mr Steve Hudson, of Hudson Accounting be engaged as the Council's Internal Auditor.

F4331 **CORNWALL COUNCIL BUDGETING**

The Town Clerk reported the Cornwall Council Budget Consultation and that further drastic service reductions would have significant implications for the Town Council and its budget setting process. The report was duly noted.

F4332 **DRACAENA SKATEPARK**

The Town Clerk reported a request from the Police to remove the shelter at the site to help tackle incidents of anti-social and criminal behaviour.

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

RESOLVED that the local Ward Members and Electoral Division Member meet with the Police to consider options to tackle the problems associated with the shelter and report back to the Committee.

F4333 **CORNWALL COMMUNITY FLOOD FORUM**

The Town Clerk reported upon his attendance at the Cornwall Community Flood Forum and the Community Emergency Plan Seminar. Falmouth had been identified as an at risk community in terms of flooding.

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk in consultation with Councillor Body engage with Cornwall Council to produce a Community Emergency Plan for Falmouth including identification of those areas most at risk of flooding.

F4334 **CODE OF CONDUCT CONSULTATION**

The Town Clerk reported that pursuant to Minute F4318 he had engaged with and input to the combined Cornwall Association of Local Councils and Society of Local Council Clerks – Cornwall Branch response to the Consultation. The actions were duly noted.

F4335 **PUBLIC CONVENIENCES**

The Chairman reported correspondence from Cornwall Council that reduced the level of transitional grant to that previously agreed in the transfer of service.

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

RESOLVED that the Council strongly objects to the changes in the agreed transfer arrangements.

F4336 **PUBLIC REALM CCTV**

The Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had indicated it would not fund public realm CCTV post April 2014. The Police strongly objected to this and advised that the Council may be in contravention of Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Mrs Brock and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the Finance Sub-Committee consider the matter further
- (ii) the actions of the Town Clerk in making representations to Cornwall Council be duly noted and endorsed.

F4337 **COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL**

The Town Clerk reported a Cornwall Council Consultation in regard to the future operation of the Community Network Panel.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Gray and

RESOLVED that this matter be considered and addressed with the Community Network Manager during his scheduled report to the next meeting of the Council (4th November 2013).

F4338 **CLEANING OF MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS**

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

RESOLVED that Alpine Cleaning Ltd be engaged to deliver cleaning services in respect of the Municipal Buildings.

F4339 **NEW BUS FOR FALMOUTH**

The Chairman reported that following the reduction of local bus routes King Harry Ferry Company would replace some of the lost provision. English Heritage and the National Maritime Museum Cornwall would financially assist that. The service would commence on 4th November 2013.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Evans and

RESOLVED that the Council actively supports the new bus and agrees to underwrite any financial loss on a shared basis up to £6,000. This arrangement to be reviewed after five months of operation and any underwriting amount to come from General Fund Reserves.

F4340 **BUDGET FORECASTING**

The budget forecast was presented by the Finance Officer.

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

RESOLVED that the budget forecast be duly noted and is attached as part of these minutes.

F4341 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) September 2013 be approved.

F4342 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Chin-Quee, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting as the following item involved the consideration of contractual and property matters.

F4343 **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

The Chairman reported upon the deliberations of the Finance Sub-Committee and its meetings on 7th August 2013 and 16th September 2013. A full debate ensued.

It was proposed by Councillor Ms Atherton, seconded by Councillor Gray and

RESOLVED that:

- (i) the reports of the Finance Sub-Committee dated 7th August 2013 and 16th September 2013 be approved and the recommendations therein taken forward to form the Council's draft budget proposals for 2014/15
- (ii) the property matter reported be referred to the Council's Agent Smiths Gore to seek acquisition subject to valuation.

There being no further business to transact the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.40pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....