

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2014 in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Falmouth at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors Ms C Atherton CC (Chair), I J Body, Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel, G W Chin- Quee (to point to mentioned), O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, S D Eva (to point mentioned), S Gray, A J Jewell CC, Ms D E Merrett, Mrs P A Minson, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)  
M James (Cornwall Council Community Network Manager)  
K Hawksworth (Living Support Officer, Student Community)  
PCSO J Jukes (Devon and Cornwall Police)  
R Wilkins (Student Private Sector Support Officer)  
R Cook and W Smyth (Natural England)  
Ms G Sanguinette, Ms S White, R Tyndale- Biscoe, Ms S Smith (grant applicants)

### F4382 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Evans (ill) and Mrs V E Eva (family illness).

### F4383 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Body declared a disclosable interest in Minute F4406 (Waste Management) as he was an employee of South West Water. He left the meeting during the consideration of that item.

### F4384 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

### F4385 **GRANTS**

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 234 of the Public Health Act 1936 Specsavers be granted £250 towards the cost of a publicly accessible defibrillator for the town centre.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Mrs Minson and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 the Fal River Festival be granted £200 towards marketing and promotional activity for the 2014 event.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Body and

RESOLVED as an AMENDMENT that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act, 1972 the Royal Cornwall Branch of the Parachute Regiment Association be granted £500 towards the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event of the DDay landings.

A MOTION proposed by Councillor Mrs Minson and seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies that a grant of £250 be made was LOST.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Davies, seconded by Councillor S D Eva and

RESOLVED that no award be made to the grant request from Diaspora Arts.

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

RESOLVED that no award be made to the Cornwall Animal Hospital Charity.

It was proposed by Councillor S D Eva, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED that no award be made to the Swamp Circus Trust (Circo Kernow)

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

RESOLVED as an AMENDMENT that consideration of the grant request from Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust be deferred so that the application can be amended to seek a contribution towards the hand held catmograph.

A MOTION proposed by Councillor Mrs Brock and seconded by Councillor Jewell that a grant of £200 be made was LOST.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Minute F4371 the overspend on the Taxi Marshal Scheme of £1500 be vired from the Community Grant Budget.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) it was noted that the grant awards for Source FM Parklive 2014 and Falmouth Classics 2014 be carried over into 2014/15 financial year as they were 2014 events;
- (ii) that the previously carried over 2012/13 grant award to £1000 made to Falmouth Age UK Day Centre was still unclaimed and that it is not carried over again into 2014/15 budget.

- (iii) that as the Citizens Advice Bureau operating structure still remained unclear that the unclaimed grant be earmarked for the 2014/15 budget and carried over until the operation is progressed.

The 2013/14 grant schedule was duly noted.

F4386 **TOWN AND GOWN MATTERS**

The Chair reported upon her meeting with the Operating Officers of Falmouth and Exeter Universities regarding accommodation standards and student behaviour. Further she had met with the portfolio holder and officers at Cornwall Council and a survey of houses in multiple occupation would be undertaken and an Article 4 Direction limiting the number of such dwellings in certain areas would be progressed. It should be undertaken alongside a Neighbourhood Plan, and this could be built upon the existing Falmouth and Penryn Community Plan.

Mr James advised there would likely be Government funding assistance for the Neighbourhood Plan.

(Councillor S D Eva now left the meeting)

Messrs Hawksworth, Wilkins and PCSO Jukes then presented upon the complaint process in regards to the Universities student behaviour. At induction students were also made aware of the need to be considerate neighbours. He reminded the Council that the Universities were not in loco parentis for students and he encouraged Councillors to report to him and his colleagues any issues they were aware of, also to circulate to their constituents the community helpline numbers.

(Councillor Chin- Quee now left the meeting)

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the progression of the Article 4 Direction to limit the number of houses in multiple occupation in areas of Falmouth be noted and supported and
- (ii) the Council looks to progress an holistic Neighbourhood Plan including informing housing availability and allocation.

F4387 **FALMOUTH BAY TO ST AUSTELL BAY POTENTIAL SPECILA PROTECTION AREA (PSPA) IN SOUTH CORNWALL**

Mr Cook reported upon the proposal to offer protection for waterbirds. The identified area was of international importance for the wintering population of three rare divers and grebe species. The area extended into the Carrick Roads as this afforded shelter in rough weather. A wide range of stakeholders had been engaged to feed into the impact assessment. In regard to vulnerability assessment the deep channel dredge of Falmouth Bay and the oyster fishery had been considered a low risk to the Special Protection Area. The only impact had been identified as gill netting and the Falmouth Harbour Commissioners were involved in discussions with this aspect. There would be a solutions focussed approach to management.

Members were concerned at the social-economic impact for Falmouth in terms of the designation limiting docks oyster fishery, pleasure uses of the water and fishing.

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk in consultation with Councillor Ross on behalf of the Council formally responds to the consultation advising that it supports the preservation activities but that blanket cover was unreasonable and that the Falmouth Bay area be omitted from the designation as it would have a detrimental impact upon the socio economical needs of the town in regard to docks and shipping operation and proposed deep channel dredge, as well as the oyster fishery, fishing and water pleasure uses. It should also be noted that the identified over-wintering species currently visited the waters without the benefit of the designation.

F4388 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE AND PRECEPT CALL AND RESIDENTS INFORMATION**

The Chair reported correspondence from the Department for Communities and Local Government that referendum principles would not be extended to Town and Parish Councils in 2014/15 but would likely apply in 2015/16. She therefore reported the submitted precept call and residents letter. The report was duly noted.

F4389 **THE LOCAL AUDIT AND ACCOUNTABILITY ACT- OPENESS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT BODIES DRAFT REGULATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that the National Association of Local Councils briefing be noted and the Council endorses the representations of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils in regard to the consultation.

F4390 **VAT CONSULTATION**

The National Association of Local Councils briefing note was duly noted.

F4391 **OFF-STREET PARKING PILOTS**

The Falmouth suggested pilot for off street parking arrangements to Cornwall Council was noted and endorsed. The Cornwall Council notified pilot was also duly noted.

F4392 **LIBRARY AND ONE STOP SHOP REVIEW**

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the cessation of the mobile library and mobile one stop shop services to rural communities be noted with disappointment;
- (ii) the Council advises Cornwall Council that it

objects to the proposed changes in library and one stop shop opening hours in Falmouth, 25.5 hours library opening was insufficient for the Falmouth Community and the loss of Thursday evening and Saturday afternoon opening would exclude working people. Also changing the traditional Wednesday closing would be confusing and Monday and Wednesday closing would be more appropriate.

- (iii) Cornwall Council should expedite the agreed relocation of the one stop shop into the library operation thereby making the proposals unnecessary.

**F4393 REPEAL OF SECTION 150 (5) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972**

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

RESOLVED that the forthcoming Legislative Reform Order be noted and that the current operating systems of the Council of Councillor overview and audit would present no financial risks in moving away from the requirements for two Councillor signatories, and that the Council implements the legislative permitted changes as appropriate.

**F4394 SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT- BUSINESS (NON-DOMESTIC) RATES**

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

RESOLVED that the Council formally supports the representations under the Sustainable Communities Act by Sevenoaks Town Council for the return of a system to provide a percentage of the Business (Non-domestic) Rates to Town and Parish Councils to be used for the benefit of economic growth in the locality.

**F4395 PRECEPT CALL AND BUDGET**

The Cornwall Council framework was duly noted.

**F4396 SEAFRONT ASSETS**

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

RESOLVED that the Council proceeds to facilitate the management and renovation of sea front assets where agreed by Cornwall Council by enabling volunteers and community groups.

F4397 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT PENSION SCHEME**

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

RESOLVED that the Council continues to administer the scheme calculations for payroll and that the Council continues to offer the scheme to all eligible employees.

F4398 **CCTV**

The Town Clerk updated in this matter.

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

RESOLVED that the Council awaits the sourcing of a Truro based CCTV control room, failing that to look at alternative means of provision. Also to novate the current connections contracts from Cornwall Council.

F4399 **ANNUAL INVESTMENT STRATEGY 2014/15**

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk updates the Councils Investment Strategy.

F4400 **FINANCIAL REGULATIONS AND STANDING ORDERS**

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

RESOLVED that Standing Orders and Financial Regulations be updated as directed and reported to the Annual Meeting.

F4401 **LOCAL MAINTENACE PARTNERSHIP 2014**

The eligible funding for 2014 of £318 was duly noted.

F4402 **329 BUS SERVICE**

The Chairman reported that the Council under-written winter 329 service had not proven viable and had been terminated. It was hoped a summer service could be maintained. The Shuttle Bus route had been amended to try to provide a service for passengers affected. This was duly noted.

F4403 **CORNWALL COUNTY PLAYING FIELDS**

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

RESOLVED that the request for funding assistance be declined.

F4404 **THE RURAL SERVICES NETWORK**

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

RESOLVED that the invitation to join the Rural Sounding Board be declined.

F4405 **CAMPAIGN TO PROTECT RURAL ENGLAND**

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

RESOLVED that the invitation to join the Campaign to protect Rural England be declined.

F4406 **WASTE MANAGEMENT IN CORNWALL**

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

RESOLVED that the request from Stithians Parish Council to support its representations to Cornwall Council in regard to Waste Management proposals be declined.

F4407 **BUDGET MONITORING**

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

RESOLVED that the Budget Monitoring Report attached as part of these Minutes be agreed.

F4408 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules (attached) for January 2014 be approved.

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....