

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> September 2014 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors Ms C Atherton CC (Chair), I J Body, Mrs R D Brock, G G Chappel, O K Cramp, Mrs M Davies, G F Evans CC, S Gray, A J Jewell CC, B M A Ross and D W Saunby CC.

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

### F4473 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Chin-Quee (work), S D Eva (family commitment) and Mrs V E Eva (family commitment).

### F4474 **INTERESTS**

None received.

### F4475 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on the 14<sup>th</sup> July 2014 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

### F4476 **GRANTS**

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

RESOLVED that no grant be made to CHICKS towards respite breaks for two Falmouth disadvantaged children.

A MOTION by Councillor Mrs Minson, seconded by Councillor Gray that CHICKS be granted £1,000 was lost.

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

RESOLVED that consideration of the grant request by Falmouth School : Young Enterprise be deferred to allow the applicant to attend.

Further it was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Mrs Davies and

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 137 of the Local Government Act, 1972 the Phoenix Project be granted an annual grant of £2,000 to continue the project for Falmouth learners.

Letters of thanks for grant awards from the European 6 Meter Championship and Falmouth Under 12s were duly noted as was the 2014/15 Grants Schedule.

### F4477 **ANNUAL RETURN 2013/14**

The Council's Auditor, Grant Thornton UK LLP was satisfied with the Financial Return of the Council, subject to undertaking trustee duties in respect of Kimberley Park. The report was duly noted and the Council would undertake fully the trust role.

F4476 **2015/16 BUDGET**

The Chair and Town Clerk reported that budget aspirations would need to be notified shortly and that Cornwall Council cutbacks would impinge. Including reduction in Council Tax Support Grant and removal of Public Toilets transitional grant arrangements that may cause the Council to reconsider its toilet provision.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the report be noted
- (ii) the Council continues to engage with Cornwall Council in regard to asset and service devolution, providing it assists the Council with capacity building.

F4477 **CORNWALL COUNCIL BUDGET 2015/16**

The Chair reported huge services savings that Cornwall Council needed to make. The report was duly noted.

F4478 **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN AND ARTICLE 4 DIRECTION**

The Chair updated on progress with the Steering Group.

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

RESOLVED that the Steering Group be established, a Project Manager be engaged and a Neighbourhood Plan and Article 4 Direction be created on the Town Boundary.

F4479 **GYLLYNGVASE AND CASTLE BEACH TOILETS AND ALL SITES WINTER OPENING**

The Finance Officer reported a structural issue with Gyllyngvase Toilets and a pump issue at Castle Beach Toilets.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the Council continues to provide public toilets and in principle seeks freehold transfer of the sites if the transition grant is not forthcoming
- (ii) the Finance Officer in consultation with the Falmouth Cornwall Councillors make representations for redress of the structural issues at Gyllyngvase Toilets and remedy pump issues at Castle Beach Toilets
- (iii) the cost of works to be vired from the Municipal Buildings Earmarked Reserve and reinstated in 2015/16 budget
- (iv) the Finance Officer to report fully on all toilet issues
- (v) the Finance Officer in consultation with the Chairman agree a Service Level Agreement with Cormac Solutions for winter toilet opening.

F4480 **DRACAENA FIELDS**

The Chair reported that Councillor Toms had engaged with Cornwall Council to progress the transfer of the site. The report was duly noted.

F4481 **NEW WASTE CHARGES**

These were duly noted and the implications for the Town Council in terms of enviro-crime enforcement needed to be built in 2015/16 budget.

F4482 **LOCAL WORKS : SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITIES ACT**

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

RESOLVED that the Council supports the representations of Patchway Town Council to give all Parish and Town Councils the right to sell electricity that they generate from Local Schemes.

F4483 **TOWN AND GOWN COMMITTEE**

The Chair provided an update upon the arrangements for the Town and Gown Committee which was duly noted.

F4484 **FLY A FLAG FOR THE COMMONWEALTH**

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

RESOLVED that in principle, subject to costs, the Council participate in the event on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015.

F4485 **OPENESS REGULATIONS OF FILMING AND RECORDING MEETINGS**

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) The Council adopts a policy based on the Cornwall Association of Local Councils model policy in respect of the recording of meetings
- (ii) the Council investigate the practicality of recording its meetings.

F4486 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash schedules for July and August 2014 (attached) be approved.

F4487 **PROPERTY MATTERS – FORMER POST OFFICE**

As the contractual matters had now been completed this item was reported in Part I of the meeting.

The Chair reported the completion of the transfer of the premises.

The Town Clerk reported on the acquisition of the former Post Office. Contracts were exchanged on the premises, subject to the resolution of a minor matter, on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 and it is hoped completion will have been 5<sup>th</sup> September. A 10% (£150,000) deposit was paid using the Council's reserves pending receipt of loan income.

The lending approval from the Department of Communities and Local Government was issued on 18<sup>th</sup> August 2014 with assistance from Sarah Newton MP, as an issue arose over public consultation. The Council argued that community aspiration was clear and that the matter could not be consulted upon due to time constraints and the need to remain confidential. The approval was for £1,950,000 (the acquisition cost, expenses and for capital improvements as previously agreed by the Council).

The loan application to the Public Works Loan Board was approved on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2014 for the full amount. The fee was £682.50. The repayment period was 25 years at an annual rate of interest of 3.73%. This fixed annuity loan is repayable at six monthly intervals of £60,307.39 due on 28<sup>th</sup> February and 28<sup>th</sup> August in each year.

The position with VAT and stamp duty are as previously reported and agreed.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) the report is for noting
- (ii) the Council should continue to pursue, via its agent Smiths Gore, improved accessibility to the premises in discussion with its commercial tenants
- (iii) the Council should develop a programme of capital improvements based on the recommendations within the Surveyor's Report
- (iv) the Council should determine compliance and facilities management arrangements for the premises.

F4488 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting for the following business as it involves the consideration of contractual and staffing matters.