

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee held on 17th June 2026 at 6pm in the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors D A Konik (Chair), J A Walkden (Vice-chair), D V Evans BEM CC and A Munden.

Also Present: Councillors D E Clegg CC, A L Rowe CC and D S Saunby CC

In attendance: R J Gates	(Town Manager)
A Medlin	(Facilities Manager)
M Stannard	(Grounds Manager)
K M Hall	(Strategic Environment Projects Officer)
V Rogers	(Administrative Officer)
Amanda, Debs & Cherry	(Tree People representatives)

The Chair reminded attendees that the Council had committed to the Civility and Respect Pledge, that is to treat everyone participating in the meeting tonight with civility and respect in their roles. For us respect is treating others with dignity, recognizing boundaries, being non-judgmental and accepting of differences. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated. In dealing with the business of the meeting we will adhere to our agenda and the processes set out in our Standing Orders. Please be aware that the meeting is a public one and there may be recordings of your participation.

GFEA229 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Andrewartha (work) and Howes (holiday).

GFEA230 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

GFEA231 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 18th March 2026 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

GFEA232 BASKETBALL PROVISION AT DRACAENA FIELDS

No presentation was made and Councillors discussed the suitability of the location. Councillor Rowe recommended that the Committee support the proposals when they are presented to the Committee.

GFEA233 FALMOUTH TREE PEOPLE

A presentation was received from the Falmouth Tree People on proposals for a community led initiative to create a network of pocket orchards across town controlled land, enhancing biodiversity, wellbeing and community engagement through a low cost, volunteer supported model.

They responded to Councillors' questions and the Grounds Manager confirmed that he was happy to assist the implementation of the scheme.

CLASSIFICATION: DRAFT - NOT YET RATIFIED BY COUNCIL COMMITTEE
It was proposed by Councillor Konik, seconded by Councillor Walkden and

RESOLVED that the Council support the initiative.

GFEA234 GROUNDS MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Grounds Manager presented his Part I report and responded to questions. The report was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

The update from the Environmental, Education and Enforcements Officer was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

GFEA235 FACILITIES MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

No Part I Report.

GFEA236 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OFFICER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Strategic Environmental Projects Officer presented her report and responded to questions. The report was duly noted and is attached as part of these minutes.

She updated on The Sea Starts Here yellow fish campaign to prevent unsuitable items being disposed of in drains which it is hoped will be trialled in the Longfield area. She asked for Cornwall Councillor support as Highways currently were not supporting this initiative.

GFEA237 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Manager presented the Town Clerk's Report and, along with the Grounds Manager, responded to questions. It was agreed that a further discussion would be held once Cornwall Council have made a decision on public realm weed treatment.

GFEA238 BIODIVERSITY POLICY

The Chair thanked Councillors Walkden and Munden, the Strategic Environmental Officer and Grounds Manager for their input into the proposed policy.

It was proposed by Councillor Konik, seconded by Councillor Walkden and

RESOLVED that the Council adopts the Biodiversity Policy subject to the following amendments under Land Management:

- i) to add 'where appropriate'to: Establish a planting palette and schedule planting with biodiversity in mind, particularly prioritising pollinators and local endemic species.
- ii) phase out the use of chemical controls in public spaces and to use glysophate only for the control of invasive species only.

It was further proposed by Councillor Konik, seconded by Councillor Munden and

RESOLVED that the Biodiversity Policy is reviewed once Cornwall Council have made a decision on public realm weed treatment and the report on the use of glysophate is available.

GFEA239 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Konik, seconded by Councillor Munden and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters, it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public be excluded from the meeting.

Grounds Report 17th June 2026

Dracaena.

Work will commence on resurfacing the goal mouths and other problem areas as well as growing the lined areas out and re-marking to re-straighten the pitch lines.

Two interested parties Kernow Pixies and another football club are interested in using the pitches. (The FA do allow three teams to play on 2 football pitches)

As well as possibly advertising, to highlight to the public about costs unavailability on hiring the pitch.

Fix and Flourish have clear the old play area and is looking to make it into a basketball court once funding has been secured. The Council should consider supporting that use there.

Trescobeas.

Japanese knotweed has been treated and will continue to be treated until eradicated this will be a spring and autumn treatment over 4 years, a development company will remove the knotweed on the farmers field side and put in a root barrier.

Kimberly park

Seasonal bedding is planted, Tom Cathey is covering in the garden and will continue to remove invasive plants and weeds in preparation for replanting in the autumn to re invigorate the beds and borders, signs have been made-up and will be placed on the entrance warning members of the public about possible empty beds and the reason for this.

Additional signage is provided warning FTC vehicles only allowed in the park with further general signage for the park.

Meeting with southwest water has been put back.

Cemeteries

Work has started to fix areas damaged by the storms, a tree specialist was brought in and felled three large dangerous trees, an external contractor will remove the wood from the cemetery. A contractor is fixing the top road that was damaged by a fallen tree,

a track chipper will be hired to remove the numerous piles of branches stored around the cemetery.

As part of the compliance regime, equipment has been sourced to start the banding and securing of gravestones, once wobble tested the owners of the gravestones will be contacted and after six months if it has not rectified FTC will make it safe.

Roundabout sponsorship

Hillhead roundabout sponsorship has ended so we can look to advertise a Falmouth town council asset. (in any interim pending new sponsorship)

General.

Work is continuing in the depots to reach health and safety compliance.

Public Rights of Way work on going

Beacon Point a new bin will be fitted in the car park, a Nexus with a 360ltr as the new one is too small.

Biodiversity policy has been amended it needs to be agreed.

Council vehicles now run on HVO diesel more environmentally friendly.

Chapel once finally connected will be running on solar panels.

Street spraying will now be done by CORMAC for Cornwall council, Town Clerk will sit on a committee with Cornwall council with future decisions and the Implementing of these future services.

The Town Clerk has been invited to sit on Cornwall Council Working Group to review future public realm weed treatment.

Environmental, Education, and Enforcement Officers

Tess and Andy had Sand Sfe on Gylly beach to raise awareness about plastic free bonfires on the beach in general safety.

Public Space Protection Order (PSPO): open fires on the beach. Cornwall Council are currently consulting.

Both operatives will be trained in water testing and will do so once a month to test for pollution.

May 2026 Environmental Education and Enforcement Officers for Falmouth Town Council



Areas of focus this month above normal patrols and duties

- Tregonigie Woodland Fair Sat 9th; here we held a butterfly making workshop (out of toilet rolls), talking all things nature and looking after our woodlands/parks/waterway here in Falmouth. We were so busy all day!!
- Tessa sat on the panel of the FBRA AGM Sunday 10th answering the residents questions and concerns about the area. We enjoyed the day and took away lots of information and jobs to do!
- Sand Safe Event – Bringing all our partners together to network before the summer rush and to engage with the beach users. We also had made Seagull scarers, played beach games, hula hooped, learned all about the sea grass meadows here off Gylly Beach, chatted all things community groups, chatted to people across Europe with the Coast Radio team and held a litter picking station. All topped off by an fly past of a Culdrose helicopter, where the crew waved at us all. A beautiful day weather wise too. Big thank you to the Mayor who attended on the day .
- Prislw Woods Board walk deep clean – clean of the whole area beyond the board walk area.
- Dealt with 5 abandoned tents and the rubbish associated with this, including one major encampment with large volumes of rubbish.
- Water testing training including river fly identification. We will start testing once a month on Bickland stream. We will be involving the local schools.
- Van Dwellers – working with residents and van dwellers re. on street parking in Falmouth. Working on building understanding on both sides. Building resources on the law around such issues.
- We attending the Deactivation training course.
- We installed the new Beach Signs on Gylly with regard to NO DOGS ON THE BEACH signs.

Tessa and Andy



March 2026 – Strategic Environmental Projects
Report for Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
Carbon Reduction	Mortuary Building – Solar Installation complete	Regular meetings to monitor further energy saving measures at PP. Continue replacing florescent lights with LED throughout library as funds allow.
Biodiversity	Invasive species (INNS) removal programme in the SSSI section of the Green Corridor being undertaken by Cornwall Wildlife Trust UoE intern created maps of all FTC park & open spaces on Parish On-line.	Councillors to propose a Biodiversity policy for adoption Once adopted, work with Grounds Manager to develop BAP
Events	Coastal Resilience 14 March (Cllr Clegg lead) took place with c. 60 attendees. Spring clean across town undertaken at several locations. April SWW water-saving event cancelled. FEP hosted a community energy event at Dracaena. Festival for the Ocean 7 June @ Gylly	Cllr Walken & Evans to run two further Climate Emergency events at Dracaena & Social Club.
Sewerage	SWW monthly update meetings set up with SEPO. Website with details of works Falmouth Sewer Improvement Scheme (southwestwater.co.uk) .	Meetings to be arranged with SWW to discuss specific townscape interventions with all relevant stakeholders
Community Engagement	SEPO attends Fal Energy Partnership monthly meetings, Fal/Helford SAC meetings quarterly. FTC attend Falmouth Green Corridor meetings quarterly. Worked with Town Team on Beach Day during Falmouth Week SandSafe event held on Gylly on May 27 th to engage beach goers in environmentally appropriate behaviour.	

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
Ocean Recovery	Liaison with Falmouth Marine Conservation to assess FTC involvement with various projects including snorkel safaris. 'We are the Ocean' banners relocated in town. Fal & Helford Charter adopted by committee in March. Cornwall Council issued a Marine Nature Recovery Framework. Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Marine Nature Recovery Framework Let's Talk Cornwall Blue Meadows seagrass restoration in Falmouth Bay planned to commence in spring 2026	FTC to support Blue Meadows project. Work with CC Fal & Helford Officer to promote best practice on the ocean.
Transport	Promote cycle events organised by Councillor Evans via socials. Staff Cycle to Work Scheme 2026 ran until 30 March 2026.	
Communication	Relevant events organised by others promoted via FTC channels No Dogs/Fires on beaches signs delivered and on site New directional signs on Green Corridor delivered.	Promotion of events Signs to be installed once water table settles.
Other	Soft plastics recycling now included in council waste stream. Screening of 'National Emergency Briefing' held on 28 April. Supported the creation of a Beach Toy Library at Castle Beach with Plastic Free Falmouth. Signposts installed along Green Corridor. Coordinate a group of known Climate related Officers in Cornwall town and parish councils. Quarterly meeting.	
Budget	£9,000 allocated. Expenditure; Toy Library £200 Festival 4 the Ocean £500 Film screening £140	

Decisions requested from **Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee;**

Prepared by Karen Hall, Strategic Environmental Projects Officer

June 2026



Festival for the Ocean

Festival for the Ocean

FREE
FAMILY
EVENT

Sunday 7 June
Gyllyngvase Beach
Falmouth
11am - 2pm



EXPLORE

Discover Falmouth's
ocean life and
marine science



CREATE

Get hands-on with
arts, crafts and
creative activities



PROTECT

Learn how we can
all care for our
ocean together

TIMED ACTIVITIES



11.00am
Snorkel safari



12.30pm
Marine stranding demo



1.30pm
Beach clean



12.00pm
Basket Shark & Cuttlefish
parade



1.00pm
BRUV's camera demo

DROP-IN ACTIVITIES



Oyster
Display



Cyanotype
art



Recycled
Plastic
Weaving



Children's
storytelling



Cake sale
for charity



... And lots
more

#LeaveOnlyFootprints



FALMOUTH
TOWN COUNCIL



Supported by Cornwall Council's Fal and Helford Marine Recreational
Mitigation Project

In its second year, Falmouth Town Council organised another spectacular celebration of the sea and its inhabitants which took place on Sunday 7 June. The festival was supported by Cornwall Council's Fal and Helford Marine Recreational Mitigation Project.

Thousands of festival goers flocked to Gyllngvase Beach to encounter an oversized cuttlefish and a life-size basking shark parading along the shoreline. Falmouth University's Duncan Cameron was the curator and creator of the giant sculptures depicting wildlife that can be found in Falmouth's Bay using art as a form to highlight the plight of the ocean.

Alongside the spectacle, Cornwall's foremost organisations who look after our valuable natural assets were on hand to educate, inform and inspire children and adults alike about the habitats and creatures that call our waters their home.

There were activities galore to satisfy the fun-loving and curious for the three hour extravaganza. From Snorkel safaris to seagull scarer making, litterpicking to live demonstrations or magnetic fishing to giant jaws, it was all there.

A huge thank you goes to all those who took part and made the Festival for the Ocean so successful. Especially to our activity providers

Falmouth Marine Conservation
Cornwall Wildlife Trust
Ocean Buffer
University of Exeter
Falmouth University
Plastic Free Falmouth
Marine Biology Life
BDMLR (British Divers Marine Life Rescue)
Falmouth Library
Falmouth Art Gallery
Greenpeace
NCI
CRAC