

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee held on 12th June 2024 at 6pm at the Atherton Suite, The Old Post Office, The Moor, Falmouth.

Present: Councillors D E Clegg (Chair), K J Edwards, D V Evans BEM, D W Saunby CC, J M Spargo and Z Young

Also present: Councillors A J Jewell and E E Seiler

In attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
A Medlin (Facilities Manager)
K M Hall (Strategic Environmental Projects Officer)
V Rogers (Administration Officer)

GFEA127 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillor Rowe (ill).

GFEA128 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

GFEA129 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Edwards and

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 15th April 2024 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

GFEA130 GROUND MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Chair presented the Grounds Manager Part I report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

GFEA131 FACILITIES MANAGER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Facilities Manager presented his report that is attached as part of these minutes and was duly noted. He responded to questions on Re:Source Project and advised that demolition would commence on 24th June 2024 with completion due by 31st March 2025. He further updated the Committee on matters pertaining to his report.

GFEA132 STRATEGIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECTS OFFICER OVERVIEW AND UPDATE

The Strategic Environmental Projects Officer's presented her report which was duly noted and is attached as part of these minutes. She further reported that South West Water would commence works in Queen Mary Gardens in the Autumn and will be invited to the Council meeting in December 2024 to give an update.

The Carbon Reduction Plan 2024-2030 was considered.

It was proposed by Councillor D V Evans, seconded by Councillor Edwards and

RESOLVED to endorse the Carbon Reduction Plan
2024-2030.

The response from DEFRA regarding the ban on wet wipes containing plastic was noted.

GFEA133 **FOOTPATH PROJECT**

Councillor D V Evans gave an update on the Footpath Project which would aim to have all footpaths in the locality maintained to the same standard and following Cornwall Council updating its Local Maintenance Partnership arrangements. Public engagement and consultation would take place.

GFEA134 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Spargo 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 12/06/24 – Part I

My apologies as I'll be away 07/06/24 - 13/06/24inc

Summer bedding, all in now but baskets are delayed to around mid-June due to cold dark Spring

Skatepark, progressing well, our team currently following behind the contractor bunding soil around the outside in preparation for wild flower seeding. Grand opening event planned for 14th September

History evening at Pendennis Castle went very well and we have around 20 members of the newly formed "Pendennis Headland Action Group" a community group formed for ease of accessing funding, research, cataloguing and project works etc.

Progress with project works carried out by Grounds Team and various voluntary groups so far is good

Street weed treatment Penryn & Budock completed; Falmouth treated in Jan, still looking reasonable so will follow in July

KP War Memorial Listed building consent obtained for restoration work 50% funded by the War Memorials Trust; cleaning and recutting/painting of inscriptions.

Soil replacement project KP went very well and finished ahead of schedule.

Trescobeas the soil from KP used to level and seed areas of the pump track, seed is now all germinated and looking good

Gylyngdune gdns, new fencing installed to protect seasonal bedding.

Old Cemetery is due for a cut; cut in sections rather than all in one go so there's always areas for insects to feed.

12 volunteers have come forward to carry out the GPS Plotting of headstones, part of an initiative that will allow the public to search on line for family graves, which will save the Cemetery Manager a great deal of time.

Footpaths second cut of the season due now as well



Facilities Manager Update:

1. ReSource Project – Kimberley Park Lodge

The tender window relating to the main contractor element of the project closed on the 10th May. A singular compliant bid was received by Richards Builders, Leedstown in the sum of £741k.

The original capital build element identified a budget of £458k excluding additional structural elements relating to full roof replacement and additional foundation requirements identified through intrusive surveys undertaken during the tender period.

The Project Manager / QS undertook an extensive value engineering assessment which ultimately identified construction savings of £120k.

Revised project costs were identified at £783k and consisted of the following;

Capital build	621k
Specialist fit out	35k
Fees	60k
Engagement Officer	67k

A further grant funding application was submitted to CC (Good Growth) to support the additional project costs.

The Project Change Request (PCR) application identified shared funding contributions as follows;

Overall Project cost increased by £173k – Now **£783k**

CC grant contribution (82%) increase from £500k – Now £642k (SPF GoodGrowth)

FTC grant contribution (18%) increase from £75k – Now £106k (General Reserve)

External funding / crowd funder not changed £ 35k

CC agreed revised increased grant funding contribution on the 28th May. (£642k)

Progression of contractual arrangements and site programme requirements have been instructed with Richards Builders.

The project completion and funding spend deadline is the 31st March 2025. CC has confirmed that there is no indication that this is likely to be extended despite local lobbying.

Site delays in completing the project could potentially expose FTC to financial risks relating to the repayment of all previously secured valuations. (clawback)

Risks associated with the above have been communicated with the contractor who continues to support initiatives to reduce site costs and activity duration.

Monthly progress reports will enable appropriate management of programme risks.

2. Municipal Building

Technical surveys have continued relating to the refurbishment and upgrade requirements for the premises.

Unfortunately the expression of interest for accessing the MEND fund was unsuccessful. (£2m)

A further strategic review is now planned to identify future funding streams and refurbishment programmes.

3. Princess Pavilion

Tender packages for the improvements identified within the Community Ownership Fund (£238k) are being formulated prioritising heating and insulation activities initially.

Further technical instructions have been issued related to loading surveys of the theatre floor, roof walkway access and lighting rigs in response to increased event demand.

Andy Medlin
Facilities Manager



**June 2024 – Strategic Environmental Projects
Report for Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee**

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
Environmental Projects/ initiatives	<p>CC successfully secured ZEBRA2 to acquire an electric bus for service 60 Falmouth Town.</p> <p>Falmouth Town Council formally signed up as a supporter of the Zero Hour’s campaign to back the Climate & Nature Bill.</p> <p>FTC Cycle to Work Scheme launched successfully – 3 applications from staff out of 65 employees.</p>	<p>Electric bus will be in service in 2025. FTC contribution £5,000.</p> <p>Work with Falmouth Week participants to promote sustainable initiatives.</p>
Carbon Reduction	<p>Princess Pavilion – Successful funding application from Community Ownership Fund (COF) for solar panels and new low carbon lighting.</p> <p>Passmore Edwards Municipal Building - Energy options appraisal completed. F&GP approved up to £70,000 to fund design stage.</p> <p>Community Capacity Fund received = £10,000 to cover bat survey and decarbonisation feasibility study. Bat survey completed – further survey required. Decarbonisation feasibility study commissioned.</p> <p>MEND EOI submitted in April and has been rejected.</p> <p>Carbon Reduction Plan incorporating Carbon Audit completed.</p>	<p>Tenders to be prepared for installation of carbon saving technologies at PP.</p> <p>Committee to approve Carbon Reduction Plan for adoption by Full Council.</p> <p>In the absence of MEND application for PE Municipal Building alternative funding mechanism to be identified.</p> <p>PSDS application to be prepared in autumn.</p>
Events	<p>Initial discussion held with South West Bars & Events to identify improvements to sustainability for their events.</p> <p>The Big Green Week 8 – 16 June. Events arranged in conjunction with the Library.</p> <p>Response received from South West Bars re waterless toilets at events, text from email attached. Also Environmental statement for SWB issued. Cultural Services & Leisure committee overseeing this.</p>	<p>Collaborating with Art Gallery around Summer exhibition, Ammeth which focusses on farming/food in Cornwall starting on 6 July.</p>
Water	<p>EA provisional plan supplied for Prince of Wales Pier flood alleviation - seeking MMO approval and then will submit a planning application.</p> <p>Delayed.</p>	<p>Emergency plan (incorporating flood plan) to be finalised and presented.</p>

Focus	Action taken	Next steps
	SWW monthly update meetings set up with SEPO SWW cancelled wet-wipe free town campaign.	SWW works - Queen Mary's Gardens section to commence in October 2024 due to be completed by Spring 2025.
Community Engagement	SEPO attending Fal Energy Partnership and VSF Climate & Environment Alliance monthly meetings. SEPO attends Fal/Helford SAC meetings quarterly. SandSafe event took place on 15 May at Gylly Beach.	SEPO developing possibility of an interactive environmental trail around town.
Ocean Recovery	Declaration made in Jan 2022. Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Marine and Coastal Partnership prepared Marine Nature Recovery Opportunities for the Fal and Helford. Falmouth Harbour (FH) installed artificial reef off Church Street Car Park in May. Interpretation panel installed on railings in car park.	SEPO to attend quarterly meetings of CloS Marine and Coastal Partnership. Celebration of marine habitat photo call with FH scheduled for 18 October.
Communication	Volunteer recruitment being promoted via Lovefalmouthvolunteers Environmental section to be published when new website goes live – Environmental projects to be promoted; Sandsafe, volunteering	
Other	Wildlife beds in New Cemetery designed	Planting to be undertaken in autumn 2024
Recycling		Date for new waste service to roll out to mid West area 5 (probably in 2025)
Budget	£8,000 allocated in 2024/25 budget.	

Decisions requested from **Grounds, Facilities & Environmental Action Committee;**
Committee to approve Carbon Reduction Plan for adoption by Full Council.

Prepared by Karen Hall, Strategic Environmental Projects Officer June 2024



Appendix 1

Email from Ben Carrington representing South West Bars regarding waterless toilets at events

Thank you for your suggestions in offering a more environmentally friendly solution for event sanitation.

I am an advocate of Compost loos under appropriate circumstances. I utilise them on other shows and whilst they are a great, environmentally friendly solution on a green field site with sufficient open space to separate them and dissipate unpleasant odours, they are not at all suitable for events staged in a domestic event location for numerous reasons.

They rely on the application of sawdust to prevent odour, the effectiveness of which is questionable, and whilst our on-site toilets are emptied and cleaned thoroughly each day this is simply not possible with compostable loos. When considering this in addition to the fact that they are less enclosed structurally to allow them to ventilate, and the lack of antibacterial chemical, they are far less sterile.

As they cannot be serviced or emptied until removal, we would need far more units to service the festival and we simply do not have space for this in Falmouth.

Furthermore, their nature as large, heavy trailers make the logistics of delivering, siting and removing them challenging in an urban environment such as Falmouth town.

Overall the lack of antibacterial / odour suppressant chemical or ability to service makes them unsuitable for use here when considering their proximity to food traders, local businesses and residential properties.

I hope this goes some way to assuring the councillors that we hold sustainable practice at heart as an organisation by default, and that we will always adopt good practice wherever real world application is feasible.

Warm regards,

Ben

Ben Carrington / Events Director

Appendix 2

Interpretation panel installed overlooking new artificial reef installation

