

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 25th November 2019 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors R J O'Shea (Chairman), B M A Ross (Vice-Chairman), R J Bonney, L D Coley, S D Eva, G F Evans CC MBE, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, P A Minson, A Parker, J C Robinson, D W Saunby CC and J M Spargo

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
R N Thomas (Finance Officer)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council)
C Leyshon and C Stephens (Grant applicants)

F6339 **APOLOGIES**

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Chappel (holiday) and Morgan (ill).

F6340 **INTERESTS**

Councillor Eva declared a non disclosable interest in the grant application by Callum Stephens (Minute F6342) as he was a friend of Callum's father, he left the meeting during the consideration thereof.

F6341 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Coley and

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6342 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

It was proposed by Councillor Minson, seconded by Councillor Parker and

RESOLVED that the grant request be not considered but that individual Councillors use their Community Chest allowances to meet the £500 costs associated with the set up of Falmouth Parkrun.

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

RESOLVED that the grant request be not considered but that individual Councillors use their Community Chest allowances to meet the £400 requested by Callum Stephens as a representative of Falmouth on the Cornwall Cricket Under 15 Tour to the West Indies in 2020.

The grant schedule for 2019/20 was duly noted.

F6343 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The update meeting with Zurich Customer Account Manager for the Council's Insurer was duly noted as was the renewal requirements for April 2020.

F6344 **PEER REVIEW**

The Town Clerk outlined the arrangement for the National Peer Review of the Council on 10th – 12th February 2020 which was duly noted.

F6345 **FINANCE SUB-COMMITTEE**

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

RESOLVED that the minutes and recommendations of the Sub-Committee (attached) dated 5th November 2019 be approved.

F6346 **CEMETERIES WORKING PARTY**

It was proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor Bonney and

RESOLVED that the minutes and recommendations of the Working Party (attached) dated 11th November 2019 be approved.

F6347 **KIMBERLEY PARK LODGE**

The Chairman of the Kimberley Park Working Party reported an update regarding community usage of the Lodge.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coley and

RESOLVED that in principle the Council moves forward the development of the Lodge with Source FM and Alex Bradshaw for community studios and café, subject to costs, contract and procurement requirements. A peppercorn rent arrangement with Source FM subject to them sourcing external capital funding and responsibility for all ongoing and operating costs, and a fee to be agreed regarding café operation.

F6348 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW**

Councillors Jewell, Kirkham and Saunby updated the Council regarding the recommendations of the Cornwall Council Community Governance Review Panel following the submission of the Town Council. Councillor Jewell advised he would submit an amendment to ensure the A39 boundary be implemented as requested by the Town Council and the proposals were ‘future-proofed’.

It was proposed by Councillor O’Shea, seconded by Councillor Eva and

RESOLVED that the Council supports Councillor Jewell’s proposed amendment and recognises the extension to the west (Bickland Water Road) was logical but did not future proof the boundary as required.

F6349 **ENVIRONMENTAL AUDIT**

Councillor Robinson requested the Council undertake an Environmental Audit to reduce its carbon footprint. The Chairman felt this should include paper reduction measures supporting the Council’s democratic process.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Coley and

RESOLVED that the Council commissions an Environmental Audit.

It was further proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Eva and

RESOLVED that the Council reduces its paper publishing of agendas and investigates the costings for issuing individual electronic devices to Councillors, publishing agenda links and displaying agenda on screens at meeting.

F6350 **WATER FOUNTAIN AND FITZROY BAROMETER**

Councillor Parker updated the Council on the proposal to refurbish and re-site the Water Fountain as a bottle refill point and the historic Fitzroy Barometer at Custom House. Both artefacts had been gifted to the town but had fallen into disrepair. For the scheme to move forward the Town Council would need to adopt the assets.

It was proposed by Councillor Parker, seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

RESOLVED that the Council fully supports the proposal, adopts the ownership and responsibility of the artefacts and meets the cost of water supply.

F6351 **FALMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN**

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

RESOLVED that the progress of the Plan through assessment be noted and the attached responses to the Assessors be endorsed.

F6352 **TOWN COUNCIL PRECEPT**

The tax-base information was duly noted and the intention of Cornwall Council to pay the precept in two tranches in April and September 2020. They required precept level to be notified by 31st December 2019. The Council Tax Support Grant had been set at £67,288.88, and the Government did not intend to apply Council Tax Referendums in 2020/21.

It was noted that Cornwall Council had advised business rates relief of public toilets would be applied but this was in error and was premature.

F6353 **INTERNAL AUDIT 2019/20**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Interim Audit report by the Council's Internal Auditor be received and the recommendations noted and enacted where required.

F6354 **LOCAL MAINTENANCE PARTNERSHIP 2020/21**

The Cornwall Council grant of £402.71 and South West Coast Path amount of £2,103.36 was duly noted.

F6355 **DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21**

Pursuant to Minute F6329 the Council further considered its draft budget, and debated this at length.

The Town Clerk and Finance Officer strongly recommended the replenishment of reserve levels as identified by the Council's Internal Auditor.

The Town Mayor wished to raise a matter that was confidential, so it was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Saunby and

RESOLVED that the press and public be temporarily excluded from the meeting in the public interest for the following business as it involves the consideration of property funding and contractual matters.

The Town Mayor and Councillor Kirkham reported on the Falmouth Place Shaping proposals, that may have a bearing on the 2020/21 Council budget.

It was proposed by Councillor Eva, seconded by Councillor Saunby and

RESOLVED that the press and public be readmitted to the meeting.

The debate on draft budget continued and Councillor Robinson proposed that the Committee move to the vote.

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED that the Council agrees its budget for 2020/21 as attached at £2,547,522 and the Council be recommended to set its precept at £2,190,405.70. In addition a second budget option be prepared including an additional amount of £50,000 for Place Shaping projects.

F6356 **MAKING SPACE FOR NATURE**

The Town Clerk reported the progress of the Council supported project sites at The Beacon, Lambs Lane Estate and Swanvale Open Space. Tregonigie Wood was the reserve list project site.

In regards to Prislow Wood meetings had now taken place with South West Water, residents and the Friends Group.

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

RESOLVED that the reports be noted and that the Council proceeds to request the lease of the land at a peppercorn rent from South West Water to enable the Friends of Prislow Woods to reinstate access and the footpath, meeting the Falmouth Neighbourhood Plan 'Green Corridor' aspiration.

F6357 **CCLA**

The Town Clerk had met with the CCLA Relationship Manager regarding the Council's investment and performance of the Property and Deposit funds. The reports and factsheets were duly noted.

F6358 **TOWAGE AND ALVAGE IN THE SOUTH WEST APPROACHES**

The Council's representations in this matter and the response of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency was duly noted.

F6359 **POLLING DISTRICT AND POLLING PLACES ORDER**

The update regarding the approval of the Order and its partial implementation for the General Election on 12th December 2019 was duly noted.

F6360 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedules for October 2019 (attached) be approved.

F6361 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Parker and

RESOLVED that the press and public be excluded from the meeting in the public interest for the following business as it involves the consideration of property, funding and contractual matters.

FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

PART II

25TH NOVEMBER 2019

F6362 **MINUTES**

It was proposed by Councillor O'Shea, seconded by Councillor Ross and

RESOLVED that the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 14th October 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F6363 **TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

(1) **Cemetery Extension**

The Town Clerk reported protracted matters regarding the transfer to the Council of land at Bickland Water Road. The completion date had been extended to allow matters to be resolved and there may be additional legal fees. The report was noted.

(2) **CCTV**

The additional monitoring hours for the festive period had been identified and were chargeable as per the collective agreement formula.

Further the quote had been received for the additional cameras, £11,016.78 excluding VAT. Cornwall Council would meet the capital cost of the camera at Quarry Hill. The revenue costs would match the agreed costs as already applicable.

It was proposed by Councillor Ross, seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

RESOLVED that

- (i) the additional monitoring hours for the 2019 festive period be agreed
- (ii) the additional cameras be commissioned as quoted.

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.50pm.

Signed: Date: