

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held virtually by Zoom on Monday 2nd November 2020 at 7.00pm.

Present: Councillors S D Eva (Town Mayor), P A Minson (Deputy Mayor), R J Bonney, G G Chappel BEM, L D Coley, G F Evans CC MBE, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, M C Morgan, R J O'Shea, A Parker, J C Robinson, B M A Ross, D W Saunby CC, and J M Spargo.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
R G Gates (Town Manager)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council – Smithick Electoral Division)
Sergeant P Kelly (Falmouth Community Police Team)
G Pipkin (Chief Executive Cornwall Citizens Advice)
Reverend W Stuart-White (Mayor's Chaplain)

PRAYERS

Prior to the commencement of the meeting prayers were said by the Mayor's Chaplain.

The Town Mayor changed the order of business to facilitate the attendance of the Town Manager.

C5356 APOLOGIES

None received.

C5357 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

C5358 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting held on 7th September 2020 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

C5359 TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor updated the Council on civic activity including a visit to HMS Tamar and First Poppy Remembrance Event, which was held in the new Remembrance Garden at Kimberley Park, with commemorative stone in situ. He hoped the Remembrance Events on the 8th and 11th November could proceed despite national lockdown measures.

He updated on Council activity and felt the University funded community Covid Marshals had been very well received. He had met with the Town Council's Management Team and the Town Clerk would update the Council on measures necessary for the second lockdown phase commencing on 5th November 2020.

C5360 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

No report.

C5361 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

C5362 CORNWALL CITIZENS ADVICE

The Chief Executive of Cornwall Citizens Advice reminded Councillors of the history of Citizens Advice from its formation in 1939. It remained a charity with no fixed source of funding. This year it had been at the forefront of supporting communities during the covid pandemic which had seen a large increase in clients and a reduced volunteer base to provide the service. In Cornwall 9,500 people had been assisted with over 55,000 issues. In Falmouth 1,000 people with over 2,300 issues. Mainly benefits and debt advice. There were 9 hubs in Cornwall and 6 outreaches. Due to the national restrictions, there were currently no face-to-face services. The service had emergency funding until March 2021, thereafter the position was uncertain.

She responded to Members questions and some of the local electoral division members committed to local funding. The Community Network Manager would also explore the issue of Business Rates on charity buildings.

C5363 POLICE REPORT

Sergeant Kelly presented the Community Police Report. He updated on the Force Strategy for Local Priorities 2020-21. These included domestic abuse, dangerous drugs and violence, child abuse and exploitation, vulnerability impacts, modern slavery, fraud and cybercrime. All were assessed in terms of threat, risk, and harm. The local community team (Falmouth and Penryn) consisted of 3 Neighbourhood Beat Managers and 3 PCSOs (reducing to 2). 1 or 2 NBMs would be recruited. Currently local work was focussed on drug networks and 'county lines'. Safer Falmouth initiatives and anti-social behaviour associated with street drinking remained an issue. A multi-agency approach and the recent issue of Community Banning Orders on some individuals were seeing improvements. The community team were also working with the Universities funded Covid Marshals as well undertaking licensed premises checks.

Early in 2021 there would be an uplift in officers with a dedicated crime investigation team being created for Falmouth and Helston, which would free up response units and assist the neighbourhood team.

He responded to Members questions around domestic abuse reporting, the 101 reporting service, and further details regarding the local policing changes. Crime reporting had fallen during the summer but there had been an increase in ASB and covid breaches.

C5364 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

No report.

C5365 COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER'S REPORT

The Community Link Officer updated the Council on the recent meetings of the Community Network Panel including its review of Local Outbreak Management Plans. On 17th November 2020 it would review local highways schemes. There had been 11 expressions of interest so far. The Climate Change Sub-Group had been re-established and would meet on 10th December 2020.

The Localism Team continues to work on the Falmouth asset Devolution package, although capacity meant this would not be progressed before May 2021. Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Gardens had been moved to the fore and identified as a stand-alone priority for transfer.

Further she updated on the work of Safer Falmouth and some current issues with unauthorised vehicles in Cliff Road. There was Department of Transport funding available for pedestrian and cycling improvements that were being trialled in Falmouth and Penryn. She confirmed Falmouth had been successful in £25,000 Reopening the Highstreets Funding and its request for community recovery plan funding assistance was being considered. A second phase of Highstreets Funding had now been announced. Emergency Food and Accommodation Grants were also being made available.

C5366 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Smithick

Councillor Kirkham reported on Safer Falmouth and marshals support. As well as the cycling proposals and high-street funding streams. She was hopeful the Business Grant Scheme would assist those businesses in her electoral division who had been excluded from support so far. Cornwall Council had provided a briefing on recycling and waste collection changes and she noted this would be presented to the Town Council at its next meeting. Car parking continued to be an issue as well as construction works associated with the Fish Strand Hill and Penwerris Quarry developments.

Boslowick

Councillor Jewell updated on highways schemes at Turnaware Road and Faulkner Close. Hedge clearing works were required at Mongleath Avenue. He referenced enforcement action regarding aspects of the Linden Homes development. Recently Cornwall Council Planning Committee had recognised the Council's objections and refused the proposed development at 141 Boslowick Road. It had however allowed the development in Silverdale Road. He was concerned at a lack of democratic input to decisions during the covid restrictions. He had also been concerned at public behaviour in not observing social distancing requirements, particularly in respect of beach use and Falmouth University open days, although those had now ceased. He advocated support for mental health initiatives particularly for individuals affected by the covid restrictions.

Arwenack

Councillor Evans updated on traffic schemes and yellow lining at Grove Hill Crescent and Melvill Road. Swanpool Road had requested yellow lines that would be considered. Camper vans and overnight parking and anti-social behaviour was an issue for Cliff Road. The caravan dweller had now left Divers Car Park. Listed building repairs to the pillar in Arwenack Avenue had commenced. He also updated on several planning matters.

Trescobeas

Councillor Saunby reported on cycle and pedestrian improvements trial. A highway gateway feature would be created at Union Corner. He reported on some Cornwall Housing issues. Also parking in Dracaena Avenue was an issue. The former Rosslyn Hotel site development was progressing.

Penwerris

No report.

C5367 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Report dated 19th October 2020 was presented by Councillor O'Shea, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 19th October 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 1st September 2020 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 1st September 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 21st September 2020 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 21st September 2020 be approved.

The Planning Committee Part Report dated 12th October 2020 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chairman of the Committee.

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

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 12th October 2020 be approved.

The Licensing Committee Report dated 26th October 2020 was presented by Councillor Morgan, Chairman of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Morgan, seconded by Councillor Gillett and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 26th October 2020 be approved.

C5368 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Town Manager presented the Town Management Report that was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C5369 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – PART I

The Town Clerk presented his Part I Report that was duly noted and forms part of these Minutes. Also:

Lockdown Restrictions: 5 November –2 December 2020

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

RESOLVED that the service delivery restrictions as per the Town Clerk's Report be implemented during the national lockdown phase, and the Council re-adopts the delegated scheme as previously operated, and including consultation with the Chair of Finance and General Purposes Committee on financial decisions and the Chair of the Staffing Committee on staffing and HR matters.

C5370 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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



FALMOUTH

the spirit of the sea

Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 02/11/20

Positive Engagement Plan

This has very much continued with the road closures continuing into October and Market Street, Church Street and Arwenack finishing on the 1st Nov and High Street that finished a few weeks ago. This is always a balance and of course, public safety is paramount but at the same time being mindful of the budget implications and what works for all concerned from business to community.

Covid Marshals

After the Mayor's initial meeting with the Universities a lot of work has taken place behind the scenes to get the Covid Marshals off the ground. This started on the 9th Oct and is a four-week pilot operating from 4pm until 4am, 7 days a week. This is jointly funded by both universities and I would certainly like to see this continue. It has been very well received, Kim and his team from Infinitus have dealt with a wide variety of instances. For example, groups that are 7 or 8 in number (i.e. just above the rule of 6) versus others that have been 20 in a group. Fortunately these group number sizes have been limited but it is important that it is effectively controlled.

The two Covid marshals are wearing body worn cameras and if required footage will be shared with the universities. It is important to say that Kim and his team have spoken to people of all ages, so it is not just the students.

Anti-social behaviour

Linking in with above the marshals have attended addresses/streets where feedback from the universities and the public have highlighted these residents/locations, dealing with e.g. late-night noise/music etc.

Christmas planning

Cancellations including Falmouth's Festive Weekend

While it is probably no surprise that we have had to cancel key Christmas events including the Falmouth's Festive Weekend and the Harmony Choir, we have adapted as best as possible with other activities.

Falmouth's Virtual Community Christmas Event

This will be taking place on Thursday 26th Nov and we encourage the whole town to get behind it eg switching their lights on home on the same evening, Christmas messages from the around the world and

closer to home. A positive relaxed evening including the town lights switching on (weather permitting). The evening will follow a similar pattern to the virtual shanty festival and will be streamed live on our Falmouth Town UK Facebook page.

Free Car Parking Saturdays

We have also secured free parking in all Cornwall Council car parks for the Saturday's in December. This will be paid by Cornwall Council on one of the days with the other three paid for by Town Council and the BID.

South West BIDs/Cornwall Managers meeting

We are continuing in the Town Team office to ensure there are effective links across the whole region and the UK with updates from various areas and how that effects our management of the town.

Quidditch through the ages

The Mayor, Emma and I were recently involved with 'Quidditch through the ages'. This is honouring Falmouth as a Quidditch town from the Harry Potter series/books. This took place at Pendennis Castle on a wet and windy morning but again good profile for the town.



FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL
2ND NOVEMBER 2020
TOWN CLERK'S REPORT PART I

ITEM NO. 14

14.1 LOCKDOWN

The Government have announced new national Covid Lockdown arrangements from Thursday 5th November 2020. We are waiting on Government Guidance which is due on Wednesday as to what the expectations are for Councils and service delivery.

So far all we have is:

- You must stay at home
- Only leave home for food, medical reasons, exercise, education or work
- You must work from home if you can
- Avoid travel unless essential
- Schools, Universities and shops will remain open

Now one day's notice will not give us time to plan. Your Management Team met with the Mayor today and what we propose is:

- As the restrictions will prevent community buildings from operating and opening then we will close the FIS, OPO back office, Atherton Suite and room bookings, from close of play Wednesday, as well as Library and Art Gallery. There will be some further guidance on Library in terms of click and collect which we need to review.
- Council staff will work remotely, with the exception of essential workers in the Grounds and Facilities Team and as before there will be team separation as well as enhanced risk assessments that will be utilised.
- Public toilets. As there is nothing within the Covid restrictions to cause closure, it will be for each local council to decide whether it wishes to leave them open or close them. We will keep them open on our winter operating hours with an additional disinfecting cost of £80 per day.
- The Government have stated that Playgrounds and play areas can remain open if they can be done so safely and used responsibly. So we will and review that continually.
- Burials to continue as per our current 'normal' that is 30 mourners socially distanced at grave side. And the Funeral Director Covid notification process.
- Budget setting and 4 year plan to continue albeit virtually, all Managers are liaising with the Finance Officer this week to inform that. The FSC will then meet virtually.

- Remembrance events on 8th and 11th will likely need to be cancelled, unless the Government specifically exempts them in the guidance. We may have to wait until Wednesday on that.
- The Management Team will meet weekly or more often as required.
- The Sector were already recommending that Council meetings were retained virtually anyway. There can be no physical meetings at all until 2nd December. Then revert to a 6 maximum. So in effect Council meetings will continue to be virtual until May elections.
- They are also recommending that delegated arrangements be retained as per Lockdown 1 to enable Councils to be reactive.

14.2 ASSETS DEVOLUTION

Following a meeting with Cornwall Council they have confirmed that their officer capacity will mean that the package of transfers will not be enabled before May 2021.

14.3 PRINCESS PAVILION & GYLLYNDUNE GARDENS

A more positive meeting with Cornwall Council on this one. Except that a valuation is awaited that will mean the Cabinet will not be able to consider the matter in December and next meet in February. We have requested that it goes to the December meeting regardless of valuation. Your Director of Cultural Services continues to work on the business plan.

With the consent of Cornwall Council and GLL the Town Council could reopen the gardens from today, subject to Cornwall Council confirming some matters for our insurer.

14.4 CORNWALL COUNCIL COVID RECOVERY GRANT

Cornwall Council have approved our grant request towards summer road closure costs as part of our Covid community recovery plans.

14.5 CCTV

The CCTV Monitoring Contract is due for renewal in May 2021. CFRS will attend to present to Councillors to a future meeting.

14.6 MANAGEMENT TEAM

A review of the Senior Management Team is progressing as instructed by the Council and recommendations will be reported back through the Finance Sub-Committee and the Staffing Committee to the Council.

14.7 CORNWALL COUNCIL WASTE CONTRACT

Cornwall Council will update a future meeting on the new waste and recycling contract arrangements.

Mark Williams FCIS FSLCC
Town Clerk

2nd November 2020