

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 14th October 2019 at 7.00pm.

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

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council)
S Stuart (Grant applicant)
S Stratton (King Charles School Parent Teacher Association)

F6319 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received and approved from Councillors Evans (holiday) and Gillett (child care).

F6320 INTERESTS

Councillor Parker declared a non disclosable interest in the grant application by Falmouth and Penryn Amateur Boxing Club as a family member was involved with the club and he left the meeting during the consideration thereof.

F6321 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Part I minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6322 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED that the consideration of the Merlin MS Centre grant application be deferred to allow the applicant to attend.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 19 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 the Falmouth and Penryn Amateur Boxing Club be granted £500 towards the cost of new boxing gloves.

The grant schedule for 2019/20 was duly noted.

F6323 ALBANY ROAD SCHOOL CROSSING

Deferred under Minute F6308 the King Charles School Parent Teacher Association requested the Council to assist the costs (£3,000) of the school crossing patrol that Cornwall Council had ceased funding in 2017. A private donor had assisted since then but was now ceasing. It was the largest school in Falmouth. They considered that there remained a risk to children crossing the road here.

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

RESOLVED that the Council does not assist the costs of the school crossing patrol at Albany Road.

F6324 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

The Council noted the risk assessment update including the Fire Strategy for the Old Post Office and the Fire Safety Officer's inspection report.

F6325 **BUDGET MONITORING 2019/20**

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

RESOLVED that the Budget Monitoring Report be noted and agreed.

F6326 **CONCLUSION OF AUDIT 2018/19**

It was duly noted that the Council's Auditor, PFK Littlejohns had confirmed that the Annual Governance and Accountability Return was in accordance with proper practices and that there were no matters giving cause for concern that the relevant legislation and regulatory requirements had not been met. This had been duly published as required.

F6327 **LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE REVIEW**

The review was duly noted and that Council tax principles would not be applied to local Councils in 2020/21.

F6328 **WEBSITE AND DIGITAL SERVICES**

The Council noted the new transparency and access requirements and that works to the Council's websites would be expedited.

F6329 **DRAFT BUDGET 2020/21**

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

RESOLVED that the Council's draft budget be prepared including the following matters :

- replenishment of General Fund Reserves to the Internal Auditor recommended levels
- capital contribution to Skatepark Development £50,000
- all growth items and existing services be developed within the context of the Council's commitment to climate change and its strategic plan
- match funding contribution to Cruise Ship Ambassadors £2,000
- events budget increase (Tour of Britain 2020 and Falmouth Week Air Display contribution - £11,000)
- Falmouth Street Pastors £2,500
- Plastic Free/Environmental Initiatives £10,000
- new CCTV cameras provision and monitoring costs – 3 cameras £20,000
- renovation works to Municipal Buildings to be costed. Specifically £15,000 for window replacements and hearing loop for Council Chamber to be costed. Environmental friendly external uplighting to be considered.
- Shopmobility upgrades and new provision £2,500
- re-siting of memorial garden (RBL) from The Moor to Kimberley Park – to be costed
- website upgrades £8,000
- 3% staffing cost increase
- staffing reserve £50,000 (roll over annually)
- Cultural Services operating changes – to be costed

F6330 **PROPERTY VALUATIONS**

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

RESOLVED that the Council seeks updated valuations on its property.

F6331 **CORNWALL PENSION FUND**

It was noted that the Chairman and the Finance Officer would attend the forthcoming Employers and Actuaries meeting. Also that the Employer Liaison Officer would attend a future Council meeting when the Government's cost cap process, potential changes to the Local Government Pension Scheme and exit cap had been decided.

F6332 **FALMOUTH NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

The plan examination process and appointment of the examiner Mr Ashcroft was noted.

F6333 **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS – POLICY COMMITTEE**

The update from the Policy Committee from its meeting of 1st October 2019 was duly noted.

F6334 **ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH**

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

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

F6335 **COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – EXTRA ITEM**

The Town Clerk reported the further observations submitted to the Cornwall Council Community Governance Review Committee given the unsatisfactory status quo recommendations by its Officers. This had been submitted in consultation with the Town Mayor and was duly endorsed by the Committee.

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item to endorse the comments being considered by Cornwall Council.

F6336 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Minson, seconded by Councillor Ross 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

14TH OCTOBER 2019

F6337 **MINUTES**

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

RESOLVED that the Part II minutes of the meeting held on 2nd September 2019 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chairman.

F6338 **FORMER STABLE BLOCK, MELVILLE ROAD – EXTRA ITEM**

Further to the Council's desire to see the site retained in community ownership with a transfer possibility Cornwall Council had now identified the asset for disposal subject to the Town Council's interest in transfer.

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

RESOLVED that without prejudice Cornwall Council be requested to consider a transfer of the property to the Town Council subject to the Council being able to identify uses and funding sources for renovation and operation.

The Chairman agreed to take this as an urgent item to enable a timely response to Cornwall Council.

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed: Date: