

## **FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL**

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held online via Zoom on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020 at 6.00 pm.

Present: Councillors R J O'Shea (Chairman), B M A Ross (Vice-Chairman), R J Bonney, G G Chappel BEM, L D Coley, S D Eva, G F Evans CC MBE, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, P A Minson (from and to point mentioned), M C Morgan, 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)  
John and Janet Pearce (Falmouth Rotary Club – Grant applicants)

### F6426 **MEETING FORMAT**

The Chairman advised that as physical meetings were still unlawful the Committee would meet online for the time being and under the provisions of the Local Authorities (Coronavirus) (Flexibility of Local Authority Meetings) (England) Regulations 2020 that allowed local authorities to conduct meetings remotely until May 2021

He reminded Councillors that it was a public meeting that could be recorded by participants. He outlined the process for speaking and voting and stated that otherwise the usual rules for meetings applied and to be cognizant of the Code of Conduct and THAT the Council's Standing Orders remained in force. The Council had resolved to amend Standing Orders to enable remote meetings.

### F6427 **APOLOGIES**

None received.

### F6428 **INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

None received.

### F6429 **MINUTES**

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 10<sup>th</sup> July 2020 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

Councillor Minson now joined the meeting.

### F6430 **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED** that the pursuant to section 31 of the Local Government and Rating Act 1997 Falmouth Rotary Club be granted £500 towards the purchase of 50 sets of the game 'Mistakes and Ladders' to every Falmouth School.

### F6431 **RISK ASSESSMENT**

Risk management matters had been notified to Councillors in the weekly briefings from the Town Clerk. It was noted that the Ellis Whittam Annual Inspection would take place now on 25<sup>th</sup> August 2020.

F6432 **ACCOUNTS AND ANNUAL RETURN 2019/20**

Pursuant to the approval by the Council of the Annual Governance and Accountability Return for 2019/20 the Finance Officer reported that the Council's External Auditor had permitted an extension of the submission period to 31<sup>st</sup> August 2020 to enable the completion of the financial statements and inclusion of internal audit report. This was duly noted.

F6433 **BUDGET MONITORING 2020/21**

The Council received and noted the report. The Chairman advised that he would convene a meeting of the Finance Sub-Committee to consider and review 2020/21 budgets and to consider the preparation of a four-year financial plan to commence from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2021.

F6434 **DEVOLUTION: TRANCHE 4**

The Town Clerk reported further upon the make-up of the portfolio of asset and service devolution with Cornwall Council. A number of matters were further considered in Part II of the meeting. It was agreed that the Council proceeds in principle on the devolution list as it currently stood, and that Ward Members be circulated the assets and services that were relevant to their Wards.

F6435 **MINISTERIAL VISIT**

The Town Clerk reported upon the visit of Minister for Regional Growth and Local Government, who had been interested in the partnership delivery of services and covid recovery measures by the Council, as well as its active role in local-place shaping. The Mayor had discussed with him devolution and community delivery of local services.

Further the Leader of the Opposition had also visited Falmouth, co-ordinated by Falmouth Business Improvement District. The Council raised the issues of sector funding and the economic needs of coastal communities.

F6436 **COVID-19 EXPENDITURE**

The forecasted expenditure of £38,000 to the 30<sup>th</sup> September 2020 for covid measures, including recovery plans, was noted as was the grant application to Cornwall Council for £22,000 to assist with street closure and security costs.

F6437 **COMMUNITY POLICING**

The Mayor reported that he had written to both the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner regarding his concerns at police resourcing and issues with anti-social behaviour and a street drinking culture developing. As well as issues with the night-time economy. A grant of £1000 from the Police Commissioner was being used towards additional CCTV and marshals during the Bank Holiday weekend. Also the Town Council could fund additional daytime public realm CCTV monitoring at weekends until the end of September and as requested by the Police. The report was noted and the additional CCTV approved.

The Town Clerk reported that Cornwall Council had renewed the Public Space Protection Order regarding street drinking. That was duly noted.

F6438 **CCLA – PUBLIC SECTOR DEPOSIT FUND**

The July 2020 fund factsheet was duly noted.

F6439 **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 July 2020 (attached) be approved.

F6440 **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

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

**24<sup>th</sup> AUGUST 2020**

#### **F6441 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

##### **(1) CCTV**

The Town Clerk reported upon the first and second quarter monitoring reports. New cameras were now installed on the system and were operational pending wi-fi connections. The report was duly noted.

##### **(2) TALLSHIPS 2021**

The Chairman and Mayor reported further on this matter.

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

##### **RESOLVED that**

- (i) the Council enters the event agreement with Sail Training International and underwrites the event;
- (ii) the event earmarked monies that had been vired to other budgets be replenished in 2021/22 budget setting.

##### **(3) TELEPHONY CONTRACT**

The telephony contract as reported be agreed.

##### **(4) FALMOUTH INFORMATION SERVICE**

Falmouth ED Cornwall Councillors would meet with their Portfolio Holder to request that the ability for residents to make payments via the FIS be retained. The Council endorsed this approach.

##### **(5) WEBSITES**

It was agreed that the delayed procurement of website upgrades due to covid 19 now be progressed as resources permitted.

##### **(6) REPORTED DATA BREACH**

The Information Commissioners Office had advised that the reported data breach by the Council would not need to be further investigated, as the reporting by the Council's IT Contractor and the remedial action he had undertaken had mitigated the risks. All staff and councillors had been reminded of reporting protocols and had received the corporate training.

##### **(7) ANTI-SOCIAL BEHAVIOUR**

The Town Clerk was requested to update on anti-social behaviour and safety measures to protect staff and council property in and around The Moor area. The reports were noted and he would report further to the Staffing Committee in due course.

Councillor Minson now left the meeting.

##### **(8) DEVOLUTION AND PRINCESS PAVILIONS**

Further to the Part I Devolution discussion the Council further debated commercially sensitive aspects of the transfer proposal.

The Cornwall Council Contractor operated facility at Princess Pavilions was a cause for concern regarding re-opening and

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, Seconded by Councillor O'Shea and

**RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be instructed to discuss with Cornwall Council the freehold transfer of the site and depending upon that to engage a consultant to prepare a Business Plan for the Town Council to operate the facility. In the meantime to request access to the site to undertake necessary grounds maintenance.

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.00 pm.

Signed: ..... Date: .....

**FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

**PART II**

**10<sup>TH</sup> JULY 2020**

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 6.40 pm.

Signed: ..... Date: .....