

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held virtually by Zoom on Monday 26th April 2021 at 7.30pm.

Present: Councillors B M A Ross (Vice-Chair in the Chair), L D Coley, S D Eva, G F Evans CC MBE, A J Gillett, A J Jewell CC, P A Minson, 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)
H M Boex (Cultural Services Director)
Councillor J Kirkham (Cornwall Council – Smithick Electoral Division)
A Youngs, S Tregidgo and M Kenworthy-Gomes (Grant applicants)

F6506 APOLOGIES

An apology for absence was received and approved from Councillors Chappel (family commitment) and O'Shea (ill).

F6507 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None received.

F6508 MINUTES

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

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 22nd March 2021 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

F6509 GRANT APPLICATIONS

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

RESOLVED that consideration of the application by Falmouth Football Club be deferred to allow the applicants to attend to present their request.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011 the Give Us Time charity be granted £200 to facility breaks for service personal and their families.

The Mayor and Deputy Mayor advised that they would match the £200 contribution from their civic funds.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to sections 1-8 of the Localism Act 2011, Carnon Carers be granted £200 towards the costs of a carers day trip to Bodmin Railway.

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

RESOLVED that the Council make an Annual Grant of £250 towards Carnon Carers day trips.

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

RESOLVED that pursuant to Section 145 of the Local Government Act 1972 Cornwall Pride be granted £500 towards the Cornwall 2021 bus tour.

Further the 2020/21 Grant Schedule was duly noted. As was the allocation of the Councillor Community Chest Funds.

F6510 PROJECT UPDATES

The Director of Cultural Services presented an update on the Ponsharden Cemeteries, Dracaena Skatepark Development, Youth Services proposals, Kimberley Park ReSource scheme, Princess Pavilion and Gyllyngdune Gardens transfer as well as the operation of Cultural Services. The reports were duly noted.

F6511 2020/21 INTERNAL AUDIT

The Finance Officer reported that arrangements were in place for the internal audit process, with the auditor attending on 17th May 2021. Year-end accounts would be reported to the Committee on 24th May 2021 and to the Council on 14th June 2021 to enable the Annual Governance Statement and Accounts Return (AGAR) to be published and submitted to external audit by 30th June 2021.

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

RESOLVED that

- (i) The report was duly noted.
- (ii) The unspent environmental enhancements budget be vired to an earmarked 2021/22 reserve for environmental initiatives.

F6512 2021/22 PRECEPT

The first tranche precept payment from Cornwall Council had been received as had the first tranche of the council tax support grant. The Committee were reminded that 2021/22 was the final year for the allocation of CTS. The report was duly noted.

F6513 CCLA LOCAL AUTHORITIES PROPERTY FUND

The Market Report for March 2021 and current prices was received and duly noted.

F6514 FEES 2021/22

The Council confirmed Minute F6496 and otherwise deferred consideration of fees and charges pending the change of Council and the uncertainty over covid restrictions and proposed asset transfers. The Finance Officer would look to standardise the format.

F6515 GRANT APPLICATIONS

The Town Clerk and Director of Cultural Services updated the Committee. The Reopening of the High Street Fund application submitted by the Finance Officer had been successful and there was a quick turn-around, this provision included temporary planters and traffic calming measures. The Council would make an application under the Community Renewal Fund. Cornwall Council had yet to provide details and funding criteria for applications to the Welcome Back Fund. Cornwall Council had extended the assessment criteria for the Town Vitality Fund and the consideration of the Council’s bid was delayed pending this. The report was duly noted.

F6516 REMOTE MEETINGS

The Town Clerk updated on the legal challenge by the sector to the definition in the Local Government Act, that could permit virtual meetings to continue post the end of the Covid Act Provisions (falling away on 7th May 2021). Should the challenge be unsuccessful and the Council wished to continue virtual meeting provision then it could consider delegated provisions.

F6517 CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

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

RESOLVED that the Council renews its membership of the Cornwall Association of Local Councils for 2021/22.

F6518 BUS SHELTERS

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Minson

RESOLVED that subject to contract and the agreed provision of new environmental/pollinator friendly bus shelters, commencing with siting at The Moor, the Council extends its contract with Fernbank.

F6519 OLD POST OFFICE

The Town Clerk reported that Office Number 1 had been let, the Atherton Suite was being utilised for staff covid testing and the Information Service had reopened to the public between 1000 and 1300 hours Monday to Friday. The Council Offices had reopened and manned but public and councillor access remained restricted. Staff continued to work remotely where possible.

F6520 ACCOUNTS AND PETTY CASH

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

RESOLVED that the Accounts and Petty Cash Schedule for March 2021 be approved (attached)

There being no further business to transact the Chair declared the meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

Signed: Date: