

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the adjourned annual meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 22nd May 2014 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

Present: - Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn MBE), Councillors E H Andrews, Mrs K Brownhill, G J Davis, P R Edwards, Mrs C E Goodman, Mrs C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin, R A Southworth and J Tivnan plus the Town Clerk.

23-14 Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of the Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M J Crago), Councillors J F Creek B Hobbs, Miss J L Kinsman and Mrs C I A Trueman

24-14 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:-

None.

25-14 Police Report:-

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk read the April report.

34 crimes in the town consisting of

- 10** thefts
- 7** assaults
- 5** criminal damage
- 6** burglaries (3 outbuildings, 2 dwellings and 1 business premises).
- 1** public order offence
- 2** communication offences
- 2** drink drive offences
- 1** animal related offence

Councillor J Tivnan tendered police apologies for not being able to attend the meeting and offered to act as the conduit between the police and the council. Councillor Tivnan then commented on the circulated email from Councillor G J Davis on bullying and vandalism in Cambridge Field. Councillor Tivnan reported that the police have not been advised of any reports but nevertheless would undertake to carry out extra patrols in the area.

26-14 Minutes of the previous meeting:-

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17th April 2014 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

27-14 Matters arising from the Minutes:-

a) Mayors Communications:-

Pursuant to minute 6-14 the Mayor reported that postponed visit to Antony Estates has been re-scheduled on the 26th September 2014. Receipt was also reported of a letter from the Agent for Antony Estates confirming the report. The letter was noted.

b) Cornwall Council Report:-

Pursuant to minute 14-14(a) the Mayor reported receipt of a letter from Cornwall Council acknowledging that the 3 bedroomed premises has been vacant for some considerable time. The Mayor continued that the officer had suggested that Cornwall Council had left the property vacant pending a decision on the future of

Albion Court. The Mayor cited other points in the letter before expressing strong disappointment that this property was empty given the level of homelessness in the area. Councillor Mrs C A Jackson concurred with the Mayor and also noted that residents had expressed similar sentiments that a habitable property was remaining vacant. Councillor E H Edwards expressed alarm and asked what does Cornwall Council intend to do with Albion Court and urged the Council to write to Cornwall Council. Councillor Mrs J M Martin concurred with Councillor Andrews. Cornwall Council will be asked as to what is the future intention of Albion Court and that this matter should be raised with the Chairman, Leader and CEO of Cornwall Council at the visit in June.

28-14 Mayors Communications

Mayor and Mayoress' Diary:-

The Mayor welcome the new Assistant Town Clerk Milly Southworth to the Council.

24th April - Visited Oakwood College, St James Road. Congratulations to the Staff and Students for an inspirational time.

2nd May - Visit of our Twinners from Benodet. The Twinners were invited to HMS Raleigh and had an introduction of Raleigh training by Captain Bob Fancy and Commander Shaun Brady. Afterwards we went to the parade ground and witnessed The Band of HM Royal Marines perform "Beat the Retreat" which was very much appreciated by our Benodet guests. My thanks to the Captain, Commander and the Director of Music. Then a buffet lunch in the Council Chambers.

2nd May - St John Ambulance Inspection and Presentation. Congratulations to all on a smart turn out and to all who received awards.

8th May - Dinner at Trevol House, the Captains residence.

11th May - Launceston Mayor's Civic Service.

16th May - Torpoint Youth Football Club Presentation at the 200 Club. Congratulations to you all on an excellent season and to all the trophy winners, you are all a credit to Torpoint.

17th May - St Columbia & Torpoint Rugby Club Dinner & Dance at the Council Chambers. Congratulations to all the award winners and the team for winning the cup.

18th May - Attended the Blessing of the Royal British Legion Standard at St Pauls Church, HMS Raleigh.

My Congratulations to:

Torpoint's No.1 Table Tennis player David Wetherill who won a class six bronze medal for Great Britain at the Slovakian Open by beating players in the quarter finals, beating players from Sweden and China and also winning his doubles game with his doubles partner Valentin Kneuss from Switzerland. Well Done David.

Jago Deighton who came 2nd at the 3rd round of the Spring Event Series. He is a member in Cat 2 TPD Men's Category for Zero gravity academy of Gymnastics and Trampolining.

Torpoint Community College - 12 members of staff and 2 sixth form students (Matt Allen and Doug Lucking) ran the Plymouth Half Marathon. The team were nicknamed The Torpoint Tornadoes!! Following a highly regarded member of staff being diagnosed with a brain tumour just before Christmas, the College has undertaken a number of fund raising activities to raise money in support of this valued member of staff and for cancer research. Since Christmas the College has raised over £2,000 for Cancer Research and its half marathon efforts have raised another £2,000 to add to this (and the total is still rising!). The College have been amazed at how generous the staff, students and community of Torpoint and Rame have been and they are going to continue to raise as much money as possible for this very worthwhile charity. A Big Thank you to all the fundraisers.

The Torpoint Nursery & Infant School Council who have won the House of Commons Speakers Award for 2014. The School is so thrilled and they will be taking a group of children to the Palace of Westminster on Wednesday 11th June.

The Torpoint Community College Ten Tors Team. A Great team effort in atrocious weather. Well done to you all.

Torpoint Fire Service personal Stephen Gill and colleagues from Bodmin was awarded the RSPCA Bronze Gallantry Medal and Peter Ferris Animal Collection Officer for their part in the rescue of a pony from cliffs at Rame Head. The citation for the award said it had been a complicated rescue involving the RSPCA, Fire Service, the Royal Marines and Veterinary staff, and took over six hours from the time of the call to the pony being rescued.

29-14 Planning Applications:-

a) PA14/03559 – 33, Buller Road, Torpoint – Single storey rear extension.
No objections or observations.

30-14 Minutes of the Development and Localism Committee

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 24th April 2014 are received and the recommendation in minute 7-14DL (a) (Working Party meeting) is adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 7-14DL (a) members were reminded of the presence of Japanese Knotweed and this should be acknowledged and considered in future exploratory discussions on leasing this area of Thanckes Park. The Clerk reminded members that the next meeting of this Committee was when the development plan was considered and urged members to come prepared to discuss any future projects and initiatives for consideration.

31-14 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 28th April 2014 are received and the recommendations in minutes 05-14FGP (a) (Drugs and Alcohol policy), 05-14FGP (b) (Whistleblowing Policy), 05-14FGP (c) (Employment Grievance Policy), 05-14 access to the policies and 07-14 (a) (Torpoint and Rame Youth Project – Request for financial assistance) are adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 05-14FGP (b) Councillor G J Davis suggested that the Whistleblowing policy should be extended to include contractor. It was suggested the website could be used as a vehicle to publicise the policies. Pursuant to minute 07-14FGP (a) (Torpoint and Rame Youth Project – Request for financial assistance) Councillor E H Andrews stressed that whilst this Council supported youth initiatives, the importance of procedures in securing value for money was important. Pursuant to minute 07-14FGP (a) (Torpoint and Rame Youth Project – Use of Council facilities at no cost) it was **resolved** to allow the organisation to use Benodet Park at no cost subject to the usual terms of reference.

32-14 Minutes of the Forward Planning Committee

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 1st May 2014 are received and the recommendations in minutes 4-14FP (a) (Hall Heating System), 4-14(b) (Doctors Surgery), 5-14FP (Policies reviewed by this Committee – 3 recommendations contained therein), 6-14FP (a) (Publicity Policy) and 14-14FP (Any Other Business that has been notified to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) are adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 4-14FP (b) (Doctors Surgery) the Mayor recommended that the Council withdraw the application to list the building as a community asset as it is unlikely this Council could obtain the necessary funding to purchase the building and that it is understood that the owners were in the process of selling the premises. Councillor E H Andrews concurred with the Mayor although Councillor Mrs. J M Martin suggested that the council should pursue this initiative. Without a clear resolution to withdraw the application the council would continue with the application and await the outcome of deliberations at Cornwall Council. Members remarked that the Council should investigate if any funding was available for this and any other future initiatives. Pursuant to minute 4-14FP (b) (Doctors Surgery) Councillor G J Davis recommended that rather than apply for a Neighbourhood development order on the area bordered by Harvey Street, Hooper Street and lower Fore Street the Council should enter into dialogue

with the relevant authorities prior to considering this matter further. Members argued against this strategy and the Council should pursue a Neighbourhood Development order at this location. Pursuant to minute 5-14FP (c) (Any Business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) the Town Mayor reported receipt of a letter from the St Columba and Torpoint Rugby Club seeking a total ban on dogs in Defiance Field. It was **resolved** that this Council would apply for an order banning dogs from the field. Pursuant to minute 14-14FP (Any Other Business that has been notified to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) the Mayor suggested that if the mini bus was unviable then this matter would be referred back to the Charity and the money raised from the sale could be used by the Town Council on a specific project. Councillor J Tivnan spoke on the current issues with the bus including the current viability of the project. Councillor Mrs. J M Martin reminded the Council that the Council were asked if they wished to own the mini bus and the answer was clearly no and therefore any further business should not be discussed by the Council.

33-14 Revised Committee Policy and Procedure Review.

The Council reviewed the revised delegation of policies, protocols and procedures (as circulated) and following consideration **resolved** that the revised delegation of policies, protocols and procedures are adopted by the Council.

34-14 To approve the Financial Accounts for 2013-14 and the Statement of Assurance.

The Council considered the financial accounts, statement of assurance and internal auditors report for the financial year 2013-14. After considering the documents during which the Clerk answered any questions that the members raised it was proposed by Councillor Mrs. J M Martin and seconded by Councillor E H Andrews that the financial accounts, statement of assurance and Internal Auditors report are approved and adopted by the Council. The Council therefore **resolved** to adopt the financial accounts, Statement of Assurance and Internal Auditors report as presented. The Clerk was thanked for his stewardship of the Council finances.

35-14 Financial Comparison

It was **resolved** that the April 2014 financial comparison (as circulated) is received and adopted. The Clerk spoke on various items within the comparison.

36-14 Accounts for payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	(VAT)	NETT
British Telecom	Phone Bill	26.47	4.41	22.06
B & Q	Leafblower/Preservative Paint	169.88	28.30	141.58
NDF Civils &Property	Garden & Maintenance Benodet Pk	270.00	0.00	270.00
Viking Direct	Stamps/Stationery	121.04	3.59	117.45
British Gas	Electricity - Toilets Antony Road	18.71	0.89	17.82
Cornwall Council	Non Domestic Rates (May)	1,111.00	0.00	1,111.00
NDF Civils &Property	Grass Cutting - Benodet Park	80.00	0.00	80.00
NDF Civils &Property	Strimming St John Ambulance Hall	40.00	0.00	40.00
CORY	Wheelie Bin	95.64	15.94	79.70
British Telecom	Phone Bill	54.42	9.07	45.35
EDF Energy	Haldo Pillar, Cambridge Field	17.36	0.83	16.53
WesternWeb	Domain Name (2 years)	54.00	9.00	45.00
Cornwall Council	Garage Rent (May)	47.76	7.96	39.80
Cornerstone Vision	Torpoint Advertiser (Tyhee Times)	120.00	20.00	100.00
Clifford Motors-C Bence	Oil and Petrol (leaf Blower)	15.49	2.58	12.91
ITEC	Photocopies	18.96	3.16	15.80
NDF Civils &Property	Repairs to Band Stand	40.00	0.00	40.00
Cornwall Council	Garage Rent (June)	47.76	7.96	39.80
British Gas	Service/Maintenance Renewal	1,028.40	171.39	857.01
Wilkinsons Electrical	Isolate Electric cable - Benodet Park	72.00	12.00	60.00
Edf Energy	Electric Bill - Council Chambers	72.92	12.15	60.77
Any Occasions	Catering - Twinning	395.00	0.00	395.00
M N Pearn (reimb)	Refreshments - Twinning	226.40	0.00	226.40
M N Pearn	Mayors Allowance	2,600.00	0.00	2,600.00
Orange	Telephone	36.67	6.11	30.56

The Clerk reminded members that they must consider how the Mayor's allowance should be paid. The various methods were outlined to members for consideration. After considering the matter members **resolved** to permit the allowance to be paid in one sum and that this was subject to the Mayor being responsible for any HMRC implications.

37-14 Correspondence

a) A J Harris – Pier, Rendell Park.

Noted. Councillor Mrs J M Martin sought to understand why the use of the ferry slipway had stopped for boat cruises. Councillor J Tivnan suggested that the HSE website is used to gauge an opinion. After further consideration it was **resolved** to refer this letter to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee and to inform the author of the Council's actions.

b) Sheryll Murray MP – Neighbourhood Planning Support.
Noted.

c) Cornwall Council – East Sub-Area Planning Committee.
Noted.

d) The Antony Estate – Antony Day – 26th September 2014.
Noted.

38-14 Reports

a) Cornwall Council:-

Councillor M N Pear MBE reminded members of the proposed visit of the Leader, Chairman and CEO of Cornwall Council to meet with members to discuss matters in the town. Councillor Pearn urged the Council to be positive in the approach and to propose solutions to the problem. Councillor Pearn introduced an incident report form that could be used by the public to report incidents to Cornwall Council. Councillor Mrs J M Martin sought information on the availability of the document and if it was available on-line. Councillor Mrs Martin concluded by suggesting the information should be available in the Mayor’s column. Councillor Mrs C A Jackson commented that the document is available on-line. Receipt was reported of a letter from Cornwall Council asking if this Council would sponsor a newspaper in the library. The Mayor and Councillors Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan as individual members all volunteered to privately sponsor a newspaper in the library.

Councillor Pearn then presented the Ferry report. Since the last council report the following Ferry weekly efficiencies have been achieved:

DATE	EFFICIENCY %	CROSSINGS
w/c 14 th April	100% efficient	0 crossings lost
w/c 21 st April	100% efficient	0 crossings lost
w/c 28 th April	100% efficient	0 crossings lost
w/c 5 th May	100% efficient	0 crossings lost

Target is 99%. Average since last report 100%. Average so far this calendar year 99.5%

- b) Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP):-
The Mayor announced that the next TTP meeting would be held on the 12th June 2014 and the Gorsedh meeting on the 10th July both meetings commencing at 7.30pm. The Mayor also announced that the Armed Forces Day in 2015 would be discussed at the next TTP meeting.
- c) Torpoint and Rame Community Sports Action Group:-
Councillor Mrs. C E Goodman spoke on the invitees to the June meeting of this group.

39-14 Date of the next meeting.

Thursday 19th June 2014.

40-14 Adjournment of the Meeting

It was **resolved** that the meeting stand adjourned until after the Town Meeting. It was further resolved to exclude the Public and Press as items to be discussed involved commercial contracts (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960). The minute is listed as confidential and appended to these minutes.

Meeting closed at 9.00p.m.Town Mayor

.....