

## TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

**Present:** - Town Mayor (Councillor T R F Moore), Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn MBE), Councillors E H Andrews, B Hobbs, M J Crago, G J Davis, C K P Fowle, E L Parkin, Mrs R A Southworth and Mrs C I A Trueman plus the Town Clerk.

### **137-12 Apologies for Absence:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S P Helley, Mrs C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin and Mrs J Moon together with police representatives.

### **138-12 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:-**

None.

### **139-12 Police Report:-**

In the absence of a police representative the Clerk read the following prepared report:-

**41** – Crimes in the town between the 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 and 19<sup>th</sup> February 2013 of which

- **4** assaults
- **2** possession of cannabis
- **9** criminal damage
- **7** thefts from shops (1 male charged with 2 of the offences, 4 have named suspects awaiting interview and the final crime is awaiting CCTV footage to be viewed)
- **8** other thefts
- **4** public order offences
- **4** burglaries (including burglaries to sheds and garages)
- **2** complaints about dog bites
- **1** arson

**10** crimes were committed overnight on the 13<sup>th</sup> February in the areas of Antony, Sconner, Buller and Sydney Roads and also Buller Close. One male has been arrested and is on police bail waiting for further enquiries to be made. An appeal via the Herald and Twitter has been made, appealing for witnesses to come forward.

Councillor B Hobbs reported that he had attended a meeting at the Sailing Club when nautical crime prevention was discussed and detailed issues experienced at Looe. Councillor Hobbs suggested that relatively inexpensive alarms for boats are available and suggested that this is publicised. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth suggested that the police could promote the system.

### **140-12 Minutes of the previous meeting:-**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor.

### **141-12 Matters arising from the Minutes:-**

a) Town Clock:-

Pursuant to minute 128-12(b) the Clerk reported receipt of a letter from the clock winder that confirmed that the issue with the clock was not the mechanism but the hands on the outside of the clock face where the

movement is obstructed. It was noted that the mechanism has been disconnected from the hands on the clock face until the fault is rectified. The letter was noted. The Clerk understands that the PCC, who had commissioned the work, has been in contact with the contractor who removed and replaced the clock face and hands, to rectify the problem. The Clerk also reported receipt of an additional invoice from the Clock engineer to check the clock and installation. Various members spoke on this matter and were of the opinion that the work on the clock face was commissioned by the PCC and therefore the invoice should be passed to the PCC to possibly review with the contractor. Councillor B Hobbs advised the meeting that the contractor is aware of the fault and will be rectifying the problem. Councillor Hobbs reported that the clock had worked for a month and the contractor will be speaking to the engineers. Councillor Hobbs stated that the contractor did not need scaffolding and would use ladders to repair the defect. It was **resolved** that the PCC would be contacted a copy of the invoice passed to the PCC for consideration and review with the contractor.

b) Playground Inspections:-

Pursuant to minute 134-12(b) the Clerk reported that he has placed the annual inspection order with Digley Associates.

### **142-12 Mayors Communications**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2013 – Ann and I attended the Liskeard Civic Service at the invitation of the Mayor of Liskeard Councillor Tony Powell that was also attended by the Mayors of Saltash, Bodmin and Looe together with the Portreeve of Callington. The event was also supported by organisations from the town.
- 9<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – Ann and I had the pleasure to attend the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Lions 35 Charter Anniversary dinner held in the main hall of the Council Chambers.
- 15<sup>th</sup> February 2013 – I attended a presentation of £100 to the Torpoint Army Cadets platoon by the 1730 club at the Kings Arms public house. The club raises money for organisations in the town.

### **143-12 Planning Applications**

a) PA13/00879 – 9, Sycamore Drive, Torpoint – Construction of ground floor extension to provide enlarged kitchen and cloakroom.

No objections or observations.

b) PA13/01041 – 87, Peacock Avenue, Torpoint – Incorporation of annexe into main dwelling and patio decking to rear.

No objections but observations were made on future developments that might include a granny flat although other members were supportive.

c) PA13/01043 - 36, Sycamore Drive, Torpoint – Construction of two storey rear extension, replacement conservatory and front extension over a flat roof.

No Objections or observations.

### **144-12 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> February 2013 are received and the recommendation in minute 73-12FGP (a) (Cornwall Air Ambulance – Request for financial assistance is adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 70-12FGP (a) (Application for Licence to Kitchen Area) Councillor C K P Fowle observed the Council had declined the “windfall” of £20,000 by reducing the precept but now that income had been lost could have benefited from the additional finances. Pursuant to minute 70-12FGP (c) (Antony Road Toilets) members expressed disappointment that the toilets were still closed and voiced incredulity that despite the high water use had been an issue for years and that this Council had also drawn Cornwall Council’s attention to it, Cornwall Council had refurbished the toilets before deciding to investigate a possible leak. Members also suggested that taxpayers money could have been wasted if

Cornwall Council had to damage the current refurbishment to identify the water leak. Councillor B Hobbs drew attention to lights that were on almost 20 hours daily. Pursuant to minute 74-12(FGP) (a) (Use of Annex by Archives) Councillor Mrs R A Southworth, before leaving the room at this meeting, advised members that apart from noting the non-pecuniary interest declared in minute 68-12FGP also left the room during discussion at the Committee meeting. Councillor B Hobbs was of the opinion that there was no need for members to leave the Chamber as the non-pecuniary interest did not apply. The Clerk reminded members that the choice to declare an interest was for an individual member to make and if it was considered that if a dispensation was appropriate then an application could be made to the Clerk. The Clerk reported receipt of an email expressing an interest in possibly leasing the area and sought a deferment from members to allow the interest to be explored further. Councillor G J Davis concurred with the suggestion and it was therefore **resolved** that this matter is deferred until at least the next meeting of the Council to allow the Clerk to enter into discussion and negotiation with the interested party. Councillor E L Parkin commented that whilst supporting the Archives the commercial potential of the building should be explored and further suggested that the Cornwall Council Estates are contacted to possibly market the Annex through them.

(The Deputy Town Mayor, Councillors E H Andrews and Mrs R A Southworth all declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the room whilst the above matter was discussed).

Pursuant to minute 74-12FGP (b) (NHS Shared Services – Pharmaceutical List (New Health Centre)), It was speculated that the new pharmacy might have an effect on existing dispensaries in the town. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth clarified the situation and the processes that were likely to effect the operation. Pursuant to minute 74-12FGP (d) it was **resolved** that the larger bin is purchased that will hold 50kg of salt. Councillor M J Crago suggested that monitoring and replenishing grit bins could become a task of the caretakers. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth suggested that the Torpoint Town Council logo should be added to the grit bin.

## **145-12 Minutes of the Forward Planning Committee**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2013 are received and the recommendations in minutes 67-12FP (a) (Environment Policy), 70-12FP (Health and Safety), 71-12FP (Town Council Development Plan), 77-12FP (Any Business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) are adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 69-12FP (Days Out Magazine) Councillor Mrs R A Southworth remarked that the implications of the recommendation might well overspend the budget and sought to understand the previous expenditure in this cost centre on folders. The Clerk responded by reading an email from the Town Administrator on the current use for hirers and the anticipated information packs for new members. Councillor B Hobbs also voiced concerns at the potential overspend of the budget. Councillor Hobbs was of the opinion that the marketing budget should have been increased in time for the precept. Councillor M J Crago suggested that the Council were reacting too quickly to the situation. Councillor E H Andrews in speaking to the recommendation, reminded members that we are in a recession and want to bring businesses and business opportunities to the town and was of the opinion that the recommendation would form part of a marketing strategy. Councillor Andrews continued by conceding that he was aware of the negative impact on the revenue budget but suggested reserves are used make up the shortfall. Following Councillors Andrews right of reply the vote was taken and the recommendation for advertising within the Days Out Magazine was defeated with 3 votes in favour and 6 votes against. Pursuant to minute 70-12FP (Health and Safety) Councillor B Hobbs reminded members that small stones could be a hazard on a Skateboard Park and The Deputy Town Mayor confirmed that a sweeping utensil is also available. Pursuant to minute 70-12FP (Health and Safety) it was noted that one of the reasons for the CCTV being switched off related to Data Protection and Records Management. The level of incidents was currently low but the facilities existed to monitor the situation. Following discussion it was **resolved** to implement the CCTV monitoring and report to Forward Planning Committee. Pursuant to minute 71-12FP (Town Council Development Plan) the Mayor spoke to the suggestion of a possible re-location to Enterprise Court. Councillor C K P Fowle suggested to members that this might be a good idea

but did not wish to see this building become abandoned. Councillor E L Parkin spoke on development possibilities at the Council Chambers and suggested that the idea could be explored further. Councillor E H Andrews reminded members that if it were not for the refurbishment then the complex could have been closed not being DDA compliant and suggested that if the Council did relocate then this building could be used for a community facility. Councillor G J Davis was supportive of the proposals being explored further and it was **resolved** that this item would be retained for further discussion. The Deputy Town Mayor advised members that the current occupancy rate for Enterprise Court stood at just over 50%. Pursuant to minute 72-12FP receipt was reported of a copy email from the Town Administrator confirming that contact has been made with an energy advice company to receive information on tender specifications for a replacement heating system in the main hall. Pursuant to minute 77-12FP (Any business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) it was **resolved** that the General Manager for First Bus be invited to attend the Forward Planning meeting to be held on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013. Pursuant to minute 77-12FP (Any business that has been disclosed to the Chairman and members prior to the meeting) Councillor B Hobbs reported that objections to the wind farm are being submitted by the MOD as a result of the structures interfering with flight tracking and radar installation. Councillor Hobbs also noted that the wind turbines were on the helicopter flight path and might also interfere with low level flying training. The Deputy Town Mayor referred to a letter from a resident in Maker Road objecting to the proposed turbines drawing attention to the visual intrusion that the turbines would have on residents in the area. After discussing the matter further members **resolved** that whilst being general agreement with the principle of green energy but considered the application was for an inappropriate site in an AONB and fully supported the objections raised by the neighbouring parishes.  
(Councillor M J Crago left the meeting at this point)

#### **146-12 Proposed BMX Track – Councillor B Hobbs**

Councillor Hobbs advised members that he has been pressed by youth in Torpoint for a BMX track adjacent to the Skateboard Park. Councillor Hobbs also advised the Council that the officer that met with Councillor E L Parkin and the Clerk to discuss variations to the lease some 12 months previous had now contacted him to discuss the matter further. Councillor Hobbs had confirmed that he wanted a date from the officer when the lease would be varied. Councillor Hobbs also confirmed that a funding bid has been submitted to create a BMX track and suggested that around £5,000 per annum would be required to maintain the track. Councillor Hobbs confirmed that the youngsters will raise around £3,000 for the revenue upkeep of the track but that this Council might be asked to contribute £2,000 toward the upkeep, although it was noted there are no revenue finances allocated. Councillor Hobbs informed members that the track is used for races and finances from the races will be used toward the revenue upkeep of the BMX track. Councillor Hobbs concluded by informing the meeting that finances to undertake capital works to create the track are available.

#### **147-12 Financial Comparison**

It was **resolved** that the January 2013 financial comparison is received and adopted.

## 148-12 Accounts for payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	(VAT)	NETT
British Telecom	Telephone	54.43	9.07	45.36
Don Benson	Town Clock	28.00	0.00	28.00
Cornwall Council	Non Domestic Rates	1,478.00	0.00	1,478.00
Cory Environmental	Wheelie Bin	72.00	12.00	60.00
ITEC	Photocopies	24.08	4.01	20.07
British Telcom	Phone	25.26	4.21	21.05
A D Smith	Laundry	8.00	0.50	7.50
Torpoint Hardware	Telephone	125.15	20.88	104.27
Clear Sight (A Brookes)	Window Cleaner	60.00	0.00	60.00
TRF Moore	Mayors Allowance	130.00	0.00	130.00

## 149-12 Correspondence

a) SW Water – Christmas Lights (By Email).

Noted. It was **resolved** that members interested in attending the inspection visit would notify the Clerk.

b) Tate, St Ives – Activities Leaflet.

Noted.

c) Coodes, Solicitors – Legal Information.

Noted.

d) Cornerstone Church – Information on land at the rear of the Church.

Noted. **Resolved** to refer to the Forward Planning Committee for further consideration.

## 150-12 Reports

a) Cornwall Council:-

Councillor M N Pearn reported that the official opening of Rendel Park on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2013 has been cancelled but that a small ceremony handing over the keys to the Town Mayor on the 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 will now replace it. It was reported that the draft management agreement has now been forwarded to the Town Council and given the paucity of time available it was **resolved** that delegated authority will be given to the Town Clerk to review the agreement and to sign it on behalf of the Council. Councillor Pearn reported that the landscaping has been completed and that the tree planting will be completed shortly. Councillor Pearn reported that the roads in the town will be inspected shortly and any potholes repaired. It was reported that the Rame peninsula roads have been inspected and the potholes repaired. The report from the Dog Warden was read and noted. Councillor Pearn then presented the ferry report:-

w/c 14 January – 99.1% efficient – 12 crossings out of 1292 lost – sheave and propulsion control defects

w/c 21 January – 98.1% efficient – 24 crossings out of 1292 lost – sheave and power supply defects

w/c 28 January – 98.8% efficient – 16 crossings out of 1292 lost - generator defects

w/c 4 February – 98.4% efficient – 20 crossings out of 1292 lost – sheave changes

w/c 11 February - 100% - 0 crossings out of 1292 lost

Target is 99%. Average since last report 99.1%.

Councillor B Hobbs remarked on the pleasing appearance of Rendel Park and looked forward to when fishing could be undertaken on the river frontage of the area. Councillor Hobbs also observed that local

Butchers had benefited from the recent horse meat scandal. Councillor Hobbs assured members that the wall at Sparrow Park would be repaired the following week. Councillor Hobbs would also ensure that the benches in the park are also inspected and repairs effected. Councillor Hobbs confirmed that there is insufficient time before the new council comes into existence to implement the introduction of hatched boxes on Antony Road. Councillor Hobbs made some observations on issues with buses stopping in Trevol Road. Councillor Mrs C I A Trueman suggested that moving the bus stop to a location opposite Spar - a suggestion to which Councillor Hobbs would put to the bus company. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth suggested that this possible solution should be put to the Bus Manager when he addresses members. Councillor Hobbs noted that St James road has been resurfaced although Councillor C K P Fowle drew attention to issues of cars using the grassed area in Kingsley Avenue. Councillor Hobbs reported that Cornwall Council would currently not spend money on this area but that he was hoping for finances to be spent in the near future. Councillor E L Parkin spoke on the poor condition of the footpath at Albion Court and asked Councillor Hobbs if there were any risk assessments in place. Councillor Hobbs replied that Cornwall Councillor Biscoe had offered to arrange for the removal of the Ivy and would look into the issue of the steps. Councillor Parkin suggested that this is routine maintenance and was of the opinion that Cornwall Council was not taking an interest in this area. Councillor Parkin also drew attention to a property in Albion Court that has been empty for around 9 months and suggested that the principal authority should apply due diligence in letting properties. Councillor Hobbs commented on this matter and also suggested that there Cornwall Council could no longer afford to finance a Warden for the complex. Councillor G J Davis spoke on the issue of cars parking on the grassed verges in Roeselare Avenue and was of the opinion that strategically placed bollards might prevent this problem.

b) Torpoint Town Partnership:-

The Town Mayor reported that the previous meeting had been cancelled but that a meeting had been arranged for next Tuesday.

c) Systems and Procedures Working Party:-

It was **resolved** that this report is considered with the public and press excluded as the content included reference to staff and staff contracts.

**151-12 Date of the next meeting.**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013.

**152-12 Adjournment of the Meeting**

It was **resolved** that the meeting stand adjourned until after the Public Forum. It was further resolved to exclude the Public and Press as items to be discussed involved staff and staffing matters (Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960). The minutes are listed as confidential and appended to these minutes. (Councillor B Hobbs left the meeting at this point).

Meeting closed at 10.15p.m. ....Town Mayor  
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**OPEN FORUM**

No member of the public had any issues to raise or comments to make.