

## TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> March 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, Mrs C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin, E L Parkin, Mrs R A Southworth and Mrs C I A Trueman plus the Town Clerk.

### **153-12 Apologies for Absence:-**

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors S P Helley, Mrs J Moon and R Skelly.

### **154-12 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:-**

Councillor E H Andrews – Non pecuniary interest was declared on agenda item 14(a) as being named in the letter from B Warne.

Councillor B Hobbs – Non pecuniary interest was declared on agenda item 14(a) as a member of Torpoint Moorings Association (subject to the constraints of Para 3.5A in the Code of Conduct).

Councillor Mrs R A Southworth - Non pecuniary interest was declared on agenda item 14(a) as directly related a member of Torpoint Moorings Association.

### **155-12 Police Report:-**

PCSO Lindsay Cork presented the police report:-

**25** – Crimes in the town between the 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 and 21<sup>st</sup> March 2013 of which

- **1** assault (victim does not wish to make a complaint)
- **1** Rape (1 suspect)
- **2** criminal damage (1 offender dealt with by way of restorative justice)
- **7** theft including shoplifting (1 suspect and 1 offender dealt with by way of restorative justice)
- **1** fraud (1 in the process of being dealt with by restorative justice)
- **3** dwelling burglaries (1 suspect)
- **3** non dwelling burglaries
- **1** stalking
- **2** communication offences
- **1** vehicle interference
- **3** theft from motor vehicles

It was reported that in response to the increase in burglaries and theft from motor vehicles the police have increased nocturnal patrols and appeal for any suspicious activity to be reported to the police via 99 or crime stoppers. The police would rather have an anonymous call rather than have no call.

It was confirmed that there is no progress on the reported arson attack following enquiries made by Councillor C K P Fowle. The current methodology in reporting crime statistics were commented on by Councillor B Hobbs. Councillor Hobbs remarked that the current reduction in police numbers was having a detrimental effect on policing in the town and suggested that the Council should write to the Chief Constable on this matter and copy the police commissioner. Councillor E L Parkin spoke on proposals to regenerate the town centre and sought assurance that this did not include the closure of the Torpoint Police Station. Councillor Parkin remarked that he was appalled at that money had been spent at Devonport to improve services but that the Torpoint Police Station could be under threat.

## **156-12 Minutes of the previous meeting:-**

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> February 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the deletion of the word "and" and insertion of the words "Councillor B Hobbs" in minute 150-12.

## **157-12 Matters arising from the Minutes:-**

a) Town Clock:-

Pursuant to minute 141-12(a) the Clerk reported that the Church was now pursuing correcting the issue with the clock hands as previously reported. The Clerk confirmed that this Council would have to pay for the actual service of the clock and it was **resolved** that the Clerk was authorised to pay the invoice.

b) Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee:-

Pursuant to minute 144-12 the Clerk reported that the Council had been offered a "tenancy at will" to operate the toilets as an interim arrangement until the lease had been agreed and signed by the Council. It was noted that if the Council agreed to the "tenancy at will" then the operation could commence as from the 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2013. The Clerk did add the caveat that this would be subject to the mutual resolution of the water and other issues. It was also noted that the Council would then be able to claim the grant that was available for operating the toilets. After considering the matter the Council duly **resolved** to confirm acceptance of the tenancy at will subject to the outstanding matters being resolved. Councillor B Hobbs noted that the hand drying units were still operating after the user had left the building and would contact Cornwall Council to deal with this matter.

c) Cornwall Council Report:-

Pursuant to minute 150-12 the Clerk informed the meeting that he has perused the proposed management arrangement and raised various points that have been communicated to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee Officers. A response from the Joint Committee legal team is awaited.

## **158-12 Mayors Communications**

- 8<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – Ann and I attended the opening of Rendel Park that was attended by the two town Cornwall Councillors (Councillors B Hobbs and M N Pearn), Torpoint Town Councillors (Councillors E H Andrews, Mrs C A Jackson, Mrs R A Southworth and Mrs C I A Trueman), Town Clerk, Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Manager and Engineering Manager together with members of the public. The Mayor had the honour of opening the refurbished park. The Mayor singled out the Cornwall Councillors, Bridge and Ferry Joint Committee for bringing the park back into public use and also the Torpoint Residents Association on raising the petition in support of the park.
- 9<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – Ann and I had the pleasure of hosting the Mayors Charity Ball. I would like to thank all those members that were able to attend. My thanks also to those that generously donated prizes that ultimately raised an exceptional sum of £500 toward the Mayors Charity. Thanks were also expressed to the RNA, RBL and Torpoint and Rame Lions who gave their support to the event.
- 20<sup>th</sup> March 2013 – The Deputy Town Mayor and I attended a Charity Dinner and Boxing event at HMS Raleigh in aid of the Royal Navy and Royal Marines Charity staged by the Captain R Fancy OBE ADC and featured a boxing contest between Plymouth Command against a Devon select team. Other distinguished guests included Brig. Ged Salanzo MBE RM, COM Robert Alexander RN, Capt. William Entwistle OBE MVO, Iain Woodhead Dir. Plymouth Raiders Basketball and Comm. Steve Layland RN Commander HMS Raleigh. Both the Deputy Town Mayor and I were invited to present the trophies to the winners of the bouts.

The Mayor also announced receipt of the official certificate from Guinness on achieving the longest length of bunting as part of the Diamond Jubilee celebration, has been framed and will be hung in the Council Chambers.

## **159-12 Planning Applications**

None.

## **160-12 Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held Monday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2013 are received and the recommendation in minute 83-12FGP (a) (Council Lettings Policy) is adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 82-12FGP (a) (To consider the Council Risk Management) the Clerk reminded the Systems and Procedures Working Party that a meeting was required prior to the next meeting of the Council to undertake the self-assessment review of the financial systems and to recommend approval of any policies.

## **161-12 Minutes of the Forward Planning Committee**

It was **resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> March 2013 are received and the recommendation in minute 86-12FP (Council Chambers) is adopted and implemented. Pursuant to minute 81-12FP (First Bus) Councillor E H Andrews voiced disappointment that a member of the Council had re-arranged the meeting and suggested that it should now be postponed until after the elections. Councillor Parkin in responding to the points raised by Councillor Andrews replied that he realised how difficult it was to contact the Manager of First Bus and was attempting to assist but fully supported the call by Councillor Andrews to postpone the meeting until after the elections. Councillor C K P Fowle asked if members of the public could attend the meeting but it was stressed this was for members only and Councillor M J Crago suggested that members of the public send in any questions to the Town Administrator for onward transmission. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth confirmed that this suggestion was already in practice and a question has already been forwarded to the Town Administrator. Pursuant to minute 83-12FP (Cornerstone Church), the Town Mayor reported that together with the Deputy Town Mayor and Town Clerk he has visited the Cornerstone Church to view the additional land and site in question. The Mayor suggested that the Town Council could possibly enter into dialogue with the Church. The Deputy Town Mayor reported that a contingent of sailors from HMS Raleigh have been detailed to clear the site next week. Pursuant to minute 87-12FP (a) (Maryfield Church) it was reported that the letter has been forwarded to the Torpoint Archives for consideration and a response.

## **162-12 Proposed BMX Track – Councillor E L Parkin**

Councillor Parkin advised the meeting that he had recently attended a meeting of the Thanckes Park group that was also attended by interested parties and was struck by the apathy from some of those in attendance. He did note that the Town Council had been generally supportive and had given money toward a survey of the land in question. Councillor Parkin referred to the three year chemical eradication programme of Japanese Knotweed undertaken by Cornwall Council within the area in question but that costs have not been obtained for a quicker programme to eradicate the weed. Councillor Parkin observed that the current chemical control could take 3-4 years and that this was too long and it would be difficult to maintain interest and to engage in fundraising. Councillor Parkin has asked for a meeting with the relevant officers at Cornwall Council to re-visit the request to vary the lease that was first requested some 12 months ago. Councillor E H Andrews whilst sympathising with Councillor Parkin at the current situation and in particular the Japanese Knotweed issues, did stress the need for this Council and others to understand the full implications of the project and that this would include a business plan, costs, design, layout etc. so that the issues and problems could be fully understood. Councillor Parkin suggested that the Cornwall Council Youth Action Officer could speak to the relevant officer at Cornwall Council. Councillor Parkin did emphasise the need to deal with the lease that currently contained items that were no longer relevant. Councillor Andrews suggested that if no progress was made then the new Chief Executive should be made aware of these matters and possibly visit the Town Council after the elections.

## 163-12 Financial Comparison

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

## 164-12 Accounts for payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	(VAT)	NETT
British Telecom	Telephone	56.69	9.45	47.24
British Telecom	Telephone	38.76	4.21	34.55
Cornwall Council	Non Domestic Rates	1,686.07	0.00	1,686.07
British Bins	Grit Bin	82.68	13.78	68.90
ITEC	Photocopies	19.99	3.33	16.66
TRF Moore	Mayors Allowance	300.00	0.00	300.00
A D Smith	Laundry	5.80	0.00	5.80
Firewatch	Alarm Tests	287.40	47.90	239.50
Firewatch	Emergency Light Repairs	180.00	30.00	150.00
CORY Environmental	Wheelie Bin	79.74	13.29	66.45
PWS	Cleaning Materials	40.73	6.79	33.94
Clifford Motors (C Bence)	Petrol Lawn Mower	7.00	1.17	5.83
E H Andrews	Mileage Claim (Gorsedh)	48.00	0.00	48.00
Zurich Municipal	Council Insurance	3,259.63	0.00	3,259.63
TRF Moore	Mayors Allowance	137.50	0.00	137.50
Orange	Phone Bill	35.69	5.95	29.74

Councillor E H Andrews declared a pecuniary interest as a recipient of travelling expenses and left the Chamber whilst the above accounts were approved.

## 165-12 Correspondence

a) B Warne – Payments made to Torpoint Town Council.

At the instruction of the Town Mayor the Clerk read the letter to the Council that was then noted. The Mayor opened the debate by drawing members' attention to the audit report of 2006 in which the Mayor stated that criticism was levied at the issue of open governance. The Mayor then also confirmed that the Council had in October and November 2007 resolved to invoice the TMA for the cost of the lease (that was this Council was charged (£700 per annum)) for each of the financial years 2007-08 and 2008-09 making a total of £1,400. The Council then invoiced the TMA to this effect and the invoices were duly paid. The Town Mayor also reported on a further letter from the Audit Commission. Councillor B Hobbs drew attention to reports from 2005 and a meeting in April 2006 that contained references to the TMA offering to give a donation to the Council for foreshore improvements. Councillor Hobbs suggested that on this basis when the TTC relinquished the lease the money should have been used to improve the foreshore but up and until the lease was relinquished only finances spent on the foreshore was for the lease and beach clean. Councillor Hobbs concluded that the TMA wanted the money to be spent on improvements to the foreshore. The Mayor reminded members that if this Council chose to spend money around the foreshore it must be for the benefit of the community and again made reference to the lack of open governance and also confirmed that the charging formula that also included reference to a donation and had been compiled by Councillor E H Andrews had been rejected by the Council in favour of seeking re-imbursement of the lease fee.

(Councillor Hobbs, who had spoken under the Code of Conduct paragraph 3.5A with the Mayors permission, left the meeting at this point).

Councillor C K P Fowle noted the reference to a donation referred to by Councillor Hobbs and suggested that the Council could look at issues with the foreshore including access by citing the example of the slipway in Marine Drive that is used by many residents as access to the beach. Councillor Mrs J M Martin reminded the Council that the original audit report had been disputed by some members and that this

Council had not received any money from the TMA for several years prior to receiving the £1,400. The Town Mayor then spoke on several other points. Councillor Fowle suggested that the purpose of the arrangement was for the townsfolk and not just the TMA. Councillor G J Davis advised on contractual matters and suggested that the Council work with the TMA to regenerate the foreshore for the benefit of the residents. Councillor E L Parkin remarked that it would be embarrassing for the organisations to meet in court and reminded members that the Council had improved the promenade and taken over the management of Rendel Park for the benefit of residents in the town and could possibly review the foreshore to see if other improvements could be made for the benefit of residents in the town. After further discussion it was **resolved** (with 1 abstention and no votes against) that the Council review the foreshore including access within the parish for the benefit of residents to ascertain if the Council could make any improvements within any budgetary constraints and this would include meeting with representatives of the TMA to review any proposals together with any others including landowners.

(Councillors E H Andrews (being mentioned in the letter), Councillors M J Crago (as a member of the TMA) and Councillor Mrs R A Southworth (being related to an officer of the TMA) all declared a non-pecuniary interest and left the chamber at the beginning of the debate).

On his return Councillor B Hobbs stated that reference to Councillor Andrews name in the letter from Mr Warne was not in any way to be taken as the organisation being vindictive toward him.

b) CORY – Increase in Wheelie Bin Charges.

Noted.

c) Cornwall Council – Cornwall Local Plan/CIL/Gypsy and Travelling Communities Strategy.

Noted. Information and booklets were made available to members for further consideration.

d) WPS and Zurich Municipal – Insurance quotations.

The quotations received to date for the insurance renewal were

	£
WPS (AVIVA) 3 year contract (current insurers)	4,445.86
Zurich Municipal 3 year contract	3,401.29

After considering the two quotations it was **resolved** that the Council are mindful to award the 3 year contract to Zurich Municipal but delegate the final decision to the Town Clerk subject to final negotiations.

e) J Walsh – Request to Use the Council Hall FOC.

Noted. It was **resolved** to allow the use free of charge subject to the organisation demonstrating that all the finances raised are given to charity and that the contribution is noted in any publicity.

f) Torpoint and Rame Youth Project – Request to Use Benodet Park FOC.

Noted. It was **resolved** to allow the use free of charge subject to the organisation noting the contribution is in any publicity.

## **166-12 Reports**

a) Cornwall Council:-

Councillor B Hobbs reported that the Council had now finalised the key decisions and mentioned the proposed new structures of the new Council. Councillor M N Pearn reported he is hopeful that the highways would undertake the grass cutting earlier this year. Councillor Pearn also confirmed that no plans are currently in place to re-surface Antony Road. Councillor Pearn then presented the ferry report:-

Since the last report the following weekly efficiencies have been achieved:

w/c 18 February – 99.7% efficient – 4 crossings out of 1292 lost – blocked fuel filters

w/c 25 February – 99.7% efficient – 4 crossings out of 1292 lost – slack chain required taking in

w/c 4 March – 100 efficient – 0 crossings out of 1292 lost  
w/c 11 March – 99.8% efficient – 2 crossings out of 1292 lost – tripped drives  
Target is 99%. Average since last report 99.8%.

Councillor C K P Fowle asked if the grass cutting quality control would be improved this year to resolve inconsistencies. Councillor Pearn suggested that if there were problems to contact the local member. Councillor Mrs C I A Trueman commented on the high standard of grass cutting in the Goad Avenue area. Councillor M J Crago spoke on the poor quality of pot-hole repairs and it was **resolved** that the Clerk contact CORMAC to not only draw attention to the issues but to ascertain if it is intended to improve the standard and quality of materials used. Councillor B Hobbs observed that pothole repairs were being undertaken at nominal cost and voiced disappointment at the quality. Councillor Hobbs was also investigating drop kerbs in the town.

b) Torpoint Town Partnership:-

The Town Mayor reported that together with Councillors E H Andrews and Mrs R A Southworth he had attended a Gorsedh meeting in Penryn who were hosting the event this year as part of the "shadowing" exercise. The Mayor spoke on the potential costs to Torpoint and advised that the Gorsedh organisation would donate £450 toward the event. Councillor E H Andrews suggested that the Council consider granting a donation to the TTP to assist with facilitating the event. The Town Mayor spoke on a pre-event programme list that would be transferrable to Torpoint in preparation for the event. Councillor E H Andrews announced that the event would be held on the first Saturday in September 2014 and spoke on the organisation. It was also announced that the successor town in 2015 would be St Austell. Other events that would be taking place in 2014 would be the carnival, Cornwall in Bloom and the Christmas Lights. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth reminded members that any financial implications for 2014 must be written into the Development Plan and the consequent precept. Members were also advised that the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor Mrs R A Southworth visited a Christmas Light organisation and following negotiations had secured 7 "strings" of lights for £1,500 per annum plus £100 storage costs per annum. It was noted that other matters including cabling and water ingress would have to be rectified and Councillor Mrs R A Southworth reminded members that any financial implications to this Council must be written into the Development Plan. Councillor B Hobbs thanked those members and Mr Tivnan for travelling to view the lights. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth reminded members that following a "meet the funders" presentation, publicity and a CD had been deposited with the Town Administrator.

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.

**167-12 Date of the next meeting.**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> April 2013.

**168-12 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.

Meeting closed at 9.20p.m. ....Town Mayor

**OPEN FORUM**

P Sampson – Thanked the Council for their approach to working with the TMA and others to improve the foreshore and suggested that the TMA might be in a position to assist with finances.

J Tivnan – Spoke on issues with Christmas Lights cabling in Fore Street, commented on the improvements to the aesthetics on entering Torpoint from the ferry and especially the gardens and informed members that the record length of bunting that had been recognised in the Guinness Book of records had been donated to the Black Prince festival in Millbrook.