

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the annual meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 16th May 2013 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

Present: - Retiring Town Mayor (Councillor T R F Moore), Retiring Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn MBE), Councillors E H Andrews, B Hobbs, M J Crago, J F Creek, G J Davis, Mrs C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin, J Tivnan, Mrs R A Southworth and Mrs C I A Trueman plus the Town Clerk.

15-13 Election of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14

The retiring Town Mayor Councillor T R F Moore called for nominations for the position of Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2012-13. Councillor E H Andrews proposed that Councillor M N Pearn is elected to serve as Town Mayor. Councillor L E Keise seconded the proposition. There being no other nominations the motion was put and Councillor M N Pearn was duly elected to serve as Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14. Councillor Pearn signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office and announced that his wife Val would be the Mayoress. The Mayor thanked members for their support, thanked the retiring Mayor and Mayoress for their term in office and welcomed the two new members of the council.

16-13 Election of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14

The Town Mayor called for nominations for the position of Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14. Councillor E H Andrews proposed that Councillor M J Crago is elected to serve as Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14. Councillor Mrs C A Jackson seconded the proposition. There being no other nominations the motion was put and Councillor M J Crago was duly elected to serve as Deputy Town Mayor for the Civic Year 2013-14. Councillor Crago announced that his wife Tina would be the Deputy Mayoress.

17-13 Appointment of Committees and Working Parties for the Civic Year 2013-14

a) Finance and General Purposes Committee:

Town Mayor (ex officio), Councillors M J Crago, J F Creek, B Hobbs, Mrs R A Southworth and Mrs C I A Truman.

b) Forward Planning Committee:

Town Mayor (ex officio), Councillors E H Andrews, G J Davis, Mrs C A Jackson, L E Keise, Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan.

c) Systems and Procedures Working Party:

Town Mayor, Deputy Town Mayor, Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes and Forward Planning Committees

d) Internal Audit Working Party:

Composition will be the same as the Systems and Procedures Working Party ((c) above).

Proposed by Councillor E H Andrews and seconded by Councillor Mrs J M Martin and **resolved** unanimously.

18-13 Appointment of Delegates to Outside Bodies for the Civic Year 2013-14

Archives Committee – Councillor M J Crago

Police Liaison Committee – Councillor J Tivnan

Torpoint Liaison Group – Councillor Mrs C A Jackson

Torpoint and Rame Active Community Sports Network – Councillors B Hobbs, J F Creek and L E Keise.

Rame Peninsula Affordable Housing Group – No appointment (to be deleted).

Rame Peninsula Trust – No appointment (to be deleted).

Torpoint Events Company – No Appointment required from the Town Council (to be deleted).

Torpoint Youth Partnership – Councillors B Hobbs (1 position vacant)

Community Network Area – Councillors E H Andrews and G J Davis

Torpoint Town Partnership – The Town Mayor (ex officio), Councillors E H Andrews, G J Davis, Mrs J M Martin and Mrs. R A Southworth.

Friends of Thanckes Park – Councillor G J Davis

Torpoint and Rame Cooperative Learning Trust – Councillor B Hobbs.

Proposed by The Deputy Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor E H Andrews and **resolved** unanimously.

19-13 Apologies for Absence:-

None. Following an email from the Clerk it was **resolved** that the Council would advertise the four vacancies in the West Ward with a closing date of Tuesday 4th June 2013. It was further **resolved** that applications for co-option would be considered at the Forward Planning Committee of the Council (to be held on Thursday 6th June 2013) and that all Council members are invited to attend, participate and vote on this item.

20-13 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:-

Non pecuniary interests were declared by the following:-

Town Mayor – Agenda item 12(e) (Planning Application) as knowing the applicant.

Councillor E H Andrews - Agenda item 12(e) (Planning Application) as knowing the applicant.

Councillor G D Davis - Agenda item 12(e) (Planning Application) as knowing the applicant.

Councillor Mrs R A Southworth - Agenda item 16(a) as the author of the letter.

21-13 Police Report:-

In the absence of a police representative there was no report to present at the meeting.

22-13 Minutes of the previous meeting:-

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th April 2013 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to insertion in minute 08-13...Councillor B Hobbs concurred with Councillor Mrs R A Southworth and a spelling correction in minute 13-13(a) deletion of the word sings and insertion of the word swings.

23-13 Matters arising from the Minutes:-

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

Pursuant to minute 5-13(a) the Clerk reported that he has signed the tenancy at will agreement as instructed by the council subject to the outstanding matters being resolved. The Clerk confirmed that he is waiting for Cornwall Council to resolve all the outstanding matters.

b) Cornwall Council Report:-

Pursuant to minute 5-13(b) the Clerk reported that he has raised points on the proposed management agreement with the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee for resolution. The engineer has confirmed the points that were raised. It was also noted that the litter bins for the park have been ordered.

c) Planning Applications:-

Pursuant to minute 07-13 the Town Mayor reported that the application for the proposed traveller's site at Tregantle has been withdrawn.

d) Town Clock:-

Pursuant to minute 8-13 the Clerk reported that the PCC would like to meet with representatives of the Town Council to discuss the clock and the current issues. The Clerk suggested that the Town Mayor is accompanied by the Deputy Town Mayor and Clerk to meet with the PCC in an attempt to resolve the issue. Members **resolved** to concur with the Clerks suggestion.

24-13 Mayors Communications

The Town Mayor confirmed that as he had just been elected he did not have any communications to share with members.

25-13 Planning Applications

- a) PA13/02940 – Porte Rouge Care Home, Vicarage Road, Torpoint – Construction of two storey extension to nursing home (re-submission of PA11/03956).

Recommend refusal. It was noted that the proposed footprint of the development is over an area that contains a tree with a TPO, an adequate bat survey has not been sufficiently demonstrated, it is understood that a colony of slow-worms inhabit the natural hedge to be removed and it is suggested the proposal over-develops the site.

- b) PA13/02616 – The Garden Sports and Leisure Club, Antony Road, Torpoint – Redevelopment of “The Garden Sports and Leisure Club” to include the demolition of the existing swimming pool, squash court and reception area to be replaced by 14 residential units and new reception area to the retained leisure/bar and restaurant facilities.

Recommend refusal as the number of residential units overdevelops the site and adequate car parking facilities to accommodate the number of dwellings have not been sufficiently demonstrated.

- c) PA13/03078 – 45, Trelawney Rise, Torpoint – Two storey side extension and single storey rear extension.

No objections or observations.

- d) PA13/03308 – HMS Raleigh, Trevol Road, Torpoint – 4 x internally illuminated Light Shard (fascia) and 1 x illuminated ATM surround.

No objections or observations.

- e) PA13/03265 – Land adj to 61, Carbeile Road, Torpoint – Construction of three Mews dwellings and one detached house.

Recommend refusal on the following grounds

- Concern being expressed at the enclosure of the current footpath within the proposed development and the accessibility of the footpath during development and thereafter
- Overdevelopment of the site together with a lack of adequate parking facilities
- Access is onto the busy road junction of North Road and Carbeile Road

Additionally it is understood there might be a covenant on the land and that an established tree is present within the proposed site.

(The Town Mayor, Councillors E H Andrews and G J Davis all declared a non – pecuniary interest and left the chamber whilst this planning application was discussed – the Deputy Town Mayor took the chair in the absence of the Town Mayor).

26-13 Financial Accounts and Statement of Assurance 2012-13 Financial Year

The Clerk and RFO presented Financial Accounts and Statement of Assurance for the financial year 2012-13 to the Council for approval. The Clerk answered member’s questions following which it was proposed by the Deputy Town Mayor and seconded by Councillor E H Andrews that the Financial Accounts and Statement of Assurance for the 2012-13 financial year are approved. Members **resolved** unanimously to approve the accounts and the Clerk was thanked for his stewardship of the council finances.

27-13 Financial Comparison

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

28-13 Accounts for payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	(VAT)	NETT
EDF Energy	Electricity Supply	1,305.17	217.53	1,087.64
South West Water		379.88	12.60	367.28
PWS	Toilet Rolls	15.72	3.14	12.58
British Gas		3,751.93	625.32	3,126.61
Torpoint Builders Merchants	Weedkiller/Paint	14.93	2.49	12.44
Viking Direct	Stationery/Hand Towels etc	293.26	45.88	247.38
Tamar Laundry	Cleaning tablecloths etc	34.20	5.70	28.50
LCAS	Subscription	174.00	29.00	145.00
Hyder	Soil Test, Thanckes Park	900.00	150.00	750.00
Cornwall Council	Salary Payments	20,617.30	24.00	20,593.30
Clear Sight	Window Cleaner	60.00	0.00	60.00
Torpoint Hardware & DIY	Materials	26.50	4.41	22.09
ITEC	Photocopies	44.22	7.37	36.85
CORY Environmental	Wheelie Bin	86.92	14.49	72.43
Drew & Company	Repairs Heating System	448.63	74.77	373.86
Natural Garden Solutions	Locking/Toilets/Cover	152.00	0.00	152.00
British Telecom	Desk for Booking Clerk	25.26	4.21	21.05
British Telecom	Desk for Booking Clerk	54.00	9.00	45.00
Cornwall Council	Non Domestic Rates	976.00	0.00	976.00
Sainsbury (S Parkin reimb)	Cleaning Materials	5.50	0.91	4.59
Viking Direct	Stamps	55.26	0.88	54.38
Orange	Telephone	38.08	6.35	31.73

The Clerk drew attention to the Mayors Allowance and the methodology of paying it. As had been noted previously the Mayors Allowance could be subject to income tax and that payment of the lump sum is a method of paying the allowance but that the recipient Mayor must be able to explain the expenditure should the HMRC request evidence. The alternative was to pay on receipt of invoices/receipts or it could be a combination of both. The advice guidance was given to the Town mayor. After considering the matter members **resolved** to pay the amount as a "lump sum" and this would be paid at the June meeting of the Council.

29-13 Correspondence

a) Torpoint Allotment Association – Use of Council Chambers.

Noted. It was **resolved** to grant the request for free of charge use of the Council Chambers for the annual Torpoint and District Garden and Craft Show on the terms set out in the letter.

(Councillor Mrs R A Southworth declared a non-pecuniary interest as the author of the letter and left the Chamber whilst this subject was discussed).

b) Cornwall Council – East Sub-Area Planning Committee.

Noted.

c) CHICKS – Newsletter.

Noted.

d) Tate Gallery – Information Booklets.

Noted.

30-13 Reports

a) Cornwall Council:-

Councillor B Hobbs reported that very little had happened at Cornwall Council since the elections a fortnight previously. Councillor Hobbs did speak on the issue of potholes and informed the meeting that a planned road re-surface programme would not be implemented until the fourth quarter of this financial year. Councillor Hobbs reminded the Council that around 40 motorcyclists commuted to HMS Raleigh and the continuance of the pothole issue was putting them in danger. Councillor E H Andrews was appalled at this delay in re-surfacing roads in the town and suggested that this displeasure is communicated to Cornwall Council. The Deputy Town Mayor voiced the opinion that the A374 could not be closed as it was the main trunk road into the town. Councillor Mrs R A Southworth spoke on the issue of weeds around the town and in particular the service lanes. Councillor Hobbs concurred with the observation noting that in some areas the weeds were around 1m high. Councillor Hobbs informed the meeting that a survey of the problem was being undertaken but was of the opinion that the area being surveyed was insufficient. It was **resolved** that this Council would write to the relevant officer at Cornwall Council to voice this Council's dissatisfaction at the current problem. Members raised issues with refuse being put out for collection well in advance of the collection day was also highlighted. The current road cleaning operative came in for praise at the diligence in cleaning the roads. Councillor Mrs C A Jackson informed members that seagull proof sacks were available for sale at the One Stop Shop. Councillor Mrs Jackson also advised members that items had been stolen at Albion Court and as a result called for a permanent warden to be put in post observing that the warden accommodation was still empty. Councillor Hobbs spoke on the issue of security at Albion Court and confirmed that he would ask about the situation with the warden.

Councillor M N Pearn presented the ferry report:-

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

w/c 15 April – 99.7% efficient – 4 crossings out of 1292 lost (worn section of chain replaced)

w/c 22 April – 99.8% efficient – 2 crossings out of 1292 lost (recovery of broken down vehicle)

w/c 29 April – 100% efficient – 0 crossings out of 1292 lost

w/c 6 May – 100% efficient (so far) – 0 crossings out of 1292 lost

Target is 99%. Average since last report 99.9%. Average so far this calendar year 99.5%

Councillor M J Crago drew attention to a recent accident that blocked the A38 with traffic diverted via the ferry. Councillor Crago reported that the service had been reduced to two ferries resulting in tailback of traffic outside of the town and posited the question why the additional ferry had not been brought back into service. Councillor Pearn replied from a prepared statement from ferry officials, stating that the additional ferry could not be brought back into service citing working practices and the working time directive limiting working hours. Councillor E H Andrews was of the opinion that costs could be recovered and the Deputy Town Mayor expressed surprise that there was not a contingency programme in place to deal with emergencies. Councillor Mrs J M Martin spoke on the subject and supported the call for a contingency to be put in place. Councillor Pearn would take the members concerns back to the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Manager.

b) Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP):-

Councillor E H Andrews presented the report. Councillor Andrews opened by informing members that the Town Carnival falls on the same day as the Saltash Regatta when this Council would be defending the rowing competition that it had won on the last two occasions in which it was held. Councillor Andrews appealed for four rowers and a coxswain to make up the crew for the competition. Councillor Andrews reminded the Council that the Gorsedh would be held in September 2014 and the Grand Bard and a representative from the Old Cornwall Society would be present at the next meeting of the Partnerships. Councillor Andrews anticipated that a wide group of organisations would assist with the event when a large number of visitors are expected in the town. Other items that the Partnership Group would be progressing included Cornwall in Bloom and the Christmas Lights project.

31-13 Date of the next meeting.

Thursday 20th June 2013.

Meeting closed at 8.20p.m.Town Mayor

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