

TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of a meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 15th January 2015 at 7.00 p.m. in the Council Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

Present: - Town Mayor (Councillor M N Pearn MBE), Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M J Crago), Councillors E H Andrews, Mrs K Brownhill, G J Davis (late arrival), Mrs C E Goodman, Mrs. C A Jackson, Mrs A I Johnson, L E Keise, Miss J L Kinsman, Mrs J M Martin and J Tivnan plus the Town Clerk with the Assistant Town Clerk in attendance.

142-14 Apologies for Absence:-

Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors J F Creek, P R Edwards, B Hobbs and Mrs R A Southworth

143-14 Declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda:-

Non-Registerable Interests (NRI) were declared by

Deputy Town Mayor – Agenda item 10 (Accounts for Payment – Carew Lodge as a member of the Lodge).

Councillor E H Andrews - Agenda item 10 (Accounts for Payment – RBL as a member of organisation).

Agenda item 12(c and c) as the Treasurer of the TTP and author of the letter)

Councillor J Tivnan – Agenda item 10 (Accounts for Payment – RBL as a member of organisation).

144-14 Police Report:-

In the absence of the police representative, members were reminded that the crime report for December has been circulated. The crime statistics for Torpoint were as follows:-

40 crimes in the town consisting of

17 thefts (including 2 frauds, 11 thefts or attempted thefts from vehicles)

8 assaults (all categories including sexual and domestic incidents)

2 burglaries (dwellings)

5 criminal damage

1 vehicle interference

3 public order type offences

2 communication offences

1 animal related offence

1 drugs offence

Councillor J Tivnan reported that a juvenile was being dealt with through the restorative justice system and appealed for assistance in finding a suitable activity. The Deputy Town Mayor reported conflicting accounts of problems in Torpoint during the New Year celebrations. The police reported the only issue was reports of possible “spiked drinks” whereas the press had indicated that the problems were far worse. It was **resolved** that the press would be contacted to establish the source of the information given the report to this Council from the police.

145-14 Minutes of the previous meeting:-

The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 18th December 2014 and the extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 8th January 2015 were taken as read, confirmed and signed by the Mayor subject to the insertion of the date of the next meeting as being Thursday 15th January 2015 (minute 135-14).

146-14 Matters arising from the Minutes:-

a) Asset Management Committee:-

Pursuant to minute 108-14(c) (Lawnmower) following pursuit of this matter by the Assistant Town Clerk and receipt of an email by the Town Mayor from the former Chairman of the Allotment Association Committee, it is understood that the funding body have insisted that disposal of the mower has to be undertaken by the Torpoint Allotment Association who were awarded the finances to purchase the machine and in compliance with the terms of the grant. It was therefore **resolved** to return the asset to the Torpoint Allotment Association, remove the asset from this Council's asset register and insurance schedule and to notify the Torpoint Allotment Association of the Council's actions and that the mower is to be removed from Council premises.

b) Cornwall Council Report:-

Pursuant to minute 124-14 (a) and in the absence of Councillor B Hobbs to update members, the Clerk reported that Council Hobbs has confirmed that the parts for the equipment have been ordered on the 24th December 2014. Councillor Hobbs reported that the reason for the delay is that the purchasing department at Cornwall Council were unaware more than one part was required.

c) Asset Management Committee:-

Pursuant to minute 129 -14 (Noise Nuisance) the Assistant Town Clerk reported receipt of an email from Cornwall Council that was read to the meeting. The email was noted. The Assistant Town Clerk then spoke on possible solutions to the problem following which it was **resolved** that the Assistant Town Clerk would refer to this matter in the report to the Asset Management and Operations Committee when it would be considered further. Pursuant to minute 129-14 (Archives Roof – see also confidential minute) the Assistant Town Clerk referred to the circulated email to members pointing to the urgent repair that was required following further ingress of water into the Archives Rooms. The email was noted. The Assistant Town Clerk reported that the work has been completed and members **resolved** to confirm the Assistant Town Clerk's actions in undertaking the work.

d) Torpoint Community College – Dog Fouling:-

Pursuant to minute 133-14(e) Councillor Mrs J M Martin observed that the town is now experiencing a spate of this anti-social activity and appealed to Cornwall Council to help reduce the problem. The Town Mayor reported that he has contacted Cornwall Council and the dog warden has now visited the town. It was suggested that this matter is also dealt with by using the vehicle of the Mayor's column in the Torpoint Advertiser. Councillor E H Andrews suggested that the caretaking staff might be approached to undertake dog warden training. The Clerk/Assistant Town Clerk would convey this suggestion to the current staff.

e) Planning Application – Torpoint Nursery and Infant School:-

Pursuant to minute 140-14 Councillor Mrs J M Martin confirmed that the Independent Childcare Assessment as called for in the minute has been completed by the school and the need identified. Councillor Mrs Martin also informed the meeting that the proposed extension would only accommodate an additional 8 students and concluded by drawing attention to proposals to open a nursery in the former doctors surgery at the corner of Albion and Antony roads suggesting that this would have a far larger impact on traffic movements and parking than the proposed extension to the school premises.

147-14 Mayors Communications

Council Mayors Diary

Friday 12th December - St James Church Christmas Tree Festival – presented the prizes to the winner and runners up, the winner for the best overall decorated tree was The Arthritis Group 'Them Bones Them Bones'. There were 34 trees entered, congratulations to all who took part.

Friday 12th December – Torpoint Infants & Nursery School Christmas Show another great show by the children.

Sunday 14th December – St James Church 'Community Carol Service' this got us all in the mood for Christmas!!

Monday 15th December - Accompanied Val to HMS Raleigh for her 'Mary Berry' duties judging the cake competition.

Friday 19th December – St James Church – The Torpoint Lady Singers & Rame Peninsula Male Voice Choir with Soloist Annabel Kennedy – the show Compared by Alison Johns, Radio Devon & Cornwall. In aid of Sarcoma Research UK. What a great show!!

Monday 22nd December – The Coppola School of Performing Arts presented Christmas Crackers 2014 Show, It certainly was a cracker of a show – with the very young preschool children up to the seniors. Well done to you all.

Wednesday 24th December - Devonport Dockyard – Babcock Christmas Carol Service.

Thursday 25th December (Christmas Day) Val, Harry and I visited Torcare, Porte Rouge, Tamara Nursing Homes to see the residents before they had their lunch and then to St James Church Hall where a Christmas Dinner was cooked and served for 36 residents and friends who would have been home alone. My thanks to all especially the organisers, chefs, kitchen staff and helpers.

Friday 2nd January 2015 – Seventy Thirty Club (1730) – Presentation to the Torpoint Athletic Mini Soccer Club.

Wednesday 14th January - Truro - A presentation by the Lord Lt and the Head of the Honours and Appointments Secretary from the Cabinet Office Richard Tilbrook about applying for the honours as Cornwall is very short on the list.

A Date for your diary: Saturday 14th February at the Council Chambers – Mayor's Charity Table Top sale – Tables available £5 from Val Pearn on 813164. There will be Bacon/egg Baps, raffles, bric a brac and clothing on sale.

The Mayor also drew attention to operational matters that required urgent attention [Financial Regulation 7.6 refers [and Best Value Statement] – reference the RFO's delegated authority]. The first was the urgent need to replace the door on the sound booth at Benodet Park at a cost of £380 net. The second was to repair the "lifting" of the parquet flooring in the Vanity Room 2 at a cost of £280 net. The final item although not urgent was the servicing of the lift for disabled at the 1-3 Buller Road entrance. Whilst it was not urgent because the lift engineer was in the area the cost would be £450 (usual price - £952). Councillor J Tivnan announced that a compliance certificate was also required. Following further discussion it was **resolved** to confirm the Clerk/RFO's actions on the above subject to the addition of the lift compliance certificate to the service.

148-14 Planning Applications:-

None.

149-14 Financial Comparison

It was **resolved** that the December financial comparison (as circulated) is received and adopted. It was reported that the Assistant Town Clerk has reviewed the income and expenditure and confirmed the financial comparison as being accurate.

150-14 Accounts for payment

PAYEE	REASON	GROSS	VAT	NET
Trade Point	Swing Bin	27.96	4.66	23.30
Carew Lodge	Refreshments - Visit HMS Raleigh	162.55	0.00	162.55
BUNZL	Cleaning and hygiene supplies	155.76	25.96	129.80
Maplin	CCTV Signage	39.95	6.66	33.29
British Gas	Gas Supply	809.56	134.92	674.64
Royal British Legion	Poppy Wreaths (4)	72.00	0.00	72.00
Penrose & Son	Light Tubes	53.00	8.83	44.17
M Acton	Laundry	54.00	0.00	54.00
Western Web	Add Armed Forces Day - Website	18.00	3.00	15.00
South West Hygiene	Nappy Unit Rental	42.98	7.16	35.82
Don Benson	Clock Winding	35.00	0.00	35.00
Mrs C F Southworth	Postage - Grant Application	2.03	0.00	2.03
Southern Electric	Electricity Invoice	1,027.74	171.29	856.45
EE/T Mobile	Mobile Telephones	60.78	10.13	50.65

(The Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor M J Crago) and Councillor E H Andrews both declared a non-prejudicial interest (NRI) and left the Chamber whilst this matter was discussed minute 143-14 refers. Councillor J Tivnan considered his interest as being insignificant and remained in the Chamber).

151-14 Correspondence

a) Sheryl Murray MP – Business Premises Request.
Noted.

b) Torpoint Players – Free of Charge Use for rehearsals.
Noted. It was **resolved** to grant the request.

c) NHS – Peninsula News.
Noted.

152-14 Reports

a) Cornwall Council:-

In the absence of Councillor B Hobbs the Clerk read from a report sent by Councillor Hobbs. Councillor Hobbs reported that the funding for staff at the Youth Centre is withdrawn on the 30th March and is a cause of great concern. Councillor Hobbs cited the example of a successful entertainer in Plymouth that had come from a disadvantaged background and attributed credit to the support of the club. Councillor Hobbs also confirmed that he had undertaken an audit of the internal systems of Control and reported that the Council is in "good order". The Clerk reported that the completed report would be considered by the Finance Committee. Councillor M N Pearn MBE confirmed receipt of the ferry report. The report is replicated below:-

DATE	EFFICIENCY %	CROSSINGS
w/c 15 th December	99.6% efficient	6 crossings lost (delivery of main chain).
w/c 22 nd December	100% efficient	0 crossings lost
w/c 29 th December	100% efficient	0 crossings lost
w/c 5 th January	100% efficient	0 crossings lost

Target is 99% Average since the last report – 99.9%. Average during last rolling 12 month period – 99.5%

Councillor Pearn also reported that he was reviewing bus shelter provision on the exit roads to the new Health Centre. Councillor Pearn observed that for a long distance along this route there were no shelters. Councillor Mrs C A Jackson again drew attention to the 3 bedroomed house at Albion Court that had remained vacant for some 3 years. Councillor Mrs Jackson commented that the proposal to turn the accommodation into offices had not materialised and spoke on the number of people on the home choices register looking for this accommodation. The Town Mayor in his capacity as a Cornwall Councillor would pursue this matter and Councillor E H Andrews remarked that this Council should support Councillor Pearn in his efforts. The Town Mayor reported that he would furnish the Clerk with the contact details of the officer.

b) Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP):-

The Town Mayor spoke preparations for the Carnival later in the year.

c) Cornwall Armed Forces Day:-

Receipt was reported of the minutes of the Armed Forces Day Committee that were posted on the Council's website. The minutes contained reference to the £5,000 that this Council had made available for the event. Receipt was also reported of a letter from the treasurer of the Torpoint Town Partnerships requesting release of the £5,000. The letter was noted. The Clerk spoke on the current status of the event. Although it was suggested that this Council "leads the event", using the analogy of Falmouth Town Council that lead the event in 2014, the Clerk reminded members that this Council did not have the financial or administrative resources of Falmouth and further were not in fact leading the event but supporting and working in partnership with the Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP) and the Armed Forces Committee that were part of the TTP. Further the Council had allocated £5,000 toward the event in the 2015-16 budget (LGA 1972 sec 144) and that this Council would have to resolve to release some funds during this financial year if the request is granted. The Clerk suggested that the TTP/Armed Forces Day would have to submit a budget clearly annotated as to what was expected from this Council and then this would have to be agreed by members. This would allow the Council to reclaim any VAT as he understood the event was non-business activity. The Clerk concluded that he understood the organising committee was asking for deposits to be paid and this was a possible conflict with financial regulation 8.3 as the money would be paid before the goods/services are received. After further discussion it was **resolved** to implement the following:-

- i) That this Council does not lead but supports and works in partnership with the TTP on this event. It is acknowledged that the Armed Forces Day Committee is part of the TTP and not of this Council.
- ii) That this Council makes available up to £5,000 during this financial year for the event, subject to the TTP submitting an annotated budget requesting release of finances which has to be approved by members to support the event, to a ceiling of £5,000.
- iii) That this Council will provide further support by making available facilities and other assistance subject to the usual terms of reference.
- iv) Following receipt of the budget from the Armed Forces Day Committee all expenditure will be approved by this Council and that financial regulations are complied with for all purchases.
- v) In the event of a deposit being requested for goods and services and with due reference to financial regulation 8.3, the Council will authorise expenditure subject to ensuring that any financial risk is kept to a minimum.
- vi) Approved expenditure has to be in the name of Torpoint Town Council.

(Councillor E H Andrews declared a non-registerable interest (NRI) as treasurer of the TTP and left the chamber whilst the above minute was discussed (minute 143-14 refers).

153-14 Date of the next meeting.

Thursday 19th February 2015.

Meeting closed at 7.55p.m.Town Mayor
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OPEN FORUM

Rev Lynn Parker – Drew attention to large pot holes at the entrance to the new cemetery. It was confirmed that the cemetery is owned and operated by Cornwall Council and Councillor M N Pearn MBE in his capacity as Cornwall Councillor would pursue this matter.