

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 26 APRIL 2021 at 7.00 pm via ZOOM VIDEO CONFERENCING**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Bert Biscoe), Honorary Freeman Cllr Wells, Councillors Allen, Mrs Callen, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Cox. Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Ellis, Green, Mainwaring-Evans, Mrs Neale, Nolan, Mrs Nolan, Rich, Roden, Ms Southcombe, Mrs Stokes, Mrs Swain, Tamblyn, Mrs Tudor, Vella, Webb and Wilkins.

APOLOGIES: Apologies of absence were received by Councillor Pascoe

Also in Attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk;
David Harris CC
Very Rev'd Roger Bush, the Dean of Truro.

THANKS

Prior to prayers, the Mayor extended thanks, on behalf of the City Council and Truro City, to all Members of the Council for their work over the years, and to those who were not standing at the next election, regardless of duration of service.

PRAYERS

Prior to the formal business of the Council, as the Dean of Truro had tendered his apologies, the Town Clerk said prayers.

488 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest.

489 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 29 March 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following comments:

Minute 451 (Confidential Minute)

Councillor Wilkins asked for the figures used to inform this discussion. As this related to a confidential minute, the Town Clerk agreed to speak with Councillor Wilkins about this issue personally, outside of the meeting.

490 CORNWALL COUNCIL

(i) Towns Fund Deal

Councillor Harris CC commented on the success of Truro obtaining the Towns Fund Deal grant of £23 million, and that it was now important to make sure the relationship between the Towns Fund Board, the City Council and Cornwall Council was correct to move forward and achieve the best outcome for the City.

Councillor Rich CC commented how fantastic the grant was and expressed thanks to volunteers.

(ii) Malabar Community Centre

Councillor Harris CC commented there had been a submission to Historic England for the old community centre, which was to be demolished, to instead be listed. This meant the plans for the new centre had to be revised but as it was not to be built upon the footprint of the old centre, this was achievable. Councillor Harris CC added that if he were to be re-elected, he would do everything he could to get the new community centre built and in use quickly.

(iii) Pydar Application

Councillor Harris CC commented he had written to Cornwall Council regarding the re-submission of the application as he felt it was inappropriate during purdah. However, he had not yet received a response.

(iv) Land Slip at Sunny Corner

Councillor Nolan CC informed Members of the land slip at Sunny Corner. Cormac had attended the site but there was a large piece of rock hanging, which would make the task much harder to rectify.

(v) Newham Trail

Councillor Nolan CC informed Members of the widening of the trail and the installation of a permeable surface. There would be a consultation later in May.

Councillor Mrs Stokes spoke briefly about making a complaint about the access along the path in December, but the respondent was confused about the area and referred to Sunny Corner instead. Councillor Nolan CC confirmed it was Cormac who was dealing with the issues.

(vi) Housing

Councillor Rich CC spoke about the significant issues around housing in Truro, and how local people were finding it increasingly difficult to rent or buy due to people from out of the area offering much higher prices, or a year's rent in advance. People were also being evicted from their rented accommodation as landlords realised how much more money they can get for their properties. This was making it extremely difficult for local people to live in the area in which they work, forcing them out of the city and into expensive commutes.

Members discussed 'gazumping', the mechanism by which agreements for accommodation are then broken when a higher offer is made, and that Cornwall Council could introduce a policy in the area to prevent this from happening. The need for more social housing for local people was also discussed.

(vii) Anti-social behaviour

Councillor Biscoe CC commented the Anti-social Behaviour Officer was now in situ so it was hoped this issue would now begin to be managed. Answering a question from Councillor Wilkins about the hours of work of the Officer, Councillor Biscoe CC commented the Town Clerk in liaison with Cornwall Council would be discussing this, and it would be based on need. The focus would be on the city centre, but patrolling would include outlying areas due to dispersal of the issue into housing estates as people were moved on.

491 OPEN SESSION FOR THE ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no questions from the electors of Truro.

492 MAYOR'S VERBAL COMMUNICATIONS

There were no additional verbal communications from the Mayor.

493 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

494 QUESTION TIME – WRITTEN QUESTIONS

There were no written questions.

495 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Minutes of the Meetings of the under-mentioned Committees were approved and adopted by the Council, except where otherwise stated:

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

Proposed by Councillor Vella, seconded by Councillor Webb

8 APRIL 2021

MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

12 APRIL 2021

Proposed by Councillor Ms Southcombe, seconded by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons

496 Cornwall Council

Councillors considered Cornwall Council's revised newly adopted Code of Conduct and Register of Interests form, which would be effective from 6 May 2021. The Town Clerk recommended that the City Council does not adopt the Code as it stood, but to instead wait on Cornwall Council's response to changes proposed by Cornwall Association of Local Councils. The changes were minor and only related to training and declaring gifts/hospitality.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Biscoe (Mayor) and

RESOLVED that the Code of Conduct and Register of Interests form be adopted in principle, and if any further amendments were made following recommendations by Cornwall Association of Local Councils, then these would be agreed by the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in association with the Town Clerk. If it were deemed the changes were significant then the item would be referred to July's Council meeting.

497 Truro and Kenwyn Neighbourhood Development Plan (TKNDP)

Members considered the Landscape Edge Assessment Report, which the TKNDP Steering Group requested both the City Council and Kenwyn Parish Council consider recommending for adoption by Cornwall Council.

Members briefly discussed the document, including debate regarding the boundary for Truro, and when neighbouring parishes would be consulted. The Town Clerk responded the proposal could be sent to neighbouring parishes, asking for their comments, and this would form part of Cornwall Council's consultation.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Vella, seconded by Councillor Webb (Deputy Mayor Elect) and

RESOLVED that the City Council recommend to Cornwall Council that the Landscape Edge Assessment Report be adopted.

498 Proposed Truro City Council Zero Carbon Working Group

Members considered draft terms of reference for the Zero Carbon Working Group (Minute 479, page 235 of the Parks & Amenities Committee. 12.04.2021 refers). Councillor Mainwaring-Evans briefly explained the membership of the Committee and the terms of reference to Members. The Mayor praised the work as excellent.

Following discussion, it was proposed by Councillor Biscoe (the Mayor) and

RESOLVED that
(i) the draft terms of reference for the Zero Carbon Working Group be adopted;
(ii) the six Councillors who would sit on the Zero Carbon Working Group be selected at the July meeting of Council.

499 Standing Orders

Members considered a request from the Town Clerk to:

- a) Amalgamate business from the Adjourned Council meeting, into the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony (to be held on Monday 17 May 2021) and the Council meeting on 5 July in order to avoid the necessity for a meeting until there is clarity over the legal position relating to the holding of virtual meetings.;

- b) Permit the Town Clerk to, in the week following elections, when new Councillors sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, to request Members' choices for Committees, and in association with the Mayor Elect & Deputy Mayor Elect, allocate Members to Committees. These allocations will be reported at the Annual Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony on Monday 17 May 2021. Chairman and Vice—Chairman for each Committee will be selected by each Committee in their respective first meetings after this date.

Members discussed the requests, and the addition that should either the Mayor Elect or Deputy Mayor Elect not be re-elected that the Town Clerk consults with one of the senior members of the Council who has experience in Committee Selection, to devise the Committee memberships.

Members also discussed some of the arrangements around Mayor Making, which would be socially distanced at the Cathedral. The Town Clerk confirmed there would be several adjustments to comply with regulations, and this meant Members would have to raise their hands to request to speak then go to one of the fixed microphones when indicated by the Mayor. The Town Clerk recognised it was not an ideal situation but that it needs to be acknowledged that the measures were a necessity due to the pandemic.

The Town Clerk also confirmed relevant charities and organisations would be informed of the change of trustee with the new Mayoralty.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Webb and

RESOLVED that adjustments to Standing Orders be made to

- (i) allow for Adjourned Council to be amalgamated with Mayor Making in order to conduct Council business and comply with legislation;
- (ii) enable the Town Clerk to select the Standing Committee memberships in liaison with the Mayor, Mayor Elect, Deputy Mayor Elect, and a senior Member of the Council.

500 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Towns Deal Board

The Town Clerk spoke briefly about the Towns Deal Board, elaborating on his written report that a business plan would now need to be produced to address key conditions for each of the projects that had been approved. These would have to be produced within a twelve-month period before final approval could be issued, so there was a lot of work to be carried out over this time period.

Pydar Street Planning Application

The Town Clerk confirmed that an informal meeting would be taking place via Zoom to discuss the project plans, of which Members would have already received notification.

Members discussed the meeting, with many Councillors commenting that the meeting request was designed to allow time to discuss the proposals and make suggestions ahead of a formal application being submitted. However, an application was due to be submitted in the next few days, and holding the meeting during purdah would not allow for any specific suggestions to be made. Some Members commented it was pointless having the meeting at all as the plans had clearly been finalised so any influence the City Council could exert was now limited. It was suggested the Town Clerk write to Cornwall Council to request deferral of the application to give Members time, after the election, to consider the proposals and

have open communication with Cornwall Council. There was also the comment that the new Council should be looking at the plans, not Members who would possibly not be re-elected. There was also significant concern that the developers had not addressed any of the points the City Council had made during their previous meetings.

It was mentioned that Cornwall Councillors had been shown the plans individually, and that the plans seemed to have taken the City Council's comments into consideration in terms of reducing the massing and changing some of the design. It was also acknowledged that many Councillors did not reject the proposal in principle, but felt it was vital that the details were correct and the design fit into Truro.

Councillor Tamblyn left the meeting at 8.11pm.

Following lengthy discussion regarding potential format if a meeting went ahead, and further discussing why Members felt it should not, it was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Biscoe (the Mayor) and

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk writes to Cornwall Council to defer a meeting regarding the Pydar Street application until after the election of the new Council, for a proper discussion to take place.

Day Care Centre Reopening

The Town Clerk commented the Day Care Centre was due to open at the end of June, and it would be run by the Churches Together trust.

Town Hall Clock

The Town Clerk informed Members he would be having a meeting that week to discuss the way forward on the Town Hall Clock repairs.

501 TRURO & THE ROSELAND COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells reported the next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting on 8 June 2021.

502 REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED

There were no meetings or conferences to report.

503 THANKS

The Mayor ended the meeting by thanking Members for their time on the Council, regardless of their length of service, adding he felt a lot of business had been moved forward during the pandemic due to the continued services provided by the staff. The Mayor thanked Councillors for their support during his Mayoralty and he wished his successor best wishes in the role.

504 COMMON SEAL

RESOLVED that the Common Seal be affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:38pm

MAYOR