

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 11 APRIL 2022 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Roden, (Chairman), Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons (Vice-Chairman), Nolan, Smith, Ms Southcombe, Mrs Stokes (Deputy Mayor), Mrs Swain (Deputy Mayor Elect), Webb (Mayor) and Wells

Also, in attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer

APOLOGIES: Apologies of absence were received from Councillor Rich and Mrs Joanne Trevelyan, Financial Officer

513 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Land at Malabar (minute 516, page 256, 11.04.2022)

Councillors Roden and Wells declared an interest in the above item as Directors and Trustees of the New Beginning Community Association (Malabar).

514 OPEN SESSION FOR THE ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no electors of Truro present.

515 MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14 March 2022, having been before Council 28 March 2022, were noted as a correct record.

516 LAND PURCHASE AND TRANSFERS

Land at Coosebean Meadows

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that in January 2022 the Council approved the purchase of land in principle and delegated the final agreement to the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and the Chairs of the Finance & General Purposes and Parks & Amenities Committees. He explained final terms had now been approved by Councillors and the signed paperwork and funds were with the City Council's solicitors who were waiting for the seller's solicitors to be in a position to complete. The Town Clerk had hoped to have confirmed completion at the meeting, however, assured Members it was imminent.

Land at Beechwood Parc

The signed paperwork was with the City Council's solicitors and the Town Clerk updated Members that he was awaiting confirmation that the developer had completed the transfer.

As they had declared an interest in the following item, Councillors Roden and Wells left the meeting at 7.02pm.

Land at Malabar

The Town Clerk informed the Committee there had been two developments since the Council passed the June 2017 resolution below:

"That the Council agree to the transfer of the Malabar land for the purposes of constructing a community building and meet the conveyancing costs from the devolution budget."

1. The Residents Association had obtained the promise of grant fundings and submitted a planning application for the community building.

2. The building next door, the former infants' school, had now been "listed". This had led to Cornwall Council not granting planning permission.

The Town Clerk explained he had received a letter from the Head of Property at Cornwall Council and that a similar letter had been received by the Residents Association:

In summary, he explained Cornwall Council had been considering its position with regard to the future of the Malabar site since the listing of the former school building by English Heritage in June 2021 and in particular since the response to the planning Pre-Apps submitted by NBCA and TCLT was published in January.

The preferred route for Cornwall Council was to reconvene an 'all stakeholders' group to consider afresh the Malabar site as a whole and seek to agree a mutually acceptable solution that provides a sustainable, long-term future for the whole site including the listed building. As such, officers would be in touch with the City Council to seek to arrange an initial meeting. The Town Clerk explained that Cornwall Council appreciated this was not the news the City Council wanted to hear but hoped the City Council would be willing to be part of this process in order to achieve the appropriate outcome for the site as a whole.

In view of the circumstances Members understood the decision made by the Head of Property, however, the impact on the morale of the members of the Residents Association was a concern and it was suggested the Community Development Officer addresses that.

It was agreed that the City Council should take part in the discussions with Cornwall Council on how to move forward.

A Member queried whether it was possible for the building to become un-listed, documented and then demolished. There were concerns that this would cause the morale of the Residents Association to worsen, and that Cornwall Council would not apply, to demolish a Listed Building as the risk factors were too high.

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

RECOMMENDED that:

1. The Town Clerk write to Cornwall Council requesting they reimburse Truro City Council/New Beginnings Community Association with any costs incurred between the Listing by Historic England in June 2021 and the letter from Cornwall Council withdrawing from the heads of terms agreement to transfer the land at Malabar.
2. That in the event there is a meeting with Cornwall Council to discuss the future of the site, that the local members for Malabar, Councillors LaBorde and Goodman represent the City Council.
3. If the listed building is not demolished, then the principle to return it to a usable standard is accepted.

Councillors Roden and Wells re-joined the meeting at 7.15pm. As they had declared an interest on the above item they did not take part in the discussion or vote on the recommendation.

517 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

RESOLVED that in accordance with s1(2) of the Public Bodies

(Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 the press and public be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by reason of its confidential or special nature.

518 ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Following discussion below the line it was proposed by Councillor Roden, Seconded by Councillor Stokes, and

RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the Town Clerk's confidential report.

519 MUNICIPAL OFFICES CLOCKTOWER

Following discussion below the line it was proposed by Councillor Roden, Seconded by Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, and

RECOMMENDED that the Committee notes the Town Clerk's confidential report.

520 READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, Seconded by Councillor Nolan, and

RESOLVED that the press and public be invited back to the meeting.

521 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

The meeting closed at 7.57pm.

CHAIRMAN