

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON MONDAY 9 JANUARY 2023 AT 7.00 PM IN THE TRAINING ROOM, FIRST FLOOR, TRURO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PYDAR STREET, TRURO**

**PRESENT:** Councillors Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons (Chairman), Biscoe, Green, Rabey, Roby, Roden, Swain (Deputy Mayor) and Webb (Mayor).

**APOLOGIES:** Councillors Sealy, Southcombe and Tamblyn.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Carlyon.

**ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Roger Gazzard – Town Clerk  
Richard Budge – Parks and Amenities Manager  
Jo Trevelyan – Finance Officer

At the start of the meeting, the Chairman informed Members of the evacuation procedures.

**260 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP**

The Chairman reported that Councillor La Borde had replaced former Councillor Wilkins as a member of the committee.

**261 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest.

**262 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS**

There were no public questions.

**263 PUBLIC MINUTES AND CONFIDENTIAL MINUTE OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2023**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Roby, and

**RESOLVED** that:

The Public Minutes and Confidential Minute of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 14 November 2022, were amended by the inclusion of Councillors Biscoe and Rabey in the list of those present at the meeting and signed as a correct record subject to this amendment.

**264 ESTIMATES 2023/2024**

The Town Clerk submitted the following reports for Committee's consideration: i. Estimates Report 2023-24, ii. Zero Carbon Officer Report, iii. Operations Plan – Fozzard's Field Nursery, Idless and iv. Operations Plan – Tennis Pavilion Café, Boscawen Park. He provided a presentation setting out the background to the Council's overall financial position which highlighted the impact of inflation on 2022-23 and 2023-34, other cost pressures, Parks and Amenities Committee major changes in 2023-24 and a summary position for potential precept reductions. Further information set out the impact on Council Tax Payers of potential precept increases and a summary of Net Revenue Spending and Capital Funding for this Committee. The presentation continued setting out proposed cost reductions grouped as Options 1 and 2, reflecting an increased level of risk for Option 2.

Members asked questions on the budget and operations which were answered by the Town Clerk and Parks and Amenities Manager. The Parks and Amenities Manager commented a potential reduction in staffing X 1 (whilst saving some £26K) would have an impact on the Parks Department and work would be managed accordingly. Members suggested appointing 2 x 3 months temporary contract gardeners instead of 2 X 6 months, which could generate a saving in the region of £13k. There was

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some discussion on whether the proposed Zero Carbon post should be full or part time and potential impact of reductions in contributions to the Structural Maintenance Fund and Training Budget. The Committee asked how many Annual Household Tennis Memberships were located outside the Parish & if different rates could be applied to Parish residents and users living outside of the Parish boundary.

Members, in considering Options 1 and 2 were not minded to recommend the following Precept Reductions on the grounds of increased risk:

Budget	£'000	Report reference/ Note
Contribution to Structural Maintenance Fund	15	Page 31 Option 1
Reduction in one member of Parks Department staff	26	Page 31 Option 2. See new Precept Reduction as recommended below.
Further reduce additional Training Budget	5	Page 32 Option 2
Further reduce contribution to Structural Maintenance Fund	10	Page 32 Option 2

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Mayor, and

**RECOMMENDED to Council that:**

1. The following Precept Reductions be approved:

Budget	£'000	Report reference/ Note
Remove one Assistant Ranger post	30	Page 31 Option 1
Reduce additional Training Budget	10	Page 31 Option 1
Contribution to Public Convenience Fund	10	Page 31 Option 2
Reduction equivalent to half a member of Parks Department staff ie recruit 2 X 3 month summer contract gardeners instead of 2 X 6 month contract	13	New
Selective Additional Increase in Charges – in principle	10	Page 32 Option 2
Zero Carbon post – reduce to part-time	16	Page 32 Option 2 Agreed with Chairman's casting vote
Contribution to Resurfacing Fund	4	P 32 Option 2
<b>Total</b>	<b>93</b>	

The above reductions will alter the revenue budget by £79k and the contributions to capital funds by £14k Therefore the revenue budget for the Parks and Amenities Committee will reduce from £1,108k to £1,029K and the capital contributions to funds from £151k to £137k.

2. The estimates for 2023-24 including reductions as set out above are approved in the sum of £1,029m.

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3. The reductions in the contributions to the Committee Funds as set out above are approved, which reduces the contribution to the sum of £137,600.
4. The Schedule of Fees and Charges as set out on pages 39 - 42 of the Estimates report, in accordance with the in principle selective additional increase in charges as set out above, be approved.
5. The Town Clerk to research the following information from the Lawn Tennis Association's ClubSpark electronic tennis booking system about annual household memberships: (a) how many memberships are located outside of the City of the Parish of Truro; & (b) the potential of introducing different rates for Parish residents & users living outside of the Parish boundary.

The Chairman reminded the Committee that the above recommendations would be considered by Council, alongside those made by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, at its meeting on 30 January 2023. The Chairman thanked the Town Clerk for his informative report and presentation.

**265 DATE OF NEXT MEETING – PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE  
Monday 6 February 2023**

The Chairman confirmed the next scheduled Committee meeting was Monday 6 February 2023 starting at 7.00pm.

The meeting closed at 8.44 pm.

-----CHAIRMAN