

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 25 SEPTEMBER 2023 at 7.00 pm  
in the Large Community Room, Top Floor, Truro Public Library**

**PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor), Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells, Councillors Ambler, Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Green, Nolan, Mrs Nolan, Pascoe Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Rich, Roden, Ms Southcombe, Unwin, Walker-Sunderhauf, Webb and Ms Wetherill

Also in attendance: Richard Budge, Proper Officer  
Reverend Simon Clarke, Mayor's Chaplain  
Mrs Joanne Trevelyan, Financial Officer

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Hall, La Borde, Roby, Mrs Stokes, Sealy, Tamblyn

**PRAYERS**

Prior to the formal business of the Council, Reverend Clarke, The Mayor's Chaplain, said prayers

**164 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Committee Reports – Meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, 11.09.23 (Minute 154)**

Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) declared an interest in the above item as she had received complimentary tickets, in her role as Mayor, to a recent concert held by the City of Truro Male Voice Choir

**165 MINUTES OF COUNCIL**

**Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 24 July 2023 together with a separate confidential minute**

The minutes of the above Council meeting held 24 July were received by Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor), seconded by Councillor Unwin and

**RESOLVED** that the Public Minutes of Council held 24 July 2023 and the associated confidential minute were considered a correct record with the following comments or corrections:

**Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee 10 July 2023 (Minute 118, page 48)**

Councillor Mrs Carlyon asked when the meeting referred to under minute 105, page 41 would be convened. The Proper Officer advised that as the issues were complicated the meeting could not take place until either the Town Clerk had returned, or an appointment had been made to cover the post and the postholder reviewed the issues.

**Meeting of the Emergency Committee 17 July 2023 (Minute 118, page 50)**

Councillor Biscoe questioned whether 'trusted' was the appropriate term to use when referring to an officer undertaking amendments, as delegated, to the Emergency Plan. The Mayor advised that she would feedback his comments to the Emergency Committee but the term had been approved as a correct record by that Committee and the Council could not amend the minutes in retrospect.

**166 CORNWALL COUNCIL**

**Councillor Rob Nolan, Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen & Redannick**

Councillor Nolan reported that there was an unauthorised encampment at County Hall and that discussions were underway with those staying there and the relevant agencies to move them on to appropriate accommodation.

On Thursday 28 September the Neighbourhoods Overview and Scrutiny Committee would be discussing the issuing of body worn cameras to Anti-Social Behaviour Officers.

He had received a request to meet with the developers of Dudman Farm. Whilst he is aware there is no consensus of view with regards to the proposed development, he was willing to attend the meeting.

A Member asked a question about the progress of the narrowing works on Newham Road, Councillor Nolan agreed there was much work taking place for what appeared to be little gain to traffic management and had been advised that the BID were seeking an injunction to halt the works but had no further details.

A Member asked if the recent statement by the Prime Minister regarding the growing number of household bins would impact the implantation of the new Cornwall Council household waste collection arrangements. Councillor Nolan advised that he had attended a recent briefing on waste collection, the changes would be introduced incrementally across Cornwall and Truro would be one of the last areas. Personally, he felt the changes should be welcomed, food waste would be kept in a sealed container away from vermin, and it would help improve recycling rates across Cornwall.

#### **Councillor Rich, Cornwall Councillor for Tregolls**

Councillor Rich expressed his concerns regarding the future of the Truro Park and Ride following a statement by First Bus who run the service in which they state it is unsustainable in its current format. Changes in commuting patterns had impacted the demand for the service and he had attended a meeting with Cornwall Council officers and the Portfolio Holder for Transport where he had been advised that they remain committed to the service. He was concerned about the impact on traffic in the city centre if the service was withdrawn.

A member added that the Park and Ride had never marketed itself as an urban mass transport facility and if it did that would encourage more people to use it. Councillor Rich agreed however there was the issue of competition laws as it was not allowed to provide a bus service within its route, however some passengers did use it in this way. A member advised that he was aware of discussions around a proposed solution which was to allow the existing bus services to stop in the park and ride locations – this could result in an improved service including a Sunday shopper service. Councillor Rich thanked the Members for their views and said that the Park and Ride needed a viable and affordable fare structure designed to increase patronage. A member questioned if the views of the employees of Treliske, who were significant users of the service, would be engaged with during any future discussions, Councillor Rich agreed to put this point to the Portfolio Holder for Transport. A member advised that Greater Manchester Council were taking over control of their city's busses and Cornwall should consider this approach.

He had attended a successful cycling workshop at Malpas before the summer, which was both valuable and informative, this had been combined with a beach clean. He added that the issue of pollution in the Truro River was concerning him, and he would investigate this further as he was aware of anecdotal evidence of people getting ill after using the river.

**Councillor Wells Cornwall Councillor for Moresk & Trehaverne**

Councillor Wells reported that he had also attended the briefing regarding the future of the Park and Ride service and the views of Treliske have been taken into included, in particular because the original hours of service had been increased to support those on night duty. He has asked that when the future of the service has been secured that it be relaunched and promoted in Cornwall, as it was when it first started.

He advised that he was delighted that after 15 years of hard work the roads in Treffry were now all adopted by Cornwall Council to the relief of the residents of the estate.

A Member added that two Cornwall Council Highway and Infrastructure Adoption officers had worked incredibly hard to achieve this outcome and the Mayor agreed to write to thank them on behalf of the Council.

**167 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO**

There were no questions or comments

**168 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor's written communications were considered. A Member asked when the Council would receive an update on the Town Deal. Councillor Wells replied on behalf of the Mayor that the Lead Officer would attend to brief the Council at its next meeting in October when there would be more progress to report. It was agreed that this briefing be held at 6.30pm prior to the start of the Council meeting.

**169 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**170 QUESTION TIME PURSUANT TO STANDING ORDER NO. 6K – WRITTEN QUESTIONS ONLY**

There were no written questions submitted.

**171 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Minutes of the meetings of the under-mentioned Committees were received by the Council, with recommendations adopted except where otherwise stated.

**MEETING OF THE TRURO CITY COUNCIL**

3 August 2023

A Member made a comment regarding minute 132 in that he felt the outcome was regrettable and in future a wider strategic picture should be considered when making such decisions.

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Ambler and

**RESOLVED** that the minutes and separate confidential minute of the Council held 3 August 2023, were considered a correct record

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

3 August 2023

As there were no recommendations to resolve, the minutes were noted

**MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE**

7 September 2023

As there were no recommendations to resolve, the minutes were noted

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

11 September 2023

The Mayor advised that there was a typographical error in the minutes of this meeting whereby under minute 155, 157, 158, 159 and 160 where the resolutions stated 'resolved' they were in fact 'recommended to Council'.

The Mayor advised that the confidential recommendations would be considered at the end of the agenda.

<b>Item</b>	<b>Min No.</b>	<b>Page no.</b>	<b>Recommendation from Committee</b>	<b>Resolution</b>
Grants	154	61	that the £500 requested is approved	This recommendation was approved  Proposer: Councillor Biscoe; Seconder Councillor Roden
Management Accounts April – August 2023	155 i) & 155 ii)	62 - 63	to note the draft statement of accounts from April – August 2023  to note the report and instruct the Proper Officer to commission an urgent report on the operation of the Café for consideration by Full Council to include options to meet the budgeted financial return to the Council	These recommendations were approved  Proposer: Councillor Carlyon; Seconder Councillor Ambler
Resident's Survey	156	64	not to progress a residents survey	This recommendation was approved  Proposer: Councillor Carlyon; Seconder Councillor Ambler
Communications	157	64	to defer consideration of the communications policies to a future meeting	This recommendation was approved  Proposer: Councillor Carlyon; Seconder Councillor Ambler
Correspondence	158	64	to note the correspondence; to delegate the Proper Officer to start a dialogue with the appropriate officers at Cornwall Council to discuss the matter arising from the work and to consider commissioning specialist advice	This recommendation was approved  Proposer Councillor Carlyon; Seconder Councillor Ambler
CCTV	159	64	to delegate the Proper Officer to contact Newquay Town Council to discuss the possibility of them providing	This recommendation was approved

			CCTV services and consider a report on CCTV services at a future meeting	Proposer: Councillor Biscoe; Seconder Councillor Wells
Organisational Change	160	65	to note the report of the Organisational Change Working Party	This recommendation was approved  Proposer: Councillor Pascoe; Seconder Councillor Ambler

## MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

18 September 2023

Prior to the consideration of these recommendations the Council received a presentation on the installation of Solar Panels at Boscawen Park and Idless by the Zero Carbon Officer.

Following a discussion, the Zero Carbon Officer confirmed that Cornwall Council would own the panels and be responsible for all maintenance and repairs to any damage. Details and implications of the fact that Cornwall Council owned the panels would be detailed in any lease. He would explore the possibility of putting solar panels on other Truro City Council buildings. He was unaware of how much income Cornwall Council would make on the project; however, Councillors should note that Truro City Council did not have the funds to implement the scheme itself, all Councils taking part in the scheme had been offered a similar deal which was not negotiable.

Item	Min No.	Page no.	Recommendation from Committee	Resolution
Installation of Solar Panels – Boscawen Park and Idless	167	66	a)The Cornwall Council project to install solar panels on the rooves of Café in the Park building, Boscawen Park and Fozzard’s Field Nursery building at Idless, be approved b)The income generated by Café in the Park be allocated to the Café budget	Following discussion, it was proposed that the recommendation be agreed in principal but amended to add the following  c)A report outlining the legal implications of Cornwall Council owned solar panels being installed on a Truro City Council owned roof be considered at a future meeting of the Parks and Amenities Committee  Proposer Councillor Swain (Mayor); Seconder Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons
Friends of Newbridge Park	171	68	the draft constitution as amended above, be recommended for approval by the Friends of Newbridge Park	This recommendation was approved  Proposer: Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons; Seconder Councillor Rabey

## **MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

19 September 2023

Due to staffing issues the minutes of this meeting were not yet available.

### **172 PROPER OFFICER'S REPORT**

In response to a question from a Member the Proper Officer reassured the Council that any impact of the proposed strike by Unite member could be mitigated and would not impact Council services.

Members agreed that their thanks be placed on record for the continued hard work and commitment of all staff and in particular the Parks and Amenities Manager (Acting Proper Officer) and the Financial Officer during recent weeks.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Webb and

**RESOLVED** that the report of the Proper Office be noted

### **173 COMMUNITY AREA PARTNERSHIP**

Councillor Roden advised that due to an error he had not received an invitation to the first meeting of the CAP but now had the dates and would attend future meetings when possible. In his absence he had been nominated as a member of the Funding Panel. The CAP had also established a Zero Carbon working group which held its first meeting on the 20 September and was open to all Councillors to attend. The Zero Carbon Officer may also attend future meetings.

### **174 PROPOSED CLOSURE OF TRURO TICKET OFFICE**

Councillor Mrs Swain, Mayor, introduced the item and explained that a consultation process started in July 2023 on an industry wide set of proposals. Whilst the Council had not been able to meet to debate the consultation prior to the closing date she has been approached by the local organiser of the RMT Trade Union to ask whether Truro City Council would be prepared to pass a resolution regarding the proposals.

During discussion a number of points were made, including the following:

- The role of the ticket office staff was more aligned with that of a travel agent as they could be reassured to put together complex journeys at the most economical ticket price
- The half hour shuttle service through Truro had increased passenger numbers above the national average
- Not all passengers had access to a smartphone or computer to enable them to access electronic tickets
- The experience of those using traveller assistance at stations with staffed ticket officers was much more efficient than those without – even when assistance had been booked in advance
- There had been mis-information circulated informally to Members as jobs were not at risk, the consultation was regarding the transition of ticket office staff to multi-skilled roles therefore providing more services to passengers
- The issue was not about redundancies but about restrictive practices. The plan is to use staff to work flexibly across the station rather than remain behind the counter.

It was proposed by Councillor Ambler, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons that the consideration of any wording of a resolution be deferred until after the publication of the results of the public consultation. On a vote the proposal was lost.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor), seconded by Councillor Biscoe and

**RESOLVED** to:

- oppose the proposal to close ticket offices, due to the lack of a detailed assessment of the impact on those most vulnerable people in society, who may struggle to access the alternative ticket purchase options
- make further representations to the Department for Transport, the Disability Unit (Cabinet Office) and the Rail Delivery Group, should the exceptional and negative public response to the closure plans be ignored by the Government

**175 MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS**

Councillor Rabey reported on the successful recent visit by representatives from Morlaix to celebrate the twinning agreement between Truro and Morlaix. On Saturday 16 September he had attended the Climate Change event at Heartlands which was very informative.

Councillor Wetherill advised that she had attended the Roseland and Truro CAP Zero Carbon meeting and found it very useful. They intended in future to hold workshop style meetings, each concentrated on an individual topic.

**176 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) 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 their confidential nature

**177 MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE**

11 September 2023  
Confidential Minute

**178 READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) and

**RESOLVED** that the press and public be invited back into the meeting

**179 COMMON SEAL**

It was proposed by Councillor Rich, seconded by Councillor Carlyon and

**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 8.50 p.m.

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MAYOR