

**MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD ON
MONDAY 12 JUNE 2023 at 7:00 pm**

PRESENT: Councillors Ambler, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Rabey, Rich, Roden (Chairman), Mrs Stokes, Mrs Swain (Mayor), Unwin, Webb and Wells.

Also, in attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer
Mrs Joanne Trevelyan, Financial Officer
Councillor Pascoe

APOLOGIES: An apology of absence was received from Councillor Biscoe.

47 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Grants (minute 50, page 18)

Councillor Roden declared an interest in the above item as Chair of the Truro-Boppard Twinning Association.

Hendra Community Hall (minute 53, page 20)

Councillor Wells declared an interest in the above item as the City Council's representative on the Hall Users Committee and Trustee and Director of Young People Cornwall.

48 OPEN SESSION FOR THE ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no electors of Truro present.

49 FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES MINUTES

Accuracy Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swain, and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 17th April 2023 are signed as a correct record.

50 GRANTS

(Appendix A)

The Town Clerk informed members of the grants the Sub-Committee had agreed prior to this meeting.

A total of £2,190 had been considered as the final allocation, distributed across the three applications, leaving a balance remaining of £19,511.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain, seconded by Councillor Webb, and

RECOMMENDED that grants be allocated as per the Grants Schedule.

51 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022-23

The Town Clerk explained that the City Council was required by law to carry out an Annual Governance Statement and that this was a recommendation to Council.

A Member queried why the Standing Orders had been changed and it was confirmed that they had not, it was only the procedure for approving minutes that had been slightly

changed from how it was done previously, which meant the procedure was now in line with Standing Orders.

A question was asked by a Member as to why the City Council's objectives had not been produced to Members and indicated that without them, it was impossible to implement a plan if Councillors did not know the problems which needed to be solved.

The Town Clerk informed Members that each year the City Council approves objectives as part of the Estimate setting process and it was reiterated by a Member that these needed to be seen before any decisions can be made.

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

RECOMMENDED that the Council approve the statement.

52 STATUTORY ACCOUNTS 2022-23

The Town Clerk informed Members that the last year had been challenging, mainly due to the rise in inflation and the larger than expected pay award.

In summary the year concluded with an overspend of £34k, against a prediction in the revised estimates of £59k. He explained the shortfall of £34k could be taken from the finance buildings reserve and informed Members the auditor considers it high risk if the City Council falls below 10% in the uncommitted reserves.

A Member queried why the City Council's precept had been a lot higher increase than other sectors and it was explained that the City Council had taken on a lot of services over the years, for example, the public toilets and library building which were now at a cost to the City Council.

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Mrs Swain, and

RECOMMENDED that:

1. The Committee approve the Financial Accounts for the year 2022-23, noting the contribution from the Finance Committee Buildings Fund of £33,533.
2. To approve the transfers to earmarked funds. The City Council is required to review the recommended contributions to the earmarked funds which the Council approved at the estimates meeting in January as well as any additional ones.

Therefore, it is proposed the following contributions to the funds are made as agreed in the revised estimates:-

Fund	Amount
Finance Committee Revenue Fund	-£3,400
Finance Committee Buildings Fund	£11,400
Parks Committee Fund	£131,500

In addition, in recent years, the Council set up an Allotment Development Fund which is designed to meet costs in connection with the creation of new allotments, both the loan costs of the acquisition of land and the costs of developing the land for allotment use. It is recommended the sum of £2,787 is placed in this account, which was the sum approved as expenditure at revised estimates.

3. It is recommended that the sum of £33,533 is transferred from the Finance Committee Building Reserve.

4. Annual Return

a) To recommend to Council the approval of section 2 of the Annual return relating to the Accounting Statements

b) To recommend to Council that the Mayor be authorised to sign the Annual return for submission to the statutory auditor.

Councillors Ambler and Mrs Carlyon wished to have their name recorded as having voted against the above recommendation.

53 HENDRA COMMUNITY HALL

It was explained by a Member that the City Council is the owner of Hendra Hall, which is held on a long term Lease by the Trustees. He informed Members that the hall was deteriorating and needed a new roof and windows. In addition, the Zebs building, also owned by the City Council, was having maintenance challenges.

Working with the Trustees, the potential of building a new community centre combined with a youth centre on the Dreadnought green space was being considered. This would also be in the ownership of the City Council, however, the two centres although in a single building, would be managed separately.

There were a number of workstreams:

- To obtain a valuation on the existing Hendra Hall and Zebs sites.
- To obtain agreement from Cornwall Council to waive any claim on the Hendra Hall and Zebs overage provisions.
- To obtain permission from the Tregothnan Estate to build the proposed building (the estate has a covenant on the land).
- To agree the design of the new building in consultation with the stakeholder and local community.
- To apply for planning permission.

In order to part fund this development the City Council would sell the existing Hendra Hall and Zebs sites with the hope the Hendra Hall site would be suitable for affordable housing. It was hoped that the activities could still keep running in the existing buildings whilst the new building was being built.

It was queried whether the original buildings could be repaired and it was explained there were concerns over this as no activities could be carried out whilst the works were taking place.

Members wanted re-assurance that the building would be positioned in a considerate place and that the green space would still be useable as it was a well-used play area. It was confirmed that the building would be positioned in the middle of the area and that there would still be plenty of green space available.

A Member asked whether there was a need for extra community centres with the new community hall being built adjacent to the Methodist Church and it was felt that with the extra student accommodation that was currently being built on the Pydar Development, there would be a high demand for community spaces.

There was a question as to whether the squash court could be considered as a potential building and it was explained the proposal, at this stage, was to gather Members' thoughts before a business plan was put in place and local residents would be involved throughout the process.

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

RECOMMENDED that the Council supports in principle the development of a project to build a new Community and Youth Centre on the Dreadnought green space and will provide funding to develop the first three of the above workstreams (to be included in grant applications and recovered from grants in due course).

As Councillor Wells declared an interest in the above item, he abstained from voting on the above recommendation.

54 COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE LEVY (CIL)

The Town Clerk informed Members that over past three years the City Council had received CIL payments which were planning contributions, replacing S106 monies and there were rules on how the money could be spent:

- a. the provision, improvement, replacement, operation or maintenance of infrastructure: or
- b. anything else that is concerned with addressing the demands that development places on an area.

It was explained that a recommendation had been taken to the Parks & Amenities Committee on 5th June 2023 and agreed that the monies be used for a potential land purchase and although there was not enough monies to make the purchase at present, the Town Clerk was certain the City Council was due enough funds to cover it, although Cornwall Council could not guarantee that at present.

A Member asked whether the money could be used on TRO applications that had been requested by residents previously, but due to the increase in the cost of this, had meant there was no money available to do this and whether this would fall within the remit of the spending. The Town Clerk agreed he would seek advice on this.

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain, seconded by Councillor Roden, and

RECOMMENDED that the Committee confirm the recommendation of the Parks & Amenities Committee.

55 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain, seconded by Councillor Webb, 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.

56 PURCHASE OF LAND

Members considered a confidential report.

57 CITY OF TRURO BOYS CLUB

Members considered a confidential item.

58 ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Members considered a confidential item.

59 READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

60 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

The meeting closed at 9.47pm

CHAIRMAN