

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 26 JUNE 2023 at 7.00 pm
in the Large Community Room, 1st Floor, Truro Public Library**

PRESENT: Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor), Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells
Councillors Ambler, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Green, La Borde,
Pascoe, Rabey, Rich, Roby, Roden, Ms Southcombe, Unwin and Webb

Also in attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk
Reverend Simon Clarke, Mayor's Chaplain

APOLOGIES: Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Biscoe, Hall, Nolan, Mrs
Nolan, Sealey Mrs Stokes, Tamblyn and Walker-Sunderhauf

An apology was also received from Councillor David Harris CC

PRAYERS

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

61 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Committee Reports – Meeting of the Parks & Amenities Committee, 06.06.23
(Minute 73, Page 25 below)

Councillor Mrs Swain declared an interest in the above item on the grounds of being
the treasurer of the now disbanded Beechwood Parc Residents Association.

Committee Reports – Meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee,
12.06.23 (Minute 73, Page 26 below)

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells declared an interest in the above item on the
grounds of being a trustee and director of Young People Cornwall and the City
Council's representative on the Hendra Hall Users Committee.

62 MINUTES OF COUNCIL

**(i) Annual Meeting and Mayor Making Ceremony – 15 May 2023, Committee
Selection Committee – 18 May, Adjourned Council – 29 May 2023 and Special
Council – 19 June 2023.**

The minutes of the above Council meetings held 15 May, 18 May and 29 May
respectively, were received by Council.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Annual Meeting and Mayor
Making Ceremony held 15 May 2023 were considered a correct
record.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Committee Selection Committee
held 18 May were considered a correct record.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Adjourned Council held 29 May
2023, were considered a correct record.

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

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Special Council held 19 June 2023, were considered a correct record.

(i) The associated adjourned meetings of the Standing Committees (29 May 2023) as follows:

(i) Planning Committee – Proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells.

(ii) Parks & Amenities Committee – Proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Green

(iii) Finance & General Purposes Committee – Proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Webb

The minutes of the above standing committees held 29 May 2023 were received by Council. The minutes were proposed and seconded individually as per above, and it was

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Standing Committees: Planning, Parks & Amenities and Finance & General Purposes held 29 May, were considered a correct record.

63 CORNWALL COUNCIL (Also continued on page 29 below)

(i) Speed Restriction Zones – 20mph

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells informed members that Cornwall Council was currently running a consultation for the public to submit comments on implementing 20mph speed restrictions within many residential areas of Truro. A public engagement session would be taking place on Saturday morning between 10-12 at the Methodist Church and all were welcome. Councillor Pascoe (Chairman of the Planning Committee) agreed to place an item on the next agenda of the Planning Committee for Members to consider submitting a comment on behalf of the City Council, which would need to be resolved as the deadline for comments was 6 July, with a slight extension granted to allow the Planning Committee to submit their comments following their meeting.

64 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no questions or comments.

65 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

(Appendix 1)

The Mayor's written communications were considered. No questions were submitted.

66 CORRESPONDENCE

There was no correspondence to report.

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

There was a written question from Councillor Mrs Carlyon as follows:

“On the agenda of each Council meeting is the item ‘Correspondence’ and at each meeting I eagerly look forward to a response but seldom it seems is there anything to report.

So, my question is as follows - if nothing is reported to the council at our meetings how will the Councillors learn of the Government and other responsible Public Consultation documents which are issued from time to time and to which this Council may wish to respond?”

The Town Clerk replied “that there are a number of ways that consultation requests are communicated within the Committee structure of the Council. This can either be directly to the appropriate Committee or, as has happened in the past, notified Councillors by email if there is no committee that meets the response time requirement for the consultation. The issue with using the Council correspondence item is that the subject is referred by the Council to a Committee and therefore there is a considerable time lag from receiving notice of a consultation and it being considered.”

68 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 PARKS & AMENITIES COMMITTEE

5 June 2023

The recommendations of the Parks & Amenities Committee were resolved individually as per the table below:

Item	Min No.	Page No.	Recommendation from Committee	Resolution
Information Items (i) Boscawen Park New Tennis Pavilion Project & Timeline	27	9	that in principle, approval be given for an official event be held for the opening of the new café at Boscawen Park and that a plaque be placed on the café. The Mayor, the Chairman of the Parks & Amenities Committee and the Parks & Amenities Manager would meet to decide on the arrangements for the above.	Proposer: Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons; Second: Councillor Webb
Beechwood Parc Funding	29	10- 11	that the assets of Beechwood Parc Residents Association be transferred to the City Council's ownership. 2) the monies of the Beechwood Parc Residents Association be transferred to the City Council, earmarked as follows: a) £800 for refilling of grit-bins as required until the funds run out; b) £600 for replanting of trees around the Beechwood Parc development; c) £450 for any future repairs and maintenance of the assets and/or future replanting.	Proposer: Councillor Webb; Second: Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons As Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) declared interest in this item, she left the room and did not participate in the discussion or vote. Cllr Rabey (Deputy Mayor) took the chair for this item. Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) resumed as Chairman following the end of this item.

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

8 June 2023

The recommendations of the Planning Committee were resolved individually as per the table below:

Item	Min No.	Page No.	Recommendation from Committee	Resolution
Truro Transport Strategy Working Group	42	16	that the Town Clerk writes to Cornwall Council to log that a meeting has not taken place for several months and to ask for a rough time scale as to when a strategy may be produced.	Proposer: Councillor Pascoe; Second: Councillor La Borde

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

12 June 2023

The recommendations of the Finance & General Purposes Committee were resolved individually as per the table below (any applicable narrative is below each item).

Item	Min No.	Page No.	Recommendation from Committee	Resolution
Grants	50	18	that grants be allocated as per the Grants schedule	Proposer: Councillor La Borde Second: Councillor Webb At 7.46 Councillor Rich joined the meeting.
Annual Governance Statement 2022/23	51	19	that the Council approve the statement	Proposer Councillor Roden; Second: Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons
Statutory Accounts 2022-23	52	19-20	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 Fun -£3,400 Finance Committee Buildings Fund £11,400	Councillor La Borde proposed the accounts not be approved; Councillor Ambler seconded the motion, which then fell. Following discussion (see below), Councillor Roden commented he and Councillor La Borde would work together on the list of concerns raised, which would then be addressed at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee. The Council acknowledged the timescale to submit the accounts. Proposer: Councillor Roden; Second: Councillor Webb RESOLVED: The accounts be approved.

		<p>Parks Committee Fund £131,500</p> <p>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.</p> <p>3. It is recommended that the sum of £33,533 is transferred from the Finance Committee Building Reserve.</p> <p>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.</p>	<p>Councillors La Borde and Ambler wished for their names to be recorded as having voted against the above resolution.</p>
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Discussion below refers to the above item (Statutory Accounts 2022/2023):

Lemon Quay

Councillor Mrs Carlyon commented that there were representatives of the City Council on the stakeholder group but no update had been provided, particularly in relation to any proposed developments for the Quay in relation to the Towns Fund Deal.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells commented he was the Cornwall Council representative on the stakeholder group, and the Mayor was the City Council's representative. The Finance & General Purposes Committee had considered a report recently regarding times of events in November and December, for which a resolution had passed. Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells was also on the Towns Deal Board alongside other members, and business cases were due to be presented soon with public consultation to follow. He would make the board aware the City Council had a keen interest in knowing more information as soon as possible. Councillor La Borde commented she had requested a presentation from the Towns Fund Deal repeatedly.

Accounts (Generally) and Café in the Park

Councillor La Borde felt Councillors did not have enough information on the accounts, and used the café in the park as example, suggesting that Councillors needed information on takings, the sum to break even, who was monitoring the accounts and how, what the running costs were etc. The Town Clerk replied he could provide a breakdown of costings for the next Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Councillor La Borde thought that talking about profit-making exercises was contrary to the Local Government Act and the Localism Act which suggested local councils cannot trade for profit, and any profit would need to be offset against services for the parish e.g., tennis facilities etc. The Town Clerk confirmed this was the case, and that the courts and the café counted as one facility due to sustainability – the provision of the courts was dependent on the café.

Councillor La Borde raised further concerns about the accounts generally, as she did not feel they were complete, citing ear-marked funds for the Parks department, however the accounts suggested there were no resources left in the current financial year with a significant deficit in the Parks reserves. In addition, Councillor La Borde commented any borrowed monies from one pot as a temporary measure, needed to be detailed in the accounts for Councillors to have the correct information to consider any proposals. Councillor La Borde did not think Council should accept the accounts due to the difference in figures between the estimates, general reserves, and the auditor, and that the Reserves were below the 10% threshold. Loan repayment dates, debtor and creditor, asset lists, and payment receipts were also requested. Additional concerns were raised about the library accounts where it appeared rent was accepted for rooms, but rent was not paid on the library. Other parish councils had a template for reporting costings, and this could be investigated. All documents should be made public on the website.

The Town Clerk commented that if the accounts were not submitted by the end of the month, then the council would breach regulations. It was requested by Councillor Ambler that therefore the accounts should be presented to Council with enough time for them to raise any issues to be resolved.

The Town Clerk commented that the auditor wished for it to be confirmed that no Councillor had a conflict of interest with the accounts. No Councillor commented.

Hendra Community Hall	53	20 - 21	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).	<p>As Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells declared interest in this item, he did not participate in the discussion or vote.</p> <p>Discussion took place on whether a Councillor should leave the room if they had declared an interest. Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells clarified that they should always leave unless the declaration was as a trustee of a charitable trust/non-profit organisation as there was an exception that allowed the person to stay to only provide information about the trust/organisation. They would not vote. It was asked that the Town Clerk confirm this to Councillors in writing after speaking to Cornwall Council to seek clarification.</p> <p>Proposer: Councillor Roden; Seconder: Councillor Webb.</p> <p>Councillors La Borde and Ambler wished for their</p>
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				names to be recorded as having voted against the above resolution.
Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)	54	21	that the Committee confirm the recommendation of the Parks & Amenities Committee.	<p>It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) and seconded by Councillor Rabey (Deputy Mayor) and</p> <p>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 this item by reason of its confidential or special nature.</p> <p>The discussion appears in a separate, confidential minute.</p> <p>Following discussion of this item the press and public were invited back into the meeting.</p>

MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY COMMITTEE

21 June 2023

The Emergency Committee minutes had not been submitted. However, Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor) commented there had not been any recommendations.

69 CORNWALL COUNCIL (Continued from page 24 above)

As Councillor Rich CC joined the meeting after this item had been initially considered, the Mayor offered him an opportunity to speak as Cornwall Councillor.

(ii) Mayor of Cornwall

Councillor Rich CC spoke briefly about the proposal for the Mayor of Cornwall which had not gone to a vote at Cornwall Council as the consultation had been overwhelmingly against the proposal. Councillor Rich added he had put in a complaint about the company who had conducted the consultation due to a potential personal data protection issue he had. Councillor La Borde asked Councillor Rich CC if he could investigate why a document outlining how local authorities can adapt to climate change was not circulated by Cornwall Council.

Councillor Rich CC also mentioned that the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council had won Chief Executive of the Year. This was briefly discussed.

Members also commented on the charge for evening parking in the car parks, against which there was now a public petition. Councillor Wetherill commented that extending the park and ride services into the evening would be helpful as it would be better for the environment and would encourage people to spend time in the city in the evening.

70 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT 2022/2023

As this had already been discussed, it was proposed by Councillor Roby, seconded by Councillor Roden and

RESOLVED that the Council approves the Annual Governance Statement

71 ANNUAL RETURN

As this had already been discussed, it was proposed by Councillor Roby, seconded by Councillor Roden and

RESOLVED 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 Fun -£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.

72 TOWN FUND BOSCAWEN PARK DEVELOPMENT

Further to Minute 228, pages 132 – 133 (Council, 30.01.2023), the Town Clerk reported that the Public Works Loans Board required different wording in the resolution to approve the loan.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Rich, seconded by Councillor Pascoe and

RESOLVED that the wording of the resolution of 30.01.2023 be changed to the following wording to reflect the requirements of the Public Works Loan Board:

“To seek approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a PWLB loan of £1.947m over the borrowing term of 50 years to provide co-funding for the Boscawen Park Towns Fund project. At interest rates at 21st June 2023 the cost for a fixed annuity would be £114,310 with an interest rate of 5.45%. It is not intended to increase the Council Tax precept for the purposes of the Loan Repayment.”

73 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

Further to his previously circulated written report, the Town Clerk mentioned the following:

New Life for City Buildings

The Town Clerk commented he would know by Friday if approval had been given by Company House.

Boscawen Park – Towns Fund Deal

The Town Clerk reported that a viability study had been conducted and that the finances were looking better than had been suggested in the business case. He hoped that this would be able to go to the Parks & Amenities Committee for consideration soon.

The report was noted.

74 MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS

Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons expressed her disappointment at the low number of Councillors in attendance at the Civic Service, commenting that it was not about an individual's religion but about supporting the Mayor. Councillor Pascoe commented that it was unfortunate it was also Father's Day and so therefore several Councillors, such as himself, may have been unable to attend for this reason.

Several Councillors also commented that the opening of the café of the park was an enjoyable event.

75 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Swain (Mayor), seconded by Councillor Rabey, 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.

76 ORGANISATIONAL REVIEW

Confidential Minute.

READMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

77 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 9.55pm

MAYOR