

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



CITY OF TRURO
Town Clerk

Town Clerk's Department
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MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE HELD ON THURSDAY 10 OCTOBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM IN THE LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOP FLOOR, TRURO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PYDAR STREET, TRURO

- PRESENT:** Councillors La Borde (Chairman), Biscoe, Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Roden, Southcombe, Swain (Mayor) and Wells (acting as Vice Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Eathorne-Gibbons, Griffiths, Roby and Tamblyn (all personal).
- ALSO PRESENT:** Councillor Mrs. Carlyon
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Richard Budge, Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer (PAFO)
Cheryl Simpson, Senior Administrator /Committee Clerk
1. **COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES** PK/24/636
The apologies for absence as submitted were accepted.
 2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** PK/24/637
None.
 3. **OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS** PK/24/638
None.
 4. **MINUTES**
It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Southcombe, and
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 9 September 2024 were signed as a correct record. PK/24/639
 5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
a. The survey feedback from Royal Cornwall Show was presented by the Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer who agreed that it would be circulated to all councillors for information. He also reported that the display stand did exceptionally well. PK/24/640

[Councillor Biscoe arrived at the meeting at 09:11.]

6. THREE YEAR COSTED CAPITAL MAINTENANCE AND THREE YEAR PLAN

The Committee was requested to agree an initial maintenance plan that could be used to inform the 2025/26 budget setting process. Councillors were advised that the key to the information presented was red phase 1 2025-26, yellow phase 2 2026-27 and green phase 3 2027-28. Also, the figures provided included a charge for labour.

During discussion a number of points were raised including:

- i. The PAFO agreed that for clarity next time the plan would be presented without TCC labour costs to avoid double accounting.
- ii. Councillors suggested work to rebuild the wall around the duck pond take place at the same time as work to dredge the duck pond.
- iii. The PAFO reported that following recent heavy rain the pipe leading from the river to the Leats was blocked with gravel, sticks and leaves and the Environment Agency would be contacted shortly so that water would run through the Leats again.
- iv. Members were reminded that the Leats system was not currently listed and work including repointing was required to the Leats system.
- v. The PAFO explained that works "car park at top of cemetery" referred to the excavation of a section of the cemetery - which would form the entrance to the new cemetery field – as a temporary parking area.
- vi. It was explained that the planned chemical store building at Idless Nursery was approximately 6X8 metres and was required to store such chemicals as pesticides, herbicides, cleaning fluids and paints. The building was required to have a sump, and chemicals stored in secondary containers in the event of any spillage. The building would also be vented and contain a shower for staff use in case of spillage in addition to a second unisex toilet which was now required.

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

RESOLVED that the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk consider changing the priority of rebuilding the duck pond walls in line with dredging the duck pond due to ecological, cost and timetable factors and consider this matter again at the next meeting.

PK/24/641

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

RESOLVED that the Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer and the Deputy Town Clerk consult the Head of Environment Service at Cornwall Council to seek advice about (a) seeking listed status for the Leats water system and (b) potential funding opportunities for works to relocate the RAM pump from the Leats to Victoria Gardens and report back to the next meeting.

PK/24/642

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by the Chairman, and

RESOLVED that the three-year costed capital maintenance and three-year plan be agreed, subject to a report on the above matters being brought to the next Committee meeting.

PK/24/643

7. MACHINERY AND EQUIPMENT SCHEDULE

The Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer presented the proposed replacement schedule that would be used to inform the 2025/26 budget setting process. The PAFO noted that the TCC reference numbers were melted onto the equipment and the information collected was helpful from insurance, management and replacement perspectives. Currently £37K was available in the budget. The trend was currently to replace diesel engine powered vehicles with smaller petrol driven vehicles. He was also looking into a range of payment options including hire and lease purchase to make the budget go further.

Attention was drawn to the schedule of written-off machinery and equipment and the PAFO commented that newer equipment had been purchased recently with an improved hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) rating. Redundant equipment would be disposed of by way of commercial auction, silent staff auction or scrapped.

It was noted the vehicles referenced as TCC 2 and 8 required replacement; TCC 94 had also been written off and replaced. It was also suggested that next time this matter was reported that items for replacement be clearly highlighted.

The report was noted.

PK/24/644

8. CHARGES FOR USING PARKS AND GARDENS

The Committee was requested to consider charging for sport training bookings, such as football, and booking fees for activities such as rounders, baseball, exercises classes and use of the boules/petanque piste etc to partly reflect the administrative work undertaken in processing applications by office staff and the ground and maintenance work undertaken by the Parks Grounds Maintenance Team, to better manage bookings and reduce potential conflicts. Additional signage would also be installed

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that Truro City Council make the charges as set out in the report i.e. half the football pitch booking fee for sport training sessions; football pitch booking fee for rounders matches etc and an administrative fee for exercise classes and use of the boules/petanque piste etc.

PK/24/645

9. STANDING ITEMS

(i) Boscawen Park – Dredging of the Swanpool – Update

The Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer confirmed that the works had been advertised for tender, but no tenders had been received by the stipulated deadline; therefore the works would be retendered. The Environment Agency licence for such works had been renewed for an additional 3 years. He was also in communication with the Tregothnan estate again about potentially spreading silt dredgings on their land. It was noted that analysis of the silt indicated that any dredgings would be high in nutrient value. Dredgings would have to be siphoned down to let water & wildlife escape before they were transported away for appropriate disposal. He was also considering digging a secondary silt trap on the estate's land.

This report was noted.

PK/24/646

(ii) Towns Fund Deal Board Boscawen Park Sports Hub Project Update

The Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer reported that a planning application was being finalised with a view to be submitted towards the end of the month.

This report was noted.

PK/24/647

(iii) Swing Bridge Project Update

It was commented by the Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer that the planning application was due to be considered by Cornwall Council's Central Sub-Area Planning Committee in November.

PK/24/648

10. INFORMATION ITEMS

(i) Idless Nursery

The Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer reported apart from the proposed chemical store reported above there was nothing to report since the last meeting. It was generally agreed to keep this item on the agenda for the time being.

The report was noted.

PK/24/649

(ii) Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer's Report

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer's report was tabled at the meeting. He reported that, following flooding resulting from torrential rain, the Café in the Park had been cleaned up. Truro had again won the Portman Cup at the South West in Bloom competition 2024. The end of year plant sale had raised £528.60 towards the Truro in Bloom Committee's hedgehog restoration fund. The ash tree on the Fairmantle Street roundabout suffered from ash die back and would be removed before 5 November.

The Britain in Bloom competition promotional video was played, and a copy would be circulated to all councillors for information. The Mayor would host a reception for Truro in Bloom Committee and Its Your Neighbourhood competition winners on 24 October. The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer, Truro in Bloom Committee and local

community Groups were congratulated by the Committee on their latest success.

The report was noted.

PK/24/650

(iii) Zero Carbon Officer's report

The report was presented by the PAFO in the Zero Carbon Officer's absence.

The report was noted.

PK/24/651

11. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 4 November 2024. The deadline for items for the next agenda is noon Tuesday 29 October 2024.

PK/24/652

12. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The following were noted as items for a future meeting:

- a. Duck Pond Policy
- b. Kenwyn Hill Playing Field Sublease Report
- c. Car Parking Order Costed Report
- d. Costed Biodiversity Policy
- e. Service Delivery Plan
- f. To consider whether or not to take part in the Royal Cornwall Show 2025.

PK/24/653

The meeting closed at 20:46

CHAIRMAN