

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 MONDAY 3 MARCH 2025 AT 7.00 PM IN THE LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOP FLOOR, TRURO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PYDAR STREET, TRURO

- PRESENT:** Councillors Eathorne-Gibbons (Chairman), Biscoe, La Borde, Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Roden, Southcombe, Swain (Mayor), and Webb (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee).
- APOLOGIES:** Councillors Roby.
- ABSENT:** Councillors Griffiths.
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillors Mrs Carlyon and Stokes.
David Rodda MBE, Town Clerk
Richard Budge, Parks & Amenities Officer.

1. COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The apologies for absence as submitted were noted.

PK/24/1309

2. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

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3. OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS

None.

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4. PUBLIC MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 3 February 2025 were a correct record and signed.

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5. CORRESPONDENCE

a. Website message dated 08.02.25 regarding fairy doors at Coosebean

Members considered this correspondence and the next item of correspondence at the same time. While acknowledging the vandalism of the fairy doors installation at Coosebean, the Parks and Amenities Officer stated that currently the use of CCTV as a preventive measure was not possible. There was no electricity supply in the area and therefore battery-operated cameras would be required that rely on SD cards. These could be removed by unauthorised personnel, which may cause safeguarding issues. The potential costs were also excessive. It was noted the Town Clerk had recently met with Mr John Rowe (who had installed the fairy doors). After some discussion:

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Webb, and **RESOLVED** that the Parks and Amenities Officer undertake discussions with interested parties to find a way forward in terms of a management plan

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for the Enchanted Trail at Coosebean and come back to the Committee with a report.

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b. **Email dated 10.02.25 regarding fairy doors at Coosebean.**

This item of correspondence was considered at the same time as the preceding item.

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c. **Compliment dated 11.02.25 regarding Victoria Garden.**

Noted.

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d. **Compliment dated 25.02.25 regarding Boscawen Park**

The Parks and Amenities Officer confirmed the new tennis pavilion changing rooms were available for use by users of the tennis courts and the boat club.

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6. **COMMEMORATION AND MEMORIALS POLICY**

The draft Commemoration and Memorials Policy, as amended by the previous Committee meeting was presented by the Parks and Amenities Officer. During a brief discussion the policy was amended further as follows:

- Paragraph 1.16 deletion of "which ...years." for clarity.
- Removal of Paragraph 3.1 which was not considered necessary.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Roden, and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the draft Commemoration and Memorials Policy, as amended be approved.

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7. **CLOSURE OF KENWYN CHURCHYARD**

Following the last Committee meeting the Parks and Amenities Officer reported that Kenwyn Church Parochial Church Council had officially published its intention to close its churchyard to new burials due to lack of space. Cornwall Council was prepared to take on the liabilities of the trees, paths and graves and would pay the City Council £1,500 to continue to maintain the Churchyard. This meant the City Council would need to continue to cover the costs of its current maintenance regime from its own budgets. This cost is included in the 2025/26 budget estimate, and it would be for future Councils to decide whether they are willing for this to continue beyond the next financial year.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that the cost of maintenance of Kenwyn Churchyard be included in future Parks budgets so the current management regime can continue beyond 2025/26.

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8. **APPLICATION FOR USE**

The Parks and Amenities Officer introduced the application by Truro Running Club and highlighted the history of previous applications. During discussion it was noted that Penarth Lane was a private road, and complaints were regularly received from local residents about non-residents accessing the road. It was also noted that runners would potentially run directly in front of resident's windows until late in the evening if the application was granted.

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons and

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that (a) the Truro Running Club application for the use of Penarth Lane for their 10km Trail Running Race be refused and (b)

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the Parks and Amenities Officer offer support to the Club to find an alternative route.

9. WORKING GROUP AND SUB-COMMITTEE

a. Truro Nature Recovery Forum

It was noted the government would be providing town and parish councils with a package of resources to assist the development of nature recovery strategies.

The minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum meeting held 12 February 2025 were **noted**.

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10. STANDING ITEMS

a. Boscawen Park Dredging of Swanpool Update

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported the would be meeting potential contractors before requesting quotations leading to a direct award of contract. The Town Clerk advised the silt dredgings had been tested and the preferred location for disposal was on Tregothnan land to the rear of the Swanpool (subject to their agreement), alternatively it could be spread on the new Cemetery fields (for which the Council already had a waste exemption licence). It was hoped to commence work in Autumn 2025.

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b. Towns Fund Deal Board, Boscawen Park Sports Hub Project Update

The Parks and Amenities Officer stated he had met an agronomist on site on 14 February to discuss the content of the soil of the fields. If hazardous materials were found (underneath the capping) the method of improving drainage of the field might need to be rethought. The Town Clerk reported potential contractors had been met on site and no problems with build timescales had been raised.

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c. Swing Bridge Project Update.

The Town Clerk reported Cornwall Council had done some work on redesigning access to the swing bridge to address safety concerns and were due to report back to the Planning and Licensing Committee.

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11. INFORMATION ITEMS

a. Idless Nursery

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported new benches and heating mats had been installed in the propagator house,

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b. Parks and Amenities Officer's Report

The report was **noted**.

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c. Zero Carbon Officer's Report


There was no report because the Zero Carbon Officer was leaving the Council's employment shortly. In her absence, on behalf of the Committee the Chairman wished the Zero Carbon Officer best wishes for the future.

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12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by the Chairman, 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

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during consideration of the following items by reason of their confidential nature and for business reasons.

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13. ADDITIONAL RECREATION/PUBLIC AMENITY LAND PURCHASE

Councillors discussed the Town Clerk's report. The Town Clerk clarified the Committee was being asked if it wished to investigate the potential to secure an "option" on the land in question and was not seeking a decision on whether any option should be paid. Questions were asked and answers given.

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by the Chairman and **RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL** that it investigates the potential to take an "option" to secure land for future recreational and sports use in Truro and that it delegates authority to progress the negotiations to the Town Clerk.

[Councillor La Borde requested that her name be recorded as having voted against the motion.]

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14. RETURN OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by the Deputy Mayor, seconded by the Mayor, and **RESOLVED** that the press and public be invited to return to the meeting.

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15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 7 April 2025.

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16. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The items were noted. Pond Policy, Kenwyn Hill Playing Field Sublease Report and Parks Department Service Plan and Padel tennis report.

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The meeting closed at 20:55



CHAIRMAN

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