

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 4 NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7.00 PM IN THE LARGE COMMUNITY ROOM, TOP FLOOR, TRURO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PYDAR STREET, TRURO

PRESENT: Councillors Eathorne-Gibbons (Chairman), Biscoe, Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Roden, Southcombe, Swain (Mayor), , and Webb (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee).

APOLOGIES: Councillors, La Borde (business), Griffiths and Roby (personal).

ABSENT: Councillors Sealy and Tamblyn.

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David Rodda MBE, Town Clerk
Richard Budge, Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer (PAFO)
Cheryl Simpson, Senior Administrator /Committee Clerk

1. **COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES** PK/24/768
The apologies for absence as submitted were accepted.

2. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST** PK/24/769
None.

3. **OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA - VERBAL QUESTIONS** PK/24/770
None.

4. **MINUTES**
It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 10 October 2024 were signed as a correct record subject to the correction of a typographical error: Page 134 replacement of "09:11" with "19:11". PK/24/771

5. **CORRESPONDENCE**
The following correspondence was received and **noted**:

- i. Email dated 21 October 2024 setting out a compliment to the Parks Department and a comment about carparking at Boscawen Park.
- ii. Email dated 28 October from Kier regarding birdboxes at Boscawen Park.
- iii. Website message dated 8 October 2024 setting out a compliment to the Parks Department.

PK/24/772

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

6.

ROYAL CORNWALL SHOW 2025

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer reported that if Council agreed he would like to include a budget line in the Parks budget to enable Council to enter the show again next year. He explained that he planned to showcase the work of the Parks Department with an allotment themed exhibit and also work with Visit Truro to promote Truro more broadly. It was also suggested that volunteers could assist in working on the Council's entry, subject to insurance etc.

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

RECOMMENDED TO COUNCIL that subject to the budget for this event being secured during the 2025/26 budget setting process, Truro City Council book a stand and enter the flower show competition at the Royal Cornwall Show 2025.

PK/24/773

7.

WORKING GROUP AND SUB-COMMITTEE

a. Land At Comprigney Hill Steering Group

(i) It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Webb, and

RESOLVED that the terms of reference as amended by the Land at Comprigney Hill Steering Group be approved.

PK/24/774

(ii) It was **noted** that the notes of the Land at Comprigney Hill Steering Group meeting held 10 October 2024 were presented to Council on 28 October 2024.

PK/24/775

b. Truro Nature Recovery Forum

(i) it was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Swain, and

RESOLVED that the terms of reference as amended by the Truro Nature Recovery Forum be approved.

PK/24/776

(ii) The Minutes of the Forum meeting held on 17 October 2024 were noted.

PK/24/777

b. National Lottery Nature in Towns and Cities Fund

A copy of a draft expression of interest was circulated to the Committee and the meeting was adjourned from 19:26 to 19:28 to read it. The Town Clerk reminded Members that Council had agreed in principle to submit an EOI at its meeting on 28 October. The EOI was a work in progress which might help the Council in benchmarking areas of land not benchmarked previously or recently, engage with the local community and it fitted the Council's nature recovery ambitions. It also made reference to a red listed species, the European eel. Members were asked if they were satisfied with the general direction of the EOI. Councillors were assured that if the bid for funding made it through to the next stage a full business case would be developed.

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

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS



RESOLVED that (i) an expression of interest in the National Lottery Nature in Towns and Cities Fund be submitted and (ii) authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to finalise the expression of interest following consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Parks and Amenities Committee.

PK/24/778

8.

STANDING ITEMS**(i) Boscawen Park – Dredging of the Swanpool – Update**

The Town Clerk reminded the Committee that no tenders had been received so the work had been postponed to October/November 2025. He had also met with the Tregothnan Estate which was amenable to the disposal of the duckpond silt on their farmland subject to analysis of nutrient levels, the ability to secure the necessary waste disposal licences and suitable payment by the City Council. It was also considered that the majority of stones around the edge of the pond were not required for structural purposes, and they should be removed leaving the banks to be graded and planted.

This report was **noted**.

PK/24/779

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

The Town Clerk reported the old nursery site was due to be cleared by the end of November by the Parks team with anything remaining to form part of the demolition/clearance works. Friday 8 November was the deadline for tenders to undertake demolition work on the site which was due to be undertaken by December. The contract for the new building was currently subject to a pre tender process. The planning application for the new build had been submitted to Cornwall Council and was currently being validated; the cost of the planning fee would be drawn down from grant funding. Finally, consultation and publicity was being undertaken in the Loops room at Boscawen Park.

This report was **noted**.

PK/24/780

(iii) Swing Bridge Project Update

It was reported by the Town Clerk that the planning application for the swing bridge was due to be considered by Cornwall Council's Strategic Planning Committee on 13 November. The Environment Agency had made a comment regarding replicating mudflats to replace that which would be lost in development. Members were reminded that the City Council's Planning Committee had raised an objection on the grounds of highway safety.

The report was **noted**.

PK/24/781

CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS

9.

INFORMATION ITEMS

(i) Idless Nursery

The Parks, Amenities, and Facilities Officer reported that bench staging was due to be installed in the small greenhouses and would be phased in to the large greenhouses over the next two years.

The report was **noted.** PK/24/782

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

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer's report was taken as read.

The report was **noted.** PK/24/783

(iii) Zero Carbon Officer's report

The Zero Carbon Officer's report was taken as read.

The report was **noted.** PK/24/784

9A EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Swain, 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 and for business reasons:

PK/24/785

10. CAPITAL AND REVENUE BUDGET 2025 - 2026

The revenue and capital budget lines for 2025 – 2026 were discussed. The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer apologised for not providing a report for this item and undertook to circulate this information to Members before the November Council meeting.

- i. External Contracts
The confidential verbal report was noted. A confidential minute is available for this item.
- ii. Parks Premises Repairs and Maintenance
The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer had split labour costs from the total costs of capital and maintenance, and these were shown separately.

He listed the maintenance projects as:

- Boscawen Park
- Replace fence around riverside walk
- Replace fencing around depot
- Replace fence around boat shed
- Remove wall behind boat shed
- Victoria Gardens
- Repairs to Hendra Wall
- Repaint art work on wall
- Repair wall at Dreadnought field
- Repair to wall at Leats
- Paint all fencing around Hendra
- Install goal posts at Hendra
- Paint depot building

CHAIRMAN'S INITIALS

Repairs to fish pond
 Tarmac works to paths
 Tree works
Truro Public Cemetery
 Tarmac park works
 Tree works
Idless Nursery
 Finish laying tarmac plannings
 Clear out drainage ditch
 Cut back vegetation
Other Areas
 Renumber all allotment plots
 Secure Kenwyn Playing Field site
 Repairs to footbridges at Countryside Ranger sites
 Replace footbridge at Beechwood Parc

III. Capital Projects

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer listed capital projects as:

Boscawen Park

Install car park meters etc
 Install height barriers to car park by cricket club
 Build walls around Duck Pond
 Tarmac paths
 Tree works

Victoria Gardens

Relocate RAM pump
 Install new shed at Nursery end

Truro Public Cemetery

Fence along lower cemetery

Idless Nursery

Build chemical store

IV. Capital Plant Renewals

This year the Parks and Amenities Officer was planning to replace two flat-bed vehicles and a tractor and different options of financing this were being investigated. Next year he would be looking to replace ride-on mowers at Boscawen Park and Victoria Gardens, a truck at Victoria Gardens, a replacement vehicle for the Ranger Team and an additional vehicle for the Maintenance Team.

PK/24/786

11. CAR PARKING INCOME

The Parks, Amenities and Facilities Officer reminded the Committee that a car park order was required to restrict parking at Boscawen Park and Victoria Gardens. Councillors had already agreed that users should be able to park free for four hours, no return within two hours, at Boscawen Park. Councillors were asked to consider further the terms and conditions of parking at Boscawen Park and Victoria Gardens. The Deputy Town Clerk would then investigate the options available and report back to Council.

The Town Clerk reported that for Boscawen Park the cost of installation of parking machines would be about £5K, the cost of tickets about £1K pa and the cost of warden enforcement £3K pa. Councillors

could choose whether to add this cost to the precept or whether to generate income to help fund these costs.

Boscawen Park

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

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that, following four hours free parking for parks users at Boscawen Park, in principle, car parking charges be set and investigations undertaken into available options so the costs of managing the car park are covered from income derived from the car park as far as possible.

PK/24/787

Victoria Gardens

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

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO COUNCIL that (i) at Victoria Gardens two parking spaces be allocated for people with disabilities and the remainder of parking spaces be allocated for staff use and (ii) new parking arrangements be monitored and reviewed after six months.

PK/24/788

[Councillor Biscoe left the room at 20:58 and returned at 21:00.]

11A RETURN OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

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

PK/24/789

12. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

Monday 6 January 2025. The deadline for items for the next agenda is noon Monday 23 December 2024.

PK/24/790

13. 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. Costed Biodiversity Policy
- d. Potential listing of Leats
- e. Service Plan.

PK/24/791

The meeting closed at 21:02.



CHAIRMAN

CHAIRMAN'S
INITIALS

