

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 TUESDAY 8 JULY 2025
AT 7.00 PM IN THE COMPUTER ROOM, GROUND FLOOR, TRURO COMMUNITY LIBRARY, PYDAR STREET,
TRURO**

- PRESENT:** Councillors La Borde (Chairman), Douglas-Martin, Eathorne-Gibbons, Rabey, Rich (Deputy Mayor), Tann and Tucker.
- APOLOGIES:** Mepham, Southcombe, Stokes (Vice-Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee), Webb (Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee), Honorary Freeman Wells (Mayor) and Mr Ben Minns (Unite representative and Unite Health and Safety Representative).
- ABSENT:** Councillor Green.
- ALSO IN ATTENDANCE:** Councillor Mrs Carlyon, Richard Budge, Parks and Amenities Officer and Cheryl Simpson, Committee Clerk.

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| 1. | COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES
The apologies were noted . | PK/25/389 |
| 2. | DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST
None. | PK/25/390 |
| 3. | OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO RELATING TO ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA -
VERBAL QUESTIONS
None. | PK/25/391 |
| 4. | MINUTES
It was proposed by Councillor Douglas-Martin, seconded by Councillor Tann, and
RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held on 17 June 2025 were a correct record and signed. | PK/25/392 |
| 5. | CORRESPONDENCE
None. | PK/25/393 |
| 6. | INFORMAL TOUR, INSPECTION AND MEETING MONDAY 7 JULY 2025
Councillors spent some time reading the report on the tour and inspection which took place the previous evening. Report noted . | PK/25/394 |
| 7. | HEALTH AND SAFETY AT WORK – PARKS AND AMENITIES DEPARTMENT
Regular item normally considered at February and July Committee meetings.
i. Training of Staff – | PK/25395 |

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The Parks and Amenities Officer reported that two new temporary starters had joined the Parks team for the summer. They had both completed hand-held cutter, mower, strimmer and blower training. Supervisors had also completed Institute of leadership and Management Level 3 training, and the results of their assignments were awaited. The report was noted.

ii. Parks and Amenities Department – Report of any Recent Accidents **PK/25396**
A copy of the report made to Staffing Committee on 12 June was **noted**.

iii. Shop Steward - Ben Minns, Unite Representative and Unite Health and Safety Representative **PK/25/397**
The Unite Representative had sent his apologies for the meeting. There was nothing to report at this meeting.

8. ENCHANTED TRAIL - UPDATE **PK/25/398**

The Parks and Amenities Officer updated the Committee on discussions regarding the Enchanted Trail including draft memorandum of understanding. Sadly, after considering the MoU the creator of the Fairy Doors has decided to remove them and relocate them to a yet undisclosed location. The trail through the Coosebean Woodland remains in place and consideration is being given to whether a nature trail could be installed in that area to help encourage people out into the woodland area. More details will be reported to a future meeting. The report was noted.

9. ALLOTMENT AGREEMENT AND ORGANIC GARDENING **PK/25/399**

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported that complaints about rats on the allotment sites were reported to the City Council from time to time. In response to reports of any infestation the Maintenance Team visited the sites, provided secure rodenticide baited boxes and then recorded and monitored the site in compliance with the relevant training they had received.

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** to adopt the revised Allotment Plot Tenancy Agreement with the following amendments to Schedule 1 Conditions of Use:

- Addition of new Paragraph 10.2: "The Tenant shall keep use of pesticides and insecticides to an absolute minimum and must ensure that wildlife, adjoining plots, hedges, trees and crops are not adversely affected if used."
- Paragraph 10.3: Deletion of "(except rats which do not have legal protection in the UK)"
- Addition to Paragraph 10.6: After "...City Council." It is the responsibility of Truro City Council to manage rat infestations on allotments. Tenants are requested not to use or store rodenticide on the allotment site."
- Addition of Appendix 1 and Appendix 2 guidelines on the discouragement of rats at allotment sites and use of pesticides

10. PLAY EQUIPMENT – UPDATE ON REPLACEMENT OF OLD EQUIPMENT AND FUNDING **PK/25/400**

Councillor Rich, the local Cornwall Councillor, supported the replacement of two items of outdoor sports equipment. It was noted some years ago, a survey run by the now defunct Friends of Tremorvah Playingfield had highlighted a need for outdoor sports equipment.

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It was proposed by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Douglas Martin, and

RESOLVED that (a) the £17,500 CIL receipts be allocated towards the costs of purchasing and installing replacement play/exercise equipment at Tremorvah Playing Field and (b) any balance in cost be funded from the Parks and Amenities Committee Play Equipment Capital Fund.

11. DRAINAGE AT BEECHWOOD PARC/ TINNEY DRIVE

PK/25/401

It was proposed by Councillor Rich, seconded by Councillor Tann, and **RECOMMENDED TO FULL COUNCIL** that Cornwall Council's Highways Department is given "in principle" approval to install a soakaway drain on land owned by Truro City Council at the top of Tinney Drive.

12. MACHINERY REPLACEMENT PROGRAMME

PK/25/402

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported two diesel vehicles based at Victoria Gardens and Boscawen Park Depots had been replaced with two new 100% electric vehicles in order to trial whether electric vehicles will work for the parks team. Each has a charge range of 177 miles with a life expectancy of ten years. In the lease agreement an upfront payment of £1,599 had to be paid with £99 lease hire per month thereafter. The report was **noted**.

[Councillors Mrs Carlyon and Rich left the meeting at 19:43.]

13. TRURO CITY COUNCIL SURPLUS PLANT SALE 15 JULY 2025

PK/25/403

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported there were some plants surplus to the Council's summer planting scheme which were suitable for selling to the general public.

It was proposed by Councillor Tucker, seconded by Councillor Tann, and **RESOLVED** that a surplus plant sale be held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 09:00 – 15:00.

14. END OF YEAR PLANT SALE 4 OCTOBER 2025

PK/25/404

It was proposed by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Douglas-Martin, and **RESOLVED** that the monies made at the End of Year Plant Sale on Saturday 4 October 2025 be allocated to the Mayor's charity Young People Cornwall and bags of plants be charged £5 per bag.

15. WORKING GROUP AND SUB-COMMITTEE

PK/25/405

Truro Nature Recovery Forum

It was noted the next Forum meeting was scheduled for Thursday 24 July starting at 19:00.

- a. The Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum meeting held on 24 June 2025 were **noted**.

16. STANDING ITEMS

a. **Boscawen Park Dredging of Swanpool Update**

PK/25/406

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported he had spoken to the farmer who farmed the fields up the valley from the duck pond and was optimistic that the City Council could reach an agreement with depositing the dredgings on that land, subject to the agreement of the landlord Tregothnan Estates. He was also due to check the

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existing Environment Agency licence was still relevant or whether it need to be extended to cover that area. The report was **noted**.

PK/25/407

b. **Towns Fund Deal Board, Boscawen Park Sports Hub Project and Pitch Improvements Works Update**

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported a meeting with the Council's new contractor Inscope had been postponed from 8 to 14 July when it was hoped that the works start date would be known. In the meantime, sports pitch use would cease on 14 July. Users of 11v11 pitches had been advised to contact neighbouring parish councils and Falmouth Town Council for alternative venues. The Café and the performance area and playpark would remain available for use during the works. Councillors anticipated the Café's takings would reduce during the period of the works. The report was noted.

c. **Swing Bridge Project Update.**

There was nothing to report since the last meeting.

PK/25/408

17. **INFORMATION ITEMS**

a. **Parks and Amenities Officer's Report**

The Parks and Amenities Officer reported the work to create box junctions and additional parking spaces at Boscawen Park carpark had been commissioned but not started yet; appropriate compliance paperwork was awaited.

PK/25/409

Work had begun on the Leats condition survey and reference would be made in the condition survey report to a 2022 investigation report made by Mulberry Slip Engineering Ltd. The Parks and Amenities Officer agreed to share a copy of a map of the Leats with the Committee.

It was reported by the Parks and Amenities Officer that the grass cutting team was operating at reduced capacity due to staff sickness; the recruitment of a temporary member of staff was underway. The grass was also growing more quickly than it could be cut at present The Grass Cutting Team were thanked for their recent work in Treffry Road.

The Committee was reminded by the Committee Clerk that Council at its meeting on 30 June resolved that:

- the Terms of Reference for Finance and General Purposes Committee be adopted with the addition of (a) committee matters related to the Tennis Pavillion and Café, (b) committee matters related to the Public Toilets and (c) Fozzard's Field Idless Nursery, Victoria Gardens Lodge, Cemetery Lodge; and
- the Terms of Reference for Parks and Amenities Committee be adopted with (a) Paragraph 3.1: addition of "Malabar playing field (b) Paragraph 3.3: deletion of the seventh bullet point which was a repetition of the third bullet point. The effect of the above change means that the line about public toilets is removed.

A copy of the amended terms of reference would be circulated to councillors for information.

The latest copy of the comments log was also considered.

The report was **noted**.

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18. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

8 September 2025

PK/25/410

19. ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The items were noted: Final Pond Policy, Kenwyn Hill Playing Field Sublease Report, Parks Department Service Plan, Padel tennis report, a list of potential areas of land for devolution from Cornwall Council, parks and amenities budget report, future strategy for plantings, initial condition survey of the Leats system, proposed nature trail, Coosbean.

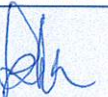
PK/24/411

The meeting closed at 20:05.



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