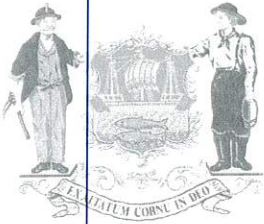


TRURO CITY COUNCIL



CITY OF TRURO
Town Clerk

Town Clerk's Department
Municipal Buildings
Boscawen Street
Truro TR1 2NE
Tel. (01872) 274766
www.truro.gov.uk
email: info@truro.gov.uk

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 29 SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Boscawen Street, Truro**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Honorary Freeman Wells),
Councillors: Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Claxton, Collins, Douglas-Martin, Green, Knuckey,
La Borde, Mephram, Nolan, Pascoe, Rabey, Rich, Southcombe Swain, Tann, Tucker,
Webb and Wetherill.

ALSO PRESENT: Joanna Dowell, Lee Trewbela (media), and Louise Squires.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Eathorne-Gibbons, Stokes, and Sunderhauf.

ABSENT: Councillor Griffiths.

Also in Attendance: David Rodda MBE, Town Clerk, Cheryl Simpson, Committee Clerk
and Agatha Hodge, Mayor's Secretary and Administrator.

PRAYERS

Prior to the formal business of the Council, the Town Clerk said prayers.

FORMER COUNCILLOR ANTONY BARBER

Members stood for a minute's silence out of respect for Mr Antony Barber,
former Mayor of Truro 1971 – 1972 who had passed away on 20 July 2025.

1. COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

Apologies were **noted**. 25/722

2. DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND ANY DISPENSATIONS

None. 25/723

3. MINUTES OF COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Green, and
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 July 2025 were
considered a correct record. 25/724

4. ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR OFFICER – REPORT

Antisocial Behaviour Officer Mr Stephen Lennon reported on his activities over
the last twelve months and took questions on his work. He noted there were
an increasing number of incidents involving physical and mental first aid and
relevant training was planned to address this need. He explained he could
issue community protection warnings, community protection notices and
criminal behaviour orders to regulate antisocial behaviour.

He advised against people personally challenging shoplifting but to report it
directly to the Police, emphasising the need for consistent intelligence. He

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CMW

touched upon his work with small independent traders and larger retailers. The behaviours attached to the use of alcohol were highlighted which might lead to the imposition of no alcohol tolerance zones. His work sector mirrored that of the Truro Police sector. The invitation to Councillors to shadow the Antisocial Behaviour Officer in his work was repeated. People could ring the police to report antisocial behaviour on 999, the call would be triaged, and an appropriate response would be made. The current pressure on the Police was acknowledged. Behaviour could also be reported on Cornwall Council website via the Safer Cornwall Antisocial Behaviour pages. Further queries could be directed straight to the Antisocial Behaviour Officer or via the Town Clerk. Mr Stephen Lennon and the accompanying Ranger were thanked for their attendance.

[Councillor Mrs Carlyon arrived at 19:12.]

25/725

5. OPEN SESSION FOR CORNWALL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Rich Cornwall Councillor for Tregolls

Councillor Rich reported that the planning application for smarthubs in Truro had been approved by Cornwall Council's Central Sub Area Planning Committee. However, he still had concerns and questioned the perceived benefits and had accordingly written to the relevant officer team. He reported that in relation to the waste incinerator one line (of two) had been down since July and unfortunately the second line would need to go down for maintenance. In the event of both lines going down waste might need to be processed outside of Cornwall. Cornwall Council had asked Suez (the operator) to investigate and report back. He had also asked officers to look into liability for any additional costs. He agreed to update Members at the next meeting.

Councillor Nolan, Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen and Redannick

Councillor Nolan reported residents had purchased 20MPH limit signs for the estate whose roads were still unadopted. Ranch style fencing was collapsing in some areas, but a nice children's play area had been installed. He also noted a very steep access path had been installed connecting the estate to the Newham Trail. Together with Councillor La Borde he had walked the Dudman Farm site, noting Piggy Lane had been closed. He considered that fences should be installed between the development site and neighbouring properties. He had attended the opening of the Lifehouse at Highertown Church. New play equipment would be installed at the Pen an Dre estate. The lack of a regular bus service for the Copperfields estate was highlighted. He noted the current construction access point onto Higher Newham Farm Development from the A390 would be closed off following the completion of building works.

Councillor La Borde, Cornwall Councillor for Malabar

Councillor La Borde reported the main issue she had been dealing with was traffic. She was in conversation with the Langarth development team ahead of the Northern Access Road opening in March 2026. Getting onto and off the A390 experienced delays. The gas leak at Highertown had also caused

significant delays for motorists. The stretch of road between RCH Treliske and the roundabout by Sainsbury's also caused concerns.

Councillor Webb Cornwall Councillor for Moresk and Trehaverne

Councillor Webb reported new planning rules would be coming into effect. Cornwall Council had recently introduced autoenrollment for free school meals. He was lobbying Cornwall Council's Portfolio holder for Transport to encourage free parking after 4pm and a plan was needed for Moorfield carpark. He acknowledged the carpark could not be repaired and it would be important to retain as many car spaces as possible during any demolition. He was advised that the development of a Truro transport strategy was dependent on the delivery of an expected national strategy. He suggested that Boscawen Street – and the need for repairs should be considered holistically.

25/726

6. OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO

Joanna Dowell addressed Members speaking as a teacher on behalf of the Smartphone campaign and as a parent. She expressed a desire for Truro City Council to work with schools to make schools smartphone-free. Smartphones in schools created a number of problems in mental health, safeguarding, neurodiversity and lost childhood. Already ten of the top private schools had banned smartphones for years 7 – 9 and Newquay Town Council was working with schools to only allow basic phones; the campaign had also spoken to Penzance Town Council. It was noted that this matter was listed on the Agenda at Item 12 b later in the meeting.

25/727

7. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk highlighted work in the Municipal Buildings was progressing. The New Life for City Buildings grant scheme was fully committed and work was on-going at 15/16 King Street. Work is also on-going on the build of the new Boscawen Park Sports Hub and works to improve the drainage of the pitches was complete.

In relation to the development of a Lemon Quay Strategy, analysis of 1,800 responses was ongoing. He explained the Bonfire Night firework display could no longer be held at Tremorvah Playing field due to traffic concerns raised by the Police; closing roads was not feasible in such a built-up area. Instead, the event would be held at Truro Cattle Market which should be able to cope with large numbers of people safely. There was no intention to raise the admission charge this year.

There was a suggestion that the Park and Ride service opening hours be extended to accommodate this event. The report was **noted**.

25/728

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's report was **noted**.

25/729

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9. VERBAL OR WRITTEN PORTFOLIO REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED BY MEMBERS

Councillor Biscoe reported he had represented the Council in a recent Church Commission hearing into the closure of St Paul's Church which had concluded the church should be demolished. Alternative use of the site (provided as a charitable grant) might be a community/pastoral facility or housing. He suggested the Council write to the Church Commission and Bishop of Truro to seek an exploratory meeting to find an alternative use for this site. The Mayor noted he would progress this matter with the Town Clerk.

25/730

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

None.

25/731

11. AGENDA ITEMS

a) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee Meeting held 31 July 2025 were **noted**.

25/732

b) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee held 21 August 2025 were **noted**.

25/733

I. Chairman's Report Minute P/25/579

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Webb, and **RESOLVED** that Councillor Tucker be appointed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Committee.

25/734

c) The Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum Meeting held 4 September 2025 were **noted**.

25/735

d) The Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held 8 September 2025 were **noted**.

25/736

It was also **noted** Budget recommendations will be deferred and discussed by Council later on in the year.

25/737

e) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee Meeting held on 11 September 2025 were **noted**.

25/738

f) The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting held on 15 September 2025 were **noted**.

25/739

i. Letter from the Truro BID about relocating the shopwatch radio antenna from the Moorfield Car park to a Truro City Council building Minute F/25/664

The Town Clerk reported that it was intended to attach the antenna to a handrail on the Hall for Cornwall building.

It was proposed by Councillor La Borde, seconded by Councillor Pascoe, and

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RESOLVED that the Town Clerk works with the Truro BID to expedite the move of the shopwatch radio antenna to the Hall for Cornwall building as quickly as possible subject to the necessary consents being secured. **25/740**

ii. **2025/26 Q2 Reserves Review Minute F/25/667**

1. The contents of the report and the ear-marked reserve movements was **noted**.
2. It was also **noted** that the Finance and General Purposes committee will be considering long-term investments for future recommendations. **25/741**

iii. **Partnerships Accounts Minute F/25/668**

It was proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RESOLVED** that the following be allocated:

1. The Wild Truro funds to the Truro Nature Recovery Forum in the 2025-26 parks budget.
2. The Trelander £12,572.13 be held until original source of the funds and any conditions for spend are confirmed.
3. The Rosedale Residents Association £379.57 to an EMR for the parks' bridge project
4. The Tremorvah Action Group's £76.79 to the 2025-26 fireworks display budget.
5. The Charity Collections £317.12 to the 2025-26 community grants budget.
6. Transfer the Malabar Notice Board £532.00 to the New Beginning Community Association.
7. Separate the Beechwood Parc funds; £600.00 for trees (that have been planted by TCC already so should be transferred to 2025-26 parks budget), £450.00 to S106 ear marked reserves, and £800 for road grit to an ear-marked reserve.
8. The Boppard Twinning monies of £3,156.30 to be transferred to their own bank account.

25/742

iv. **2026 to 2030 Business Plan/Strategy Minute F/25/670**

The Town Clerk suggested some minor changes including changing "City Centre" to "Parish of Truro" and would insert "skills" where relevant. The Town Clerk was thanked for compiling the strategy in such a short timescale. Members were also thanked for their contributions in workshops and one-to-one meetings with the Town Clerk.

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

RESOLVED that:

1. Council approve the strategy as outlined in the report, including the above changes, as the strategy for Truro City Council for the 2026 to 2030 period. Once approved it will then be used to shape a 4-year delivery plan and inform the annual budget setting process.
2. The work of Council staff be commended.
3. Local businesses and residents be thanked for their contribution to the development of the strategy.

25/743

v. **Garras Wharf Minute F/25/673**

It was clarified that three parking spaces would remain available to Councillors on legitimate Council business.

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It was proposed by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RESOLVED** that only one of the three spaces at Garras Wharf Carpark may be used during the working day by designated staff for specific operational requirements, as necessary, with permission from the Town Clerk. **25/744**

vi. **Publication and Freedom of Information Policy Minute F/25/674**

It was proposed by Councillor Pascoe, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RESOLVED** that the publication scheme and freedom of information policy be adopted by Council. **25/745**

vii. **Asset Disposal Policy Minute F/25/675**

It was noted the draft policy did not include heritage or historic value.

It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Green, and **RESOLVED** that the asset disposal policy be adopted by Council with the inclusion of heritage or historic value. **25/746**

g) **The Minutes of the Staffing Committee Meeting held on 22 September 2025 were noted.** **25/747**

h) **Standing Order xx. Review of the Council's expenditure incurred under s.137 of the Local Government Act 1972 or general power of competence**

The Town Clerk thanked the team at Truro City Council for their support whilst he undertook the CILCA training as their support enabled him to allocate sufficient time to complete the course in less than twelve months.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Pascoe, and **RESOLVED** that Truro City Council has the General Power of Competence, having confirmed that it fits the criteria. **25/748**

i) **Revised Truro City Council Risk Register**

Councillors reviewed the Truro City Council Risk Register for September 2025. The Town Clerk highlighted that risk mitigation continued in relation to flooding. Work was on-going to reduce cybercrime. Work continued on compiling leases and agreements. Work was on-going to remedy discrepancies in employment contracts. Exposure to VAT was being reviewed and work on the asset register progressed. He was pleased to announce that the minimum reserve target had been met which was a reflection of the Council's prudent financial management. It was also suggested a risk rating be added: external relationships with external parties. **25/749**

j) **To note the Notice of Conclusion of Audit**

The comments from the External Auditor were **noted** regarding fixed assets and reserve levels. The Responsible Financial Officer would be actioning. **25/750**

12. CORRESPONDENCE

The following correspondence was received and **noted**.

- a. **The current Vision Document for Langarth Garden Village**
Noted. 25/751

- b. **Email from Smartphone-Free Childhood (SFC) Group, received 20.07.25, subject: Supporting a Smartphone-Free Initiative in Truro School**
Noted.

Joanna Dowell had addressed councillors earlier on in the meeting. Members highlighted the seriousness of the issue raised and considered referring the matter to the Finance and General Purposes Committee for more detailed discussion. The idea to convene a meeting of school representatives was raised and it was acknowledged the two state secondary schools which covered Truro - Richard Lander and Penair Schools were in Kenwyn and St Clement parishes respectively. It was also suggested contact be made with Newquay and Penzance Town Councils who had already considered the matter and learn from their experience.

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

RESOLVED that:

A letter of support be written to Cornwall Council, copy to the Portfolio holder for Children, Schools and Families

RECOMMENDED That the matter be discussed at the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee including consideration of convening a meeting of school representatives.

25/752

- c. **The email dated 05.09.25 and notice sent on 06.09.25 provided by the Church Commissioners regarding the Closed church building of Truro St Paul**
Noted. 25/753

- d. **Email dated 18.09.25 from Cornwall Council's Highways Technology Manager regarding the next phase of their streetlighting initiative which covers the Malpas and Newham areas**
Noted. 25/754

13. **EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor the 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 item by reason of its confidential or special nature: staffing contract.

[The Town Clerk left the meeting at 21:05.]

25/755

14. **Finance and General Purposes Committee Meeting 15 September 2025 and Staffing Committee Meeting 22 September 2025**

- i. **Amendment to the Town Clerk's Employment Terms and Conditions following Successful Early Completion of CICLA Minute F/25/690 and Minute S/25/714**

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

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RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be awarded an additional SCP point from 1 October 2025. 25/756

15 READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Pascoe, seconded by the Mayor, and **RESOLVED** that the press and public will be permitted to re-join the meeting following the conclusion of the confidential item. 25/757

16. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

27 October 2025.

i. Standing Order viii. Appointment of any new committees in accordance with Standing Order 5 – March 2026 meeting

ii. Investigation into additional land use for future recreational and sports use in Truro. 25/758

13. COMMON SEAL

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Swain, and **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. 25/759

The meeting closed at 21:04.

C. J. Wells
----- MAYOR

27th October 2025