

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 27 JANUARY 2025 at 7.00 pm**

in the Large Community Room, Top Floor, Truro Public Library, Union Place, Truro

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Mrs Swain),
Councillors: Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Eathorne-Gibbons, Griffiths, La Borde, Mrs Nolan,
Nolan, Pascoe, Rabey, Rich, Roby, Roden, Sealy, Southcombe, Sunderhauf, Unwin,
Webb, Wetherill and Wells.

APOLOGIES: None.

ABSENT: Councillors Green and Stokes.

Also in Attendance: David Rodda MBE, Town Clerk, Esther Greig, Deputy Town Clerk and
Cheryl Simpson, Committee Clerk and one member of the public.

1. PRAYERS

Prior to the formal business of the Council, the Mayor's Chaplain said prayers.

2. APOLOGIES

a. Apologies

Apologies were **noted**.

b. Vacancy

It was noted that Councillor Hall had ceased being a councillor after he had
failed to attend a Council meeting for a period of six consecutive months.

24/1079

3. DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND ANY DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Wells	Agenda Item 11cii	Intended Closure of Kenwyn Churchyard	Dispensation granted
Councillor Wells	Agenda 11ei.	Malabar Community Centre	Dispensation granted
Councillor Roden	Agenda 11i.	Town Deal – New Life for City Buildings – Deed of Variation	Dispensation granted
Councillor Biscoe	Agenda 11hi.	Application for Grants from Small Organisations:	Interest declared

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Councillor Sealy

Agenda 11iii.

Truro Old
Cornwall Society
Application for
Grants from Small
Organisations:
Truro Nourish Hub
Community
Interest
Company

Interest declared

24/1080

4. MINUTES OF COUNCIL

It was proposed by Councillor Unwin, seconded by Councillor Pascoe, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 25 November 2024 were considered a correct record. **24/1081**

5. OPEN SESSION FOR CORNWALL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Wells Cornwall Councillor Moresk and Trehaverne

Councillor Wells reported that gas works continued in the City Centre and no major issues were reported with the road closures. Some disruption was expected when the works took place in Victoria Square and River Street. From 3 February to 16 March Bodmin Road between Carvoza Road and Prospect Close would be closed for works but the entrance to Archbishop Benson School would be unaffected; additional signage would be used. In response to concern raised about potential delays caused to emergency vehicles at peak congestion times along Tregolls Road and Mitchell Hill, Councillor Wells agreed to raise the matter with Cornwall Council Streetworks.

An update on the redevelopment of Pydar Street provided by Treveth had been circulated earlier that day to Members. The Hive formed part of the proposal from Falmouth University and heads of terms had been signed. The next stage was cutting of services such as electricity and stripping the buildings e.g. removing asbestos as a precursor to demolishing the remaining buildings.

In response to a question about his voting record at Cornwall Council he stated that he had abstained on the recent 'Devonwall' motion because he did not wish to close off opportunities for extra funding for Cornwall.

Councillor Nolan, Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen and Redannick

Councillor Nolan reported that National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) came in effect this month and the number of projected houses needing to be built had increased significantly. Despite this the Truro and Kenwyn Neighbourhood remained valid.

Cornwall Council had discussed the white paper on devolution, and it was noted that Central Government was encouraging areas to adopt a mayor. Elections were expected to take place in Cornwall as usual.

He had spoken to Walsingham Estates about inviting the developer of the Higher Newham Farm development to present to the Planning Committee on a future date and he would update Council accordingly.

CHAIRMAN'S
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Councillor Rich, Cornwall Councillor for Tregolls

Councillor Rich reported that since the last meeting he had received an apology from Cornwall Council's Planning Service for not initially contacting him about the proposed redevelopment of a compound close to the Tregurra Park and Ride and Waitrose store. The previous week he had arranged a public meeting at Dunhelm Mill café for about 50 concerned local residents and Cornwall Council planning and housing officers and feedback was vociferous.

Since then, he had met the Cornwall Council's Portfolio holder for Housing and Planning, Oliver Monk, at a similar development in Newquay. He commented that this development was different to the New County Hall development of housing pods for homeless people, and this had allayed some but not all of his concerns about the proposed development. The planning application of solo housing units which included providing accommodation for people transitioning from children's services to another domicile, was due to be discussed at the Planning Committee scheduled for 30 January to which councillors were welcome to attend.

24/1082

6. OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO

None.

24/1083

7. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

The Town Clerk highlighted that the first New Life for City Buildings grant had been paid, and the Regenco Board first purchase of property was progressing. The Boscawen Park Sports Hub had also secured planning permission. The Town Clerk agreed to contact Kenwyn Parish Council to ask if the Parish Council would like to be involved in work to assess of the economy of Truro.

Later in the meeting he reported that the works schedule to refurbish Lemon Quay was being finalised to keep disruption to a minimum. This might include facilitating events to take place at High Cross and the top part of Lemon Quay. Works to the underpass and Compton Castle end of Lemon Quay could take place early in 2026 and may involve some closure to the underpass and a temporary crossing across Morlaix Avenue.

He also reported that due to the delays in getting the work programme confirmed it had not been possible to accommodate Truro College's end of year art display, but he would contact the College with a view to accommodating them next year.

Report **noted**.

24/1084

8. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor's report was taken as read and **noted**.

24/1085

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

None.

24/1086

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

None.

24/1087

11. **AGENDA ITEMS**

- a) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Meeting held 28 November 2024 were **noted**. 24/1088
- b) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee held 19 December 2024 were **noted**. 24/1089
- c) The Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee held 6 January 2025 were **noted**. 24/1090

i. Minute PK/24/994 Boscawen Park Tennis Courts Equity Inclusion Diversity Policy

The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that adoption of such a policy was a requirement to receiving grant and loan funding from the LTA. The European Framework Convention for Cornish Minorities was also referenced. Once in place the policy would be reviewed

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, and **RESOLVED** that the Boscawen Park Tennis Courts Equity, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) policy be adopted. **24/1091**

ii. Minute PK/24/995 Intended Closure of Kenwyn Churchyard

A letter dated 18 January from Kenwyn and St Allen PCC which clarified the role of the PCC and City Council in this matter was tabled at the meeting and considered in conjunction with the report. Council was asked to respond that it supported the closure of the churchyard due to no proper room for new graves – there were no legal grounds to object to the closure. Councillors would be requested to consider the future liability for maintenance of Kenwyn Churchyard at a separate meeting.

A motion, proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons that the City Council object to the closure on the ground that with the increasing population of Truro there is a need for additional burial provision over and above what is planned in the municipal cemetery fell. [Councillor Biscoe requested that his name be recorded as voting for the motion.]

[Councillor Wells left the meeting at 20:10.]

Next, it was proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons and **RESOLVED** to support the closure of Kenwyn Churchyard on the grounds that there was no proper room for new graves. **24/1092**

[Councillor Wells returned to the meeting at 20:11.]

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iii. Minute PK/24/997 Draft Vehicle Tracking Policy

The Deputy Town Clerk reported the addition of a table on page 1 of the policy regarding personal use of Council vehicles since the Parks and Amenities Committee meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor Pascoe, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, and **RESOLVED** that the draft vehicle tracking policy be adopted. **24/1093**

- d) The Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee held 9 January 2025 were **noted**. 24/1094

i. Minutes P/24/1018 and 1019 Correspondence – Letter from Mayor of Marazion Parish Council regarding vote of no confidence Cornwall Council Planning Department

Members were generally supportive of the recommendations.

It was proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Pascoe, and **RESOLVED:**

1. To reply to Marazion Parish Council noting that the current system of enforcement is not functioning as intended and is not effective. Members believe in radical change and that appropriate resources and finances are allocated to facilitate effective change. It further believes that more transparency is needed between Cornwall Council and parish councils.
2. That Truro City Council will not go so far as to support a no confidence vote, as it believes that the current system can be improved without going so far at this time. **24/1095**

- e) The Public Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Held 13 January 2025 were **noted**. 24/1096

.i. Minutes F/24/1035 to 1038 Malabar Community Centre

The Town Clerk emphasised that Cornwall Council was keen to facilitate devolution of the land so the community centre project could move to the next stage. The SEND project was a separate Cornwall Council project. Currently a map of the proposed land affected was not available due to continuing discussions with Cornwall Council. If the project gained funding business plans and maps would be brought to Council.

A concern was raised about some of the language used in the report. The Town Clerk apologised for the language and explained that it related to the area as a whole based on the Government's Indices of Multiple Deprivation rather than to individuals. He also undertook to review the language used in future reports.

[Councillors Roden and Wells left the meeting room at 20:34.]

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It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Biscoe, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. Subject to a satisfactory business case being developed, in order to facilitate further progress on the creation of a new Community Centre in Malabar, it agrees to accept the devolution of the land on which the Malabar Community Centre will be based from Cornwall Council.
2. In order to deliver the new Community Centre at Malabar, it works in partnership with NBCA to submit the necessary funding applications to secure the necessary funding to cover 100% of the capital costs of the new facility.
3. Subject to a satisfactory business case being developed and successful grant applications, it supports NBCA to identify cashflow facilities that will enable them to build the new Malabar Community Centre.
4. In order to deliver the new Community Centre at Malabar the Town Clerk has delegated authority to progress this project with the NBCA.

24/1097

[Councillors Roden and Wells returned to the meeting room at 20:38.]

ii. Minute F/24/1039 to 1041 St Clement Day Care/ Moresk Centre Building – Devolution

It was proposed by Councillor Rich, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and **RESOLVED** that;

1. The report be **noted**.
2. It agrees to pursue the full devolution of the Moresk Centre from Cornwall Council.
3. Negotiations regarding the terms of the devolution are delegated to the Town Clerk.

24/1098

iii. Minute F/24/1042 to 1043 Duck Pond Drainage - Procurement Strategy

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be **noted**
2. For the purposes of facilitating the drainage of the Duck Pond at Boscawen Park a direct award to a contractor to undertake the works is utilised rather than standard procurement processes as codified in financial regulations.

24/1099

- f) The Minutes of the Truro Nature Recovery Forum Held 15 January 2025 were **noted**. 25/1100

- g) The Minutes of the Accommodation Working Group Held 20 January 2025 were **noted**.

The Town Clerk confirmed that in relation to the lift a decision had been made some twenty years ago that the Hall for Cornwall would operate the lift (from the Hall for Cornwall bar area) as and when required by the City Council. The door in the corridor leading to the Hall for Cornwall was a fire door operated by a maglock. Further, the two large gates filled with glass on the ground floor were

part of the original design of the building refurbishment. A fire plan and condition survey was also being prepared. There was insufficient room for all staff to return to the Municipal Buildings and an options analysis for the reconfiguration of the Buildings was being worked on. 24/1101

[Councillors Biscoe and Sealy left the meeting room at 20:55.]

h) Applications for Grants from Small Organisations

It was reported that there was £5,788 available for distribution.

i.Truro Old Cornwall Society:

It was proposed by Councillor Rich, seconded by Councillor Nolan, and **RESOLVED** that a grant of £850 be made to Truro Old Cornwall Society for organisation of the annual St Piran's Day Parade. 24/1102

ii.Truro Nourish Hub Community Interest Company:

It was generally considered that further details about the application were required before a decision could be made on the application for funding. It was suggested that Councillor Sealy (who had submitted the application) be requested to provide more details including a constitution or other governance document and the areas that might be covered by any grant awarded.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that the application for grant funding from Truro Nourish Hub Community Interest Company be deferred to the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee due to timescale and further details about the application be sought from Councillor Sealy. 24/1103

[Councillors Biscoe and Sealy returned to the meeting room at 21:04.]

i) Town Deal – New Life for City Buildings – Deed of Variation

The Town Clerk reported that the changes suggested codified those details discussed at the last Regenco meeting and discussed at Full Council on the 25 November 2024. Further he reassured Members that discussions were held with property owners about different options including the level of grant funding and whether affordable housing for local people could be made available. He also noted that Regenco would shortly have its own bank account and a business plan would be developed once a property was purchased and once the designs for the future use have been finalised.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Wells, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be **noted**.
2. The Deed of Variation be signed as this confirms the amendments to the Grant Funding Agreement that will increase the grant rates that can be applied to the direct purchase and refurbishment grant element of the New Life for City Buildings Project. 24/1104

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j) Human Resources (HR) Provision 2025-2028

Members noted that Commissioning HR Ltd were currently based in Newton Abbott, Devon and had significant experience of working with local authorities in Devon. The outgoing contractor Tamar HR were based in Plymouth.

It was proposed by Councillor Pascoe, seconded by Councillor Webb, and **RESOLVED** that Commissioning HR Ltd be appointed human resources contractor as recommended by the Procurement Panel as the preferred contractor. **24/1105**

k) CCLA (Churches, Charities and Local Authorities Investment Management Ltd) Bank Account Signatories

It was proposed by Councillor Pascoe, seconded by Councillor Rich, and **RESOLVED** that signatories be updated to include Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk and RFO and Finance Officer. **24/1106**

l) Date of Annual Town Meeting

The date of the Annual Town Meeting 17 April 2025 was changed because the Pre-Election Period began on 14 May. The deadline for reports to be received by the Deputy Town Clerk was 3 March, final reports by 6 March.

It was proposed by Councillor Griffiths, seconded by Councillor Wells, and **RESOLVED** that the Annual Town Meeting be held on Wednesday 12 March 2025. **24/1107**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that the meeting be extended until 22:00. **24/1108**

m) 2024-25 Expenditure to Budget Prediction – 2025-26 Draft Budget – 2026-27 and 2027-28 Forecasts

Councillors thanked the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their hard work during the budget process and noted that the budget workshop had been especially helpful.

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The budget and precept report 2025-26 be **noted**.
2. The 3-year budget forecast be **approved**.
3. £3,197,995 be **precepted** in 2025-26.
4. Truro City Council holds general reserves of £750,000/3 months net revenue expenditure and aims to have this in place by the end of the 2026-27 financial year.
5. £50k be **released** for the purchase of maintenance equipment to service land covered by s106 agreements.
6. Unspent project balances be **transferred** to ear-marked reserves (allotments, duck pond, technical equipment, elections, tennis courts resurfacing, café business rates), with the balance on 2024-25 unused budgets to be transferred to general reserve.

24/1109

n) **Truro City Council Off-Street Car Parking Order 2025**

Council considered the first draft off-street parking order. It was suggested that at Boscawen Park carpark times should be specified for the parking of motor cars etc. It was also suggested that the 6-7 hours tariff be increased because £4.20 was less than the daily tariff in the Old Bridge Street carpark. Such changes were more likely to deter people who parked at Boscawen Park carpark and worked or shopped in the City Centre or motorhomes parking overnight for long periods. The Deputy Town Clerk reported that she would be discussing the draft order with Cornwall Council at a meeting on 28 January. Further if a parks user was required to be present at Boscawen Park all day, such as an event organiser, they could apply to the City Council for specific permission. The draft parking order, once finalised would be subject to public consultation for a period of six weeks. Once implemented the order would be reviewed following an operation period of one year.

It was proposed by Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Biscoe, and **RESOLVED** that:

1. The report be **noted**.
2. The first draft Off-Street Car Parking Order & Schedule be **approved**.
3. The consultation process with Cornwall Council as the Civil Enforcement Authority for Cornwall be **started**. 24/1110

[Councillors Griffiths and Webb left the meeting at 21:42.]

12. **CORRESPONDENCE**

The following correspondence was received and **noted**. Councillors were advised to submit any questions direct to the Town Clerk.

- a. The letter of thanks dated 11 November 2024 from Kenwyn Community Association regarding the organisation of the Remembrance Event on 10 November 2024 was **noted**. 24/1111
- b. The email dated 6 December 2024 from NHS Cornwall and Isles of Scilly regarding a survey and a new 10-Year Health Plan for the NHS was **noted**. Councillors may respond individually. 24/1112
- c. The email dated 13 January 2025 regarding CCTV monitoring costs was **noted**. 24/1113
- d. The key dates regarding planned local council elections on 1 May 2025 provided by Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) were **noted**. TCC procedural guidance for election of Mayor and Deputy Mayor for May 2025 was **noted**. 24/1114
- e. A copy of a letter from Cornwall Housing dated 16 January 2025 regarding sale of property at 6 Harcourt Close, Kenwyn TR1 3RD and Nos. 9, 10, 11 & 12 Trevoze Road Truro TR1 3QW was **noted**. 24/1115

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13. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Biscoe, 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 or special nature: contracts and business planning. **24/1116**

14. Confidential Report from the Parks and Amenities Committee held 6 January 2025

i. Minute PK/24/986 12 Month Review of Café Performance (Confidential Report)

It was proposed by Councillor Roden, seconded by Councillor Biscoe and **RESOLVED** that the Café in the Park continue to be operated in-house and it was **noted** that a new Café Manager and Assistant Manager will be appointed. **24/1117**

15. Confidential Minute of the Finance and General Purposes Committee Held 13 January 2025.

The confidential minute was **noted**. **24/1118**

i. Minute F/24/1058 CCTV Supplier Decision

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Wells, and **RESOLVED** that

1. The report be **noted**
2. That Redruth Town Council be **selected** as provider of CCTV coverage for Truro from the 3 suppliers that quoted.
3. The final negotiations regarding the terms of the contract with the chosen supplier be delegated to the Town Clerk noting the need for the contract to be affordable within the agreed budget envelope.
4. From 1 April 2025 the provision of additional CCTV live monitoring, over and above that supplied by the Council, that may be deemed necessary for the safe delivery of events held in Truro is charged at cost to the event organiser and that this condition is included in the terms for booking Lemon Quay and other event spaces as necessary.
5. The Town Clerk be **instructed** to explore whether there are any additional funding opportunities that can be secured to fund CCTV provision. **24/1119**

16. Report from Devon and Cornwall Police on the work of the Hotspot patrols in Truro

The report was **noted**. **24/1120**

17. READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that the press and public be invited back into the meeting. **24/1121**

18. **ITEMS AND DATE FOR NEXT MEETING**

It was **noted** that the next meeting was scheduled for 24 February 2025.

24/1122

19. **COMMON SEAL**

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by the Deputy Mayor, 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.

24/1123

The meeting closed at 21:56

Carol Swan MAYOR

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