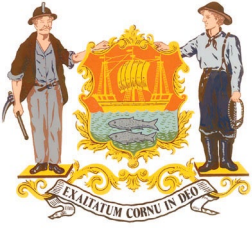


TRURO CITY COUNCIL



Town Clerk's Department
Municipal Buildings
Boscawen Street
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CITY OF TRURO

14 May 2025

To: The Mayor (Councillor Wells), Deputy Mayor (Councillor Rich) and all members of Truro City Council pending the appointment of members at the Adjourned Annual Council meeting on 19 May 2025.

Dear Councillor

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a special meeting of the **FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE** will be held at the **COMMITTEE ROOM, MUNICIPAL BUILDINGS, BOSCAWEN STREET, TR1 2NE** on **MONDAY 19 MAY 2025** after **7.00pm** for the transaction of the under mentioned business:

The press and public are invited to attend. Meetings are held in public and could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media, or members of the public.

AGENDA

1. **ELECTION OF CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26**
2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIRPERSON FOR THE MUNICIPAL YEAR 2025/26**
3. **COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES**
To **note** apologies.
4. **DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**
To **receive** and **resolve** on any dispensation requests.
5. **MINUTES** (Appendix A)
To **resolve** to approve and sign the minutes of the Finance & General Purposes Committee meeting held on 14 April 2025.
6. **APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO THE ACCOMMODATION WORKING GROUP**
Eight Councillors to include:
the Mayor ex-officio,
the Deputy Mayor ex-officio,
the Chairperson of Finance & General Purposes Committee,
the Vice-Chairperson of Finance & General Purposes Committee,
and four other members.
7. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**
16 June 2025

David Rodda MBE
TOWN CLERK

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



CITY OF TRURO

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MEETING OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE HELD 14 APRIL 2025 AT 1900

PRESENT: Councillors Webb (Chairman), Councillors Wells (Vice-Chairman), Swain (Mayor), Rabey (Deputy Mayor), Biscoe, Rich, Southcombe, Sunderhauf, and Stokes.

APOLOGIES: Councillors Mrs Carlyon (personal), Eathorne-Gibbons (personal), and Nolan (personal).

ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David Rodda (Town Clerk) and Jayne Kirkham MP.

1 COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

The apologies were **noted**.

F/24/1534

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor Webb - item 8.e.i. - non-pecuniary - to leave the room.

F/24/1535

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

None.

F/24/1536

4 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Swain, and **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held 10 March 2025 were considered a correct record and signed.

F/24/1537

5 VERBAL REPORTS

a. Town Clerk Report

In the absence of the RFO the Town Clerk reported that CIL monies of approximately £63,000.00 had been received with an additional amount expected later in the year. A report would be taken to council recommending a spending plan for the money, this was likely to be solar PV panel installation on the café in the park and at Idless nursery. In addition to this it may be suggested to council that the flood lights for the tennis courts are replaced with new LED lights given the high-power consumption of the halogen bulbs that now cannot be replaced when blown, as one has done. These initiatives would reduce ongoing power costs and the carbon footprint of the council.

The verbal report was **noted**.

F/24/1538

The receipt of precept was **noted**.

F/24/1539

The Town Clerk then reminded members that when leaving meetings the door must be fully shut due to an incident that occurred at a previous meeting

where a group youths entered the building and removed property (that was later recovered) - a more robust mitigation strategy was being planned.

b. Facilities Manager Report

The Town Clerk introduced the report as a comprehensive update of the works ongoing to bring TCC buildings back into good order, a display of the new children's library floor and reception desk, works done to Hendra Hall's roof and Zebs making it clean and dry, as well as the rehangings of the portraits in the Municipal Buildings.

Councillors commented on the excellence of the report and the tangible, meaningful progress that it was displaying that had been headed by the new facilities manager who was simultaneously conducting practical and strategic works.

The 2024/25 Annual Facilities Report was **noted**.

F/24/1540

6 CHAIRMANS REPORT

The Chairman informed members of the sad news that Linda Clarke had passed away that weekend, she had been with the council for twelve years and will be missed.

A period of silence was held.

Councillors noted how rare it was to have death in service, one spoke of Linda's integral efforts in transforming Truro public conveniences from the state they were devolved to the council into the quality provision they now are.

It was confirmed by the Town Clerk that staff may attend the funeral to pay respects if they wished.

F/24/1541

7 CORRESPONDENCE

F/24/1542

a. The letter of thanks from Truro Feel Safe Scheme was **noted**.

F/24/1543

b. The email from Circo Kernow of thanks was **noted**.

F/24/1544

c. The email from Mick Harrison, Cyber Protect Officer Devon and Cornwall Police offering a presentation on cybercrime awareness was **noted**.

F/24/1445

It was proposed by Councillor Sunderhauf, seconded by Councillor Stokes and **RESOLVED** that the Community Development Officer be tasked with arranging the sessions for the community.

F/24/1546

8 AGENDA ITEMS

F/24/1547

a. Annual Governance and Accountability Return (AGAR)

i. Following clarification on where the general power of competence is noted it was proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Wells and **recommended** to Council that yes be answered to all the assertions in the Annual Governance Statement 2024/25.

F/24/1548

ii. Councillors that had taken part in the quarterly checks said that the process should continue commending its ability to teach councillors of the responsibilities and inner workings. One member advocated that it could be simplified by not checking annual items quarterly or starting by

reviewing the last check for those items, in addition more experienced councillors could be paired with newer ones as a teaching exercise. It was proposed by Councillor Sunderhauf, seconded by Councillor Biscoe and **RESOLVED** that the quarterly checks continue but simplified and thought given to the member pairings.

F/24/1549

b. Procedural Guidance

The Town Clerk reminded members of Council's request that the procedural guidance be reviewed, the report provided to members did this to ensure compliance with legislation, primarily the Local Government Act 1972.

The committee's discussion of the procedural guidance centred around:

- The need for six groups, the fact that this has been a longstanding inclusion and was of no cause for concern.
- What the meaning of an exceptional circumstance was to differing people and thereby when it would be invoked. It was suggested that this should be removed and the council of the day decide what constitutes an exceptional circumstance.
- The removal of the word 'only' from the text relating to Mayoral terms of office to preclude second terms of Mayoralty. The intent being to discourage consecutive terms.
- The clarification of any contradictions to the LGA 1972 s15 as advised by officers, including the statement that any elected member may be proposed as Chairman, or in Truro's case a Mayor, of the Council at its first meeting.

Some members thought the current guidance worked well and needed no change, citing it was part of the customs and conventions of Truro City Council. Others agreed with officer advice that one council cannot attempt to influence the next.

The Town Clerk introduced two methods of electing the mayor, the first being a ballot system that mirrors the co-option process where willing members with a proposer and seconder put themselves forward, the second being the current process where candidates are voted for one by one starting with the previous Deputy Mayor. After considering the options and the legal position as outlined in the Local Government Act 1972 the Town Clerk's recommendation was council agree to use a ballot as per the process used to elect the chairs of committees and co-options to the Council

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Stokes and the proposal, to recommend to Council that the procedural guidance be amended to remove "other than in exceptional circumstances" & "only" from 3 (ii) then be adopted. After the chairman's casting vote the recommendation fell so the revised procedural guidance as written will progress to Council for further discussion.

Members discussed the benefits of having been Deputy Mayor before becoming Mayor as a way of learning the role, whilst some recalled that in their experience this was not the case.

The draft Details of Service of all nominated candidates was **noted**.

F/24/1550

c. Municipal Buildings Council Chamber Seating Plan

In preparation of the last meeting of this Council the portraits had been rehung. The Town Clerk asked members to consider the seating plan for the Council Chamber.

The committee discussed the different ways in which to organise Councillors at the meeting. Firstly, the idea of an open seating plan was dismissed for its chance of grouping by political factions. Secondly, the notion that the order was by length of service on the Council was challenged for making some newer councillors feel excluded from debate. It was made clear that having Committee Chairs on the top table was hierarchical and exclusive where in a council meeting they are no more important than any other. Additionally, a Councillor exclaimed that the Council's culture needs to detract from the idea of seniority. Having assigned seating may be of aid to the chairman. The Mayor's Chaplain to sit in the Town Clerk's seat until leaving.

It was proposed by Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Biscoe and **RESOLVED** that the top three seats be for the Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Town Clerk / Mayors Chaplain. The other seats be allocated based on the Details of Service List, grouped by ward having Boscawen & Redannick with Tregolls on the left side then Moresk & Trehaverne with Malabar taking the right.

F/24/1551

d. Ear-Marked Reserves

It was reported that Council had already agreed £25,000.00, Staffing Committee £16,000.00 for new recruitment and allowance payments for staff that had completed the advanced first aid course.

A Councillor requested that the RFO design a mechanism for carrying forward the monies, without transgressing the financial regulations, for repeating events such as St Piran's Day. These funds were typically from a mix of external fundraising and TCC's revenue budget, protecting them would allow long term planning.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Rabey and **recommended** to Council that the S106 final balance is £536,636.60 as £25,000.00 capital released to pay for ongoing maintenance of open spaces as per 2024/25 budget, and that ear-marked reserves are created for:-

F/24/1552

CIL £21,288.41

Staff Salaries £16,000.00

Capital Projects (ongoing):

- Facilities £116,500.00

- Parks £19,500.00

Grants £2,800.00

e. Grant Applications

F/24/1553

i. Truro Nourish Hub CIC for £750.00

Members noted they had given this organisation a grant in the past few months, but that this was for a different project. One councillor raised concern at the amount of cash being withdrawn from the account. The completeness of the application was scrutinised.

Various questions were raised about the project including;

What platform will the podcast be broadcast on? Whom will have access to it? How will it be marketed? What safeguarding measures are in place? What tools are needed? Who is involved? Do they have a contact within the NHS to refer those in need? What mental health qualifications do those involved have?

This was thought of as a risky undertaking without having a more substantive backer in place, especially given the lack of a track record in running a podcast or mental health project. The goal to support and engage young people was commended but caveated that it must be done responsibly.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Biscoe and **RESOLVED** to reject the grant at this stage, seek further information, specifically those questions raised during the debate, and take to Council for determination.

F/24/1554

ii. The Arts Society Truro for £350.00

[Councillor Webb left the room at 2034. Councillor Wells took over chairmanship of the meeting.]

A member of the committee told the room that this was one of two private libraries in Cornwall and is a significant repository of archival documents. Members were appreciative of the time and effort that goes into preserving items for future generations where these documents will remain important.

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Stokes and **RESOLVED** to award a grant of £350.00 to The Arts Society Truro and invite to apply for further funding if needed.

F/24/1555

[Councillor Webb entered the room at 2039. Councillor Wells relinquished chairmanship of the meeting.]

9 BANK BALANCES AND SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS

At 31 March as follows:

Current Account	£1,058,687.54
Public Sector Deposit	£1,053,617.75
Money Market	£00.00
=====	
Total	£2,112,305.29

The schedule of payments and bank balances were **noted**.

F/24/1556

10 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The provisional date of the next meeting was **noted** as 19th June 2025.

F/24/1557

Committee members gave thanks to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the committee for their year of stewardship.

11 ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

Flag Policy & Grant Procedure.

F/24/1558

The meeting closed at 2041.

Chairman