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MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 26 OCTOBER 2026 at 7.00 pm
in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, Boscawen Street, Truro

PRESENT: The Mayor (Honorary Freeman Wells),
Councillors: Biscoe, Carlyon, Claxton, Collins-Rajna, Douglas-Martin, Green, La Borde, Rabey, Rich, Southcombe, Sunderhauf, Swain, Taylor, Tucker, and Wetherill.
APOLOGIES: Councillors Honorary Freeman Eathorne-Gibbons (personal), Knuckey (personal), Pascoe (personal), Nolan (business), and Webb (personal).
ABSENT: Councillor Ellis.
ALSO IN ATTENDANCE: David Rodda MBE (Town Clerk), Rev. Andy Boorne (Mayor's Chaplain), and Cheryl Simpson (Committee Clerk).
ALSO PRESENT: Member of the public: Lionel Knight.

PRAYERS
The Mayor's Chaplain said prayers.

1. COUNCILLORS IN ATTENDANCE AND APOLOGIES

i. Apologies were **noted.** 26/929

ii. Honorary Freeman Councillor Eathorne-Gibbons requested a further extension to the six-month rule for a period of six months. 26/930

It was proposed by Councillor Claxton, seconded by Councillor Tucker, and:
RESOLVED that the apologies for absence were accepted and approved, in accordance with Section 85 of the Local Government Act 1972. **26/931**

2. DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND ANY DISPENSATIONS

Councillor Biscoe (history walking tour operator – tickets sold & promoted by VIC)	Agenda Item 10e. Minute F/26/895 Q2 Expenditure to Budget	To leave the room for the item

26/932

3. MINUTES
Councillors were invited to contact the Town Clerk to request copies of letters sent as part of Council's business.

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Swain, and
RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting held on 28 September 2026 were considered a correct record, subject two minor amendments. **26/933**

4. OPEN SESSION FOR CORNWALL COUNCILLORS
Councillor La Borde, Cornwall Councillor for Gloweth, Malabar & Shortlanesend
Councillor La Borde thanked the Town Clerk for attending a meeting about the Malabar Community Centre and New Beginning Community Association which had provided focus to the occasion. She had been attending regular meetings with the Education Department, and she reported negotiations were on-going between the Truro Learning Academy and Cornwall Council's Capital Management Team. She drew attention to a new planning application for a proposal adjacent to Truro City Football Club for a health and wellbeing

hub, for a hospitality centre, hotel, vet practice and gym on land allocated for housing. She queried the potential sale of two County Farms for housing despite the current non-delivery of housing at Langarth and Pydar Street Sites. She expressed concern about food security and considered that the monies raised by any sale should be reinvested in the County Farms Estate. She had attended a Malabar Estate Community Day meeting WMS who undertook maintenance in the area and the anti-social behaviour team. She noted Cornwall Housing use a mechanical weed machine for weed removal. Finally, she acknowledged that air quality was still an issue in the Highertown and she would be liaising with the Environment Team. She welcomed a potential tourist tax provided it could be graduated to reflect fairness.

Councillor Rich Cornwall Councillor for Tregolls
Councillor Rich expressed his support for a tourist tax suggesting monies raised could be reinvested into tourist areas. He noted that the Leader of Cornwall Council was expected to hear by telephone about Cornwall's bid for devolution soon. The Leader had also met the new Managing Director of Newquay Cornwall Airport earlier that day. He considered that parts of the County Farms Estate could be developed for housing, but a key matter was what housing was being built; it should address local need. He felt that Central Government was not providing sufficient support for the farming community, further he thought the food production system was not aligned with food security and whilst food producers provided good quality produce this was not receiving a good price.

Councillor Nolan, Cornwall Councillor for Boscawen and Redannick
Councillor Nolan was not present at the meeting.

Councillor Webb Cornwall Councillor for Moresk and Trehaverne
Councillor Webb was not present at the meeting. 26/934

5. OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO
No questions were asked. 26/935

6. TOWN CLERK'S REPORT
The Town Clerk reported that the Regenco Board had met earlier that afternoon, and Three Seas Cornwall had agreed to enter into a Memorandum of Understanding to jointly pursue the redevelopment of 15/16 King Street, and the next stage of survey work was imminent. Boscawen Park Sports Pitches had experienced very wet weather on Saturday leading to a cancellation, but Sunday's bookings took place. A pitch inspection earlier that morning indicated that apart from a muddy goal mouth the pitches had recovered very well. Following Council's instructions, he had written a letter to Truro BID which was considered by the BID Committee and a response was awaited. It was noted that the four-yearly referendum on Truro Bid was due in 2027. He noted that the number of people rough sleeping on City Council land had increased with encampments on the Donkey Field and at Coosebean (and a dugout at Boscawen Park). On encountering rough sleepers, City Council staff were encouraged to report this to Cornwall Council's Streetlink service which worked with individuals to try and meet their needs and obtain suitable housing. (If the Coosebean site as suggested had been abandoned, BIFFA might be requested to clear rubbish away following reports of drug paraphernalia). This matter would be raised at the next Parks and Amenities Committee meeting on 2 November. Finally, he noted the final tranche of CIL funding: £7608 would be reported to Finance and General Purposes Committee and might be allocated to the playground fund. Following a suggestion, the Town Clerk agreed to ask the Police and Crime Commissioner for a contribution to the costs of providing the CCTV system, bearing in mind the high number of requests from the Police and work in proving evidence packs.

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The report was **noted**. 26/936

7. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE MAYOR

The Mayor reported that the Poppy Appeal Launch planned for 24 October was cancelled due to inclement weather; the appeal had since begun. Following his attendance at the National Britain in Bloom competition presentation in Rochdale on 20 October, a programme, certificates and flag were on display, and the trophy was circulated to Councillors. He congratulated everyone who had helped Truro achieve Best Largest Town. He had also attended the South West in Bloom presentation event in Newquay on 23 October and he was pleased to announce that Truro had achieved Best Largest Town in the South West and the best coastal/estuarine town, which was a first for Cornwall. Collectively this was a great accolade for the volunteers, businesses and the Council's Parks Department. The Mayor's report was **noted**. 26/937

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by the Mayor, and
RESOLVED that the volunteers, businesses and City Council's Parks Team, led by the Parks and Amenities Manager involved in Truro in Bloom be congratulated for their success in the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS) 2026 competitions. **26/938**

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

Councillor Rabey reported that he had recently attended a Truro-Morlaix Twinning Association meeting with the Mayor and a Quiz Night (including cheese and wine) was planned for 7 November at Kea Hall, costing £10 per head. All Councillors were invited to attend. 26/939

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

None. 26/940

10. AGENDA ITEMS

a. Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee Meeting held 3 September 2026 were **noted.** 26/941

(i) Minute P/26/609 Motion - Unauthorised Commercial Advertising

Councillors advocated for the lawful control of advertisements to help protect the integrity of the public realm. The number of advertisements, including A-frames and old bikes had proliferated at some locations which often impinged across footpaths. 26/942

It was proposed by Councillor Tucker, seconded by Councillor Swain, and:
RESOLVED that the Town Clerk be asked to liaise with Cornwall Council on the issue of unauthorised commercial advertising within Truro's public realm particularly in the Conservation Area, with particular regard to the enforcement of existing planning and advertising controls. The Town Clerk shall report back to the Committee on Cornwall Council's current enforcement arrangements and, where appropriate, provide options for a clear and consistent framework governing business advertising within the city. **26/943**

b. Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee Meeting held 24 September 2026 were **noted**. 26/944

(i) Minute/26/730 – Truro Conservation Area Advisory Committee

It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Carlyon, and:
RESOLVED that the Local Planning Authority be written to presenting a policy of inspection and amendment of Listed Building descriptions**.** **26/945**

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c. Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting held 5 October 2026 were **noted.** 26/946

(i) Minute PK/26/813 Wider Ponds and Wetland Policy

It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Tucker, and **RESOLVED** that the Wider Ponds and Wetland Policy be approved, subject to the inclusion of fish being allowed in the Fish Pond at Victoria Gardens. **26/947**

d. Minutes of the Planning and Licensing Committee held 15 October 2026 were **noted**. 26/948

It was **noted** the recommendation about the budget for Planning and Licensing Committee will be considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee. 26/949

e. The Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 19 October 2026 were **noted.** 26/950

(i) Minute F/26/895 Q2 Expenditure to Budget
[Councillor Biscoe declared an interest and left the Council Chamber at 20:05.]

It was proposed by Councillor La Borde, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that £18,500 be allocated to Moresk repairs. **26/951**

[Councillor Biscoe returned to the Council Chamber at 20;11.]

It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Rabey, and **RESOLVED** that £20,000 be allocated to additional 2 x Q3 bye-elections from the general reserve. **26/952**

It was proposed by Councillor Claxton, seconded by Councillor Collins-Rajna, and **RESOLVED** that the additions and releases (as detailed in 2.1 in the report) within the Ear Marked Reserves, be approved. **26/953**

f. REVIEW OF PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE
(i) The Notes of the meeting of the Review of Procedural Guidance Task and Finish Group meeting held on 10 September 2026 were **noted**. 26/954

(ii) Report by the Town Clerk
The Town Clerk reiterated that legally any councillor can stand for Mayor or Deputy Mayor at the Annual meeting. No "elect" selection process could override that formal election process and custom and practice could not restrict who could stand. If Council disregarded the Town Clerk's advice this would be minuted and such a decision would be at risk of being challenged. Nominations (including signatures) could be made by email or paper communications. It would be up to Council to decide to elect a Mayor for an additional term of office. If the Mayor was present, legally they were bound to chair that meeting, unless they had an interest which prevented them from doing so. Members generally welcomed the proposed changes to Procedural Guidance, reminding themselves that this process was rooted in democracy and remained within the law moving forward. 26/955

It was proposed by Councillor Swain, seconded by Councillor Sunderhauf, and **RESOLVED** that the changes to procedural guidance outlined in this report in order to clarify the process for selecting the Mayor/Deputy Mayor for Truro City Council, be approved.
[Councillor Carlyon requested that her name be recorded as voting against the motion.]
26/956

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g. CAFÉ IN THE PARK FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE AND CUSTOMER ENVIRONMENT IMPROVEMENTS

The Café in the Park's financial performance for the updated reporting period was **noted.**

26/957

The Town Clerk reported that Café performance was better than previously reported and reflected the hard work over the summer season. An investment of funds to develop a community feel was suggested for the winter season. The £10,000 came from money set aside to pay for and increase in Cornwall Council Business Rates which was no longer required. A number of concerns were highlighted by Members including: a lack of a business plan, a lack of a vision for a community café, staff costs, acoustic problems, a need for market testing, perceived underuse of the building, lack of benchmarking and a lack of information about direct costs. 26/958

A motion was proposed by Councillor La Borde, and seconded by Councillor Carlyon:
To defer allocating £10,000 from the Café in the Park Reserve to improve the customer environment through lighting, acoustic treatment, climate control, decoration, furniture and soft furnishings as a first step into shifting the business model into a more community-focused offer, pending:

1. A full business case for the proposed investment to change to a community facility;
2. Benchmarking staffing and productivity; and
3. An analysis of direct (not indirect) costs. 26/959

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Taylor, seconded by Councillor Rich:
That £10,000 from the Café in the Park Reserve is allocated to improve the customer environment through lighting, acoustic treatment, climate control, decoration, furniture and soft furnishings as a first step into shifting the business model into a more community-focused offer.
Upon being put to Council, the vote was lost. 26/960

The original motion:
RESOLVED: To defer allocating £10,000 from the Café in the Park Reserve to improve the customer environment through lighting, acoustic treatment, climate control, decoration, furniture and soft furnishings as a first step into shifting the business model into a more community-focused offer, pending:

1. A full business case for the proposed investment to change to a community facility;
2. Benchmarking staffing and productivity; and
3. An analysis of direct (not indirect) costs.

Upon being put to Council, the vote was won. **26/961**

h. BRIEF DISCUSSION ON POTENTIAL PRECEPT PRESSURES ON 2027/2028

Potential Precept pressures on 2027/2028 were briefly discussed. The Town Clerk reminded Councillors that the Precept for 2026/2027 was 9.3%. The Real Living Wage has been fixed at 4.8% from 1 April 2027, and the National Pay Award was 3.3% this year, and inflation was currently 3.5%. A 'stand still budget' would require a 4.8/5% increase in Precept. A steer was requested from Council to help guide future budget development work. Councillors reminded themselves that when setting the Precept the previous year, the intention was to gradually reduce increases in Precept up to 2029 and the next elections.

Reference was made to a number of factors beyond Council's control such as inflation and fuel costs (exacerbated by the war in the Middle East), a need to be prudent and pragmatic and it was suggested that a 0% increase in Precept be abandoned. Other Councillors were keen to limit the Precept rise to 5/6%. Members also reminded themselves that they would ultimately be accountable for their decisions. They were thanked for their feedback.

26/962

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11. CORRESPONDENCE

a. The email regarding future plans dated 14.10.26 from Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery was **noted**. 26/963

[Councillor Sunderhauf left the Council Chamber at 21:15.]

b. The email dated 15.10.26 invitation to Cornwall Museum and Art Gallery Disability Joy event 14 and 15 November was **noted.** 26/964

c. The email dated 15.10.26 from Cornwall Council regarding expression of interest: temporary winter provision for people experiencing homelessness was considered. The Town Clerk reported that this was part of a Central Government initiative for which funding would be provided. It was suggested that the under croft at the Moresk Centre, which was currently empty, might be suitable and it included toilet and kitchen facilities. Councillors generally welcomed the suggestion. It was noted that Cornwall Council would be visiting the site the following day. 26/965

[Councillor Sunderhauf returned to the Council Chamber at 21:17.]

d. The email dated from Truro Graffiti Removal Improvement Team (GRIT) regarding Truro Autumn Litter Pick Stats was **noted**. 26/966

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Swain, and
RESOLVED that a letter of grateful thanks be sent to the Truro Graffiti Removal Improvement Team (GRIT) to thank them for their hard work in tidying the City which was a key factor in Truro's 2026 In Bloom success. **26/967**

12. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Claxton, and
RESOLVED that in accordance with S1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public will be excluded from the meeting during consideration of the following items by reason of their confidential or special nature: contracts and business. **26/968**

[Member of the public Lionel Knight left the meeting at 21:21.]

13. Minutes of the Parks and Amenities Committee Meeting 5 October 2026 – Confidential Correspondence

(i) Minute PK/26/824 Letter dated 19.07.26 from Chairman of Truro Cricket Club and an email dated 30.08.26 from a former chairman of Truro Cricket Club

The following matter had been deferred by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council back to the Parks and Amenities Committee meeting to make a recommendation to Council. It was suggested that a peppercorn rent would bring the Club in line with other organisations who held a lease with the City Council. (Kenwyn Playing Field was treated differently because the City Council was paid to maintain the Field.)

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Tucker, and
RESOLVED that the meeting be extended to 22:00 to complete the business set out in the agenda. **26/969**

A motion was proposed by Councillor Biscoe and seconded by Councillor Carlyon:

1. The City Council support Truro Cricket Club in its request to renegotiate its lease to include a peppercorn rent and diversify the activities which can take place on the Cricket Club site. Any proposed change in activity should be approved by the Council.
2. The Council consider further financial assistance, for the 2027-2028 financial year. 26/970

An amendment was proposed by Councillor Sunderhauf, seconded by Councillor Douglas-Martin: To delete recommendation 2 above.
Upon being put to the vote was won.
[Councillors Biscoe and Rabey requested that their names be recorded as voting against the amendment.] 26/971

The amended motion:
RESOLVED that the City Council support Truro Cricket Club in its request to renegotiate its lease to include a peppercorn rent and diversify the activities which can take place on the Cricket Club site. Any proposed change in activity should be approved by the Council.
Upon being put to the vote was won. **26/972**

14. Minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held 19 October 2026 – Confidential Report

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor La Borde, and
RESOLVED that the letter of variation for the Boscawen Park Sports Hub project, which will commit Truro City Council to the revised terms of the Town Deal grant funding agreement, be signed. **26/973**

15. READMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Rabey, seconded by Councillor Sunderhauf, and
RESOLVED that the press and public be permitted to re-join the meeting following the conclusion of the confidential items. **26/974**

16. DATE FOR NEXT MEETING AND ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

4 January 2027 26/975

17. COMMON SEAL

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Rich, 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. **26/976**

The meeting closed at 21:37.

---------- MAYOR

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