

MINUTES OF PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING held in the Main Hall of St John's Hall, Penzance on Monday 11 September 2023 at 7:00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors SJ Reynolds (Mayor)
W Elliott (Deputy Mayor)

Councillors	MJ Beveridge	TS Marrington (from 7.02 pm)
	NC Broadhurst (until 7.57 pm)	J Power
	NA Davis	R Sorrell (until 7.57 pm)
	JM How	P Young
	B Jackson	

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer) and Pastor Charles Fleming (Council's Chaplain).

52. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bosworth, Durrant, S Elliott, Lawlor and McKenna.

Councillors Axford, Crago and Pengelly were absent without having provided apologies.

53. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

In accordance with the Council's Code of Conduct:-

Councillor How declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda No. 12(c) 'Cooperation Between Penzance Council and the Penzance Regeneration Company' as a Director of the Penzance Regeneration Company and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

Councillor Reynolds declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda No. 12(c) 'Cooperation Between Penzance Council and the Penzance Regeneration Company' as a Director of the Penzance Regeneration Company and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

54. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There was no public participation.

55. CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Dwelly

Councillor Dwelly was not in attendance and so no report was received.

Councillor George

Councillor George had provided his apologies for the meeting and so no report was received.

Cllr Marrington

A Member asked a question regarding the future funding of Women's Refuges and Councillor Marrington advised that she would respond in writing following the meeting.

Cllr McKenna

Councillor McKenna had provided his apologies for the meeting and so no report was received.

56. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential items for consideration.

57. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No requests had been submitted.

58. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 17 JULY 2023

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Penzance Council meeting held on 17 July 2023 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Beveridge; seconded: Councillor Sorrell)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

59. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE EXTRAORDINARY PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 AUGUST 2023

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Penzance Council meeting held on 16 August 2023 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Jackson)

Vote; Nine in favour. Two abstentions.

60. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN, IN ACCORDANCE WITH STANDING ORDER NO. 17

No questions had been received.

61. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members noted the Minutes of the following Committees:-

- (a) Planning Committee – 19 July, 9 August and 30 August 2023
- (b) Arts and Culture Committee – 31 July 2023
- (c) Personnel Committee – 2 August 2023
- (d) Leisure and Amenities Committee – 7 August 2023
- (e) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 21 August 2023

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

62. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES FOR DECISION**Arts and Culture Committee****a) Penlee House Admission and School Visit Charges - (min no. 14 (a))**

The admissions prices to the Penlee House Gallery and Museum were last increased on 1 April 2020. Penlee House was facing increases to operating costs due to increases in energy prices and so on, and income generation was essential. It was therefore recommended that admission fees and school visit charges be increased.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. The admission charges to Penlee House Gallery & Museum be set as follows from 1 April 2024:-
 - Adults: £8
 - 18-26 years old: £4
 - Under 18s: Free
 - Penzance Pass holders: Free
 - Friends of Penlee House: Free
 - Free for Museums Association and Art Fund members
 - Free for participants to groups in the gallery (e.g. Baby and Parent, Little Penlee)
 - 50% discount during rehang periods

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Ten in favour. One against.



2. Research, analysis and marketing of the Penzance Pass be undertaken to ensure that parish residents are receiving sufficient benefits and a full review of its operation be undertaken during the 2024/25 financial year.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

3. School Workshop charges be increased as outlined below from 1 September 2024:-

- School visits self-guided: Free
- School workshops half day: Penzance Precept Area: Free; Cornwall Schools: £2 per student; Outside Cornwall Schools: £3 per student
- School workshops full day: Penzance Precept Area: Free; Cornwall Schools: £3 per student; Outside Cornwall Schools: £6 per student

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Unanimously in favour.

4. Guided tour fees be increased from £30 to £50 per tour (in addition to price per person).

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

Finance and General Purposes Committee

b) Application for Grant – Newlyn Harbour Lights - (min no. 17(b))

Information about the organisation's cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report - the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that a grant of £6,000 be awarded to Newlyn Harbour Lights from the General Grants Budget, on the condition that either Option 2 or 3 within the firework quotes, contained within Appendix 1 to the report, is selected for a quieter display.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Broadhurst)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

63. REPORTS FOR DECISION

a) Future CCTV Provision

Following communication from the Chief Fire Officer of the Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service on 1 March 2023, informing all Towns that, in future, the Tolvaddon critical control room would focus purely on the statutory delivery of call handling to support fire and rescue functions, the Town Clerk had been working with the CCTV Management Group to explore alternative models to maintain CCTV provision. The background and options which had been considered and discussed were set out within the report and its appendices.

It was then advised that the recommendation within the report required a minor amendment so as to allow the Town Clerk to explore a variety of options for future CCTV provision without necessarily being limited to a partnership arrangement with one specific Council.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to develop a new partnership agreement to deliver continued and improved CCTV monitoring provision.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to, if necessary, provide notice to Cornwall Council that Penzance Council intends to exit the current contract for CCTV provision.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Young)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

b) Coach House Project – Town Deal Enterprise Grant

The Finance and General Purposes Committee previously resolved to support the further development of a full Town Deal Enterprise Grant application for the Penlee Coach House Project.

The estimated total project cost was £519,915 and the maximum Enterprise Grant Fund contribution of £250,000 had been applied for. At the previous meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee, it was noted that the Town Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer would carry out a budget review, to investigate both potential reserve and underspend positions, to identify potential match funding and make further recommendations to Penzance Council.

This work had now been completed, with in-year underspends and specific earmarked reserves identified as potential sources of match funding.

It was therefore recommended that the project be progressed and that the specific budget underspends and identified reserves be allocated as Penzance Council match funding towards its delivery.

Following consideration, it was



RESOLVED that

1. A full Town Deal Enterprise Grant application be made by Penzance Council for the transformation of the Penlee Coach House.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to create and submit said application on behalf of Penzance Council.
3. The specific budget underspends and the identified reserves, as set out in the report, be allocated as Penzance Council match funding towards the Town Deal Enterprise Grant application for the Penlee Coach House.
4. A virement of £60,000 be made from the Arts and Culture energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
5. A virement of £5,000 be made from the Finance and General Purposes energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
6. A virement of £4,000 be made from the Leisure and Amenities energy budgets, as set out in Appendix 1 of this report, to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
7. A virement of £30,685 be made from the Penlee Exhibition Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
8. A virement of £41,683 be made from the Penlee House Projects Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
9. A virement of £56,359 be made from the Penlee Centre Building Fund reserve to the Coach House Refurbishment Fund reserve.
10. A virement of £35,333 be made from the Penlee House Non-Domestic Rates budget to the Coach House Refurbishment fund reserve.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

Vote; Ten in favour. One abstention.

c) Cooperation Between Penzance Council and the Penzance Regeneration Company

Cornwall Council and its arm's length investment company, Treveth Developments LLP, were earmarked to deliver four out of seven of Penzance's Town Deal projects. However, due to reductions in staffing, Cornwall Council and Treveth Developments LLP withdrew from the two projects where the Council owned neither the land nor the buildings involved.

The Penzance Town Deal Board created the Penzance Regeneration Company (PZRC) in April 2022 to deliver the two orphaned projects. The projects were:

- Penzance Market House. A Grade 1 listed building part occupied by Lloyds Bank plc and partly unoccupied and derelict.
- Penzance Waterfront. Redevelopment of a key site on Penzance Seafront to explore providing a new build indoor climbing hall, skate park and café.

PZRC had also been assigned two further projects funded by the Government's Future High Streets Fund. These projects involved repurposing vacant or underused commercial premises in Penzance town centre, including the creation of residential flats on upper floors. However, these projects were at a very early stage but could have resulted in property acquisitions or partnership working with an existing owner.

The creation of PZRC was necessary to ensure that Penzance maximised the opportunities that Town Deal and Future High Street Fund investment provided for the community. It was proposed that Penzance Council formally supported continued cooperation and partnership working with Penzance Regeneration Company. Furthermore, the Market House project presented an opportunity to potentially return civic function and Council services to a key site within the Town Centre. Delegated authority was therefore sought for the Town Clerk to further develop proposals for the potential future delivery of Penzance Council services from Market House, with detailed proposals to be presented to a future meeting of Penzance Council.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The continued co-operation and partnership work with Penzance Regeneration Company be supported.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to further develop proposals for the potential future delivery of Penzance Council services from Market House, Penzance, with detailed proposals to be presented to a future meeting of Penzance Council.

(Proposed: Councillor Beveridge; seconded: Councillor Power)

(Councillors How and Reynolds were not present for this item and Councillors Broadhurst and Sorrell had left the meeting.)

d) **Future Banking Arrangements**

At the Council meeting of 6 March 2023, it was resolved to move the Council's banking arrangements to the Co-Operative Bank, as a more ethical provider. However, after initial conversations with the bank, it transpired that its eligible account policy had changed and that it no longer offered business accounts to town and parish councils. It was now only offering these types of accounts to incorporated companies registered

with Companies House.

The issue had been escalated internally within the Co-operative Bank but, unfortunately, it could not make any exceptions and there were no current plans to change the policy.

Further research had therefore been undertaken into other suitable providers and it was now proposed that the Council moved forward with changing its banking arrangements to Unity Trust Bank.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The following resolution set out within Minute No. 131(d) – ‘Future Banking Arrangements’, agreed by this Council at its meeting held on 6 March 2023, be rescinded, namely:-

‘Penzance Council’s banking arrangements no longer be provided by Barclays and instead be provided by the Co-Operative Bank.’

2. Penzance Council’s banking arrangements no longer be provided by Barclays and instead be provided by the Unity Trust Bank.
3. The following five Councillors be added to the bank mandate to act as a signatories, in addition to the Town Clerk, Responsible Finance Officer and Finance Officer:-

Councillor Will Elliott
Councillor Jonathan How
Councillor Jan Power
Councillor Stephen Reynolds
Councillor Penny Young

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

e) 16 Days of Action on Violence Against Women and Girls

On 1 November 2021 Penzance Council unanimously agreed to become a supporter of the “White Ribbon Campaign”, a global movement engaging men and boys to end violence against women and girls.

A number of Councillors had since attended and spoken at the two successive “Take Back the Night” rallies held in Penzance, in November 2021 and November 2022. Both rallies were attended by crowds in their hundreds and attracted extensive local media coverage.

On 26 June 2023, the Finance and General Purposes Committee unanimously agreed to award a grant of £2,950 to West Cornwall Women’s Aid to contribute to the

organisation of the 2023 “16 Days” event in Penzance.

It was recommended to take the backing for the event to the next level, by pledging institutional endorsement over and above the one-off grant funding.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the 16 Days of Action Against Gender-Based Violence to be held in Penzance between 25 November and 10 December 2023, including the march and vigil due to take place on 29 November, be endorsed.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

64. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The following report for information was received:-

a) Golowan Festival Community Interest Company 2023 Report

65. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

No reports from representatives on Outside Bodies were received.

66. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that Cornwall Council had received no requests for a byelection for the vacant seat within Penzance East Ward and so the Council would now progress with filling the vacancy by co-option at an extraordinary meeting to be arranged in the near future.

Reference was made to the report considered by the Council at its meeting held on 17 July 2023 regarding the West Cornwall Hospital Urgent Treatment Centre, when it was suggested that a Working Group might be established to consider health related issues within the parish. It was therefore queried as to whether this could be progressed by way of a report to the next scheduled meeting of Penzance Council.

The meeting closed at 8:32 pm

Town Mayor

6 November 2023