



**MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the St Piran's Room, the Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 7 October 2024 at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors      N Broadhurst (Chair)

JM How

B Jackson

TS Marrington

PI Osborne

J Power (until 7.44 pm)

SJ Reed

SJ Reynolds

R Sorrell

P Young

Also present: Ben Brosgall (Leisure and Amenities Manager) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer).

**20. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors W Elliott and Lawlor.

Councillor S Elliott was absent without having provided apologies.

**21. ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

It was proposed that Councillor Power be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

In the absence of any other nominations, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Power be appointed as Vice-Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Young)

**22. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**23. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke in favour of Agenda Item 7(d) – 'Penlee Park – Trial Pop Up Sauna Request'.

**24. TO RESOLVE TO EXCLUDE MEMBERS OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

**25. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 5 AUGUST 2024**

The Minutes having previously been circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 5 August 2024 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Young)

Vote; Seven in favour. Three abstentions.

## **26. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### (a) Princess May Recreation Ground – Post Devolution Repairs

The transfer of Princess May Recreation Ground had concluded and the site, its safety and the safety of its users was now the responsibility of Penzance Council.

A number of inspections had been undertaken on site, taking into account the condition and safety of a number of site elements such as the skate park and play equipment.

A number of defects were present on site following its transfer and it was therefore recommended that engagement with industry specialists took place to identify and implement a prioritised repair and replacement programme to address safety concerns.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE, AND SUBSEQUENTLY, PENZANCE COUNCIL** that

1. Upon its receipt, a virement of the £60,000 'devolution payment' from Cornwall Council be made from income line 399 'Miscellaneous' to the Princess May Recreation Ground earmarked reserve.
2. Subject to (1.) above, the use of up to £60,000 from the Princess May Recreation Ground earmarked reserve be approved to address safety concerns on site.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Young)

### (b) Market House Telephone Boxes

At its meeting held on 19 July 2021, Penzance Council resolved to adopt the two red telephone boxes outside of Market House on Market Jew Street in Penzance. The Council's resolution to adopt the telephone boxes was as a result of agreements between the former Town Clerk and both Sustainable Penzance and the Penzance Community Flora Group, that one of the telephone boxes would be turned into an "Information Hub" and the other would have a defibrillator installed alongside planting from the Flora Group.

No work had been carried out on the telephone boxes in the three years since their transfer and they had now become a central point for various types of antisocial behaviour, drug use and storage of sleeping materials for homeless people.



As the adoption of the telephone boxes was on the understanding that the two organisations would accept responsibility for their maintenance and upkeep it was recommended that they were both contacted to seek formal proposals.

During the debate, a Member suggested that, rather than limiting contact to the two suggested organisations, it might be preferable to contact a range of community organisations within the Parish in order to identify if any might have a use for the telephone boxes. It was also suggested that the Penzance Regeneration Company could be contacted to ascertain if it might consider undertaking repairs and maintenance as a parts of its wider works to Market House.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that proposals be sought from Sustainable Penzance, the Penzance Community Flora Group and other potential interested parties for a maintenance and upkeep programme for the two red telephone boxes located outside Market House on Market Jew Street.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Reed)

(c) Community Toilet Scheme Payments and Future Budget

Penzance Council had operated a Community Toilet Scheme for eight years which provided the most cost effective access to public facilities in the parish at no cost to the user.

The existing Community Toilet Scheme did not allow for increases in payments but, over the preceding eight years, there had been a significant increase in the costs of supplies and utilities and it was therefore recommended that the businesses which supported the programme were reimbursed along similar lines to when the scheme was first launched.

It was further recommended that an additional £1500 was made available to explore other publicity options, including advertising on bus shelters with large visual maps of the participating businesses.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. Subject to the requisite funding being approved within the 2025/26 budget, a 20% increase in the community toilet scheme payments for the 2025/26 financial year be approved.
2. The Community Toilet Scheme contracts be amended to include a clause for an increase by CPI on an annual basis.
3. An increase of £1,500 for Community Toilet Scheme Communications be included within the draft 2025/26 budget.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded Councillor Marrington)



(d) Penlee Park – Trial Pop Up Sauna Request

A request has been received to trial a pop-up sauna in Penlee Park and it was proposed that a meeting was held on site to review possible locations and assess the viability of the proposed trial.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, to approve or refuse the request to place a pop-up sauna in Penlee Park on a trial basis and to determine the associated length of time, charges, if any, and so on.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Reed)

(e) Rescission of Resolution – Electric Charging Points – Wellfields Car Park

At its meeting held on 2 October 2023 this Committee resolved to progress the installation of electric charging points in Wellfields Car Park. However, a number of difficulties had been faced while progressing the project, such as the changing specification of the chargers and the amount of space required for their installation, including how many car parking spaces would need to be removed to accommodate them.

No specific requests for additional electric charging points had been received from members of the public and it was therefore recommended that the works were paused and reviewed in the future when other significant works were taking place in the car park. Adopting this approach would potentially allow for a number of projects to be undertaken during a single car park closure.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the following sections of the resolution set out within Minute No. 24(g) – ‘Wellfields Car Park EV Charging Points’, agreed by this Committee at its meeting held on 2 October 2023, be rescinded, namely:-

*‘1. The EV Charging points in Wellfields Car Park be provided by Econetiq Alpha Ltd without the facility for an EV car sharing option.*

*2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, to finalise the lease and operating agreements, as set out at Appendices 1 and 2 of the report.*

*3. The finalised lease and operating agreements be entered into by Penzance Council, with the common seal of the Council affixed to said agreements by the Town Clerk in the presence of the Town Mayor and the Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee who shall sign as witnesses.’*

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Sorrell)

(f) Leisure and Amenities – Fees and Charges



The Council's Financial Regulations prescribed that fees and charges for Council services were reviewed annually. The report set out the areas of income for which the Leisure and Amenities Committee held responsibility, along with recommendations from the respective budget holders as to the proposed scales of fees and charges.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL** that the fees and charges which fall within the purview of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted from 1 April 2025 and used to inform the draft budget for 2025/26.

(Proposed: Councillor Sorrell; seconded: Reynolds)

(Councillor Power was not present for this item.)

(g) Parish Wide Footpath Management

Footpaths had previously been identified as an area for further exploration for Penzance Council due to its role in the management of open spaces across the parish. This had been identified through discussions with the Devolution Working Group, Councillor workshops and was then subsequently formalised in a resolution of Penzance Council.

The Open Spaces Strategy now required further consideration following the transfer of Princess May Recreation Ground and the potential for further devolution discussions with Cornwall Council. Given that the Council had acknowledged the need to address the issues with footpath management, the report had been presented for consideration prior to the 2025/26 budget setting process.

A number of options had been explored and these were detailed within the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. A sum of £15,000 for footpath maintenance be included in the draft 2025/26 budget and, subject to budgetary approval, Cornwall Council and its contractor be engaged to implement an enhanced footpath maintenance programme for the 2025 summer season.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk, following consultation with the Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, to commence negotiations and enter into an agreement for the delivery of footpath maintenance for 2025.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Jackson)

(Councillor Power was not present for this item.)

(h) Penzance Football Club Meeting



In recent weeks works had been undertaken around the Penzance Football Club ground, an area which was located within the conservation area boundary. The work was not authorised by Penzance Council, as landlord, in advance of its execution and it was subsequently contacted by a number of concerned members of the public regarding the work and what appeared to be tree removal within a conservation area.

It was recommended that a meeting was arranged between representatives from Penzance AFC, the Mayor, Town Clerk, Chair of the Leisure and Amenities Committee and the Leisure and Amenities Manager to discuss the recent work, the current position in respect of rent payments and to undertake a review of Health and Safety documentation.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that a meeting be arranged with the representatives of Penzance Football Club to discuss the recent unauthorised works undertaken at the ground and to review health and safety and statutory certification.

(Proposed: Councillor Reed; seconded: Councillor Young)

(Councillor Power was not present for this item.)

## **27. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

The Committee received the following reports for information:-

(a) Operational Performance Report

During the consideration of this item, the Leisure and Amenities Manager requested that Members thank the members of his team for the work undertaken in support of the Penzance Food Festival. The Members of the Committee therefore offered their thanks to his team.

(b) Budget Comparison Report

## **28. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING**

Following its deferral at the meeting held on 5 August 2024, the 'Allotment Support and Compliance with the Equality Act 2010' item would be presented to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:11 pm

Chair  
2 December 2024