



**MINUTES OF THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the St Piran's Room, Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 16 December 2024 at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors

NG Pengelly (Chair)  
S Elliott (Vice-Chair)

MJ Beveridge  
NC Broadhurst  
Z Lawlor  
J McKenna

PI Osborne  
SJ Reynolds  
N Tonner

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Ben Brosgall (Leisure and Amenities Manager), Talan Richards (Finance Officer) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services Officer).

**36. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor W Elliott.

Councillors Bosworth and Davis were absent without having provided apologies.

**37. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**38. TO CONSIDER WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests had been received.

**39. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was no public participation.

**40. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

**41. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 21 OCTOBER 2024**

Having been previously circulated, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 21 October 2024 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Seven in favour. Two abstentions.

**42. REPORTS FROM OTHER COMMITTEES FOR DECISION**

(a) Three Phase Electrical Supply – Penlee Park

Aspirations had been expressed in the past for the installation of a three-phase electrical supply in Penlee Park and the issue was further highlighted in the summer of 2024, when work was undertaken to establish if power could be supplied to support the Penzance Food Festival. These investigations did not identify a cost-effective option, primarily due to the aim of installing the supply in the lower end of Penlee Park.

Further conversations had recently taken place regarding the need for the Coach House development project to have a three-phase electrical supply installed in order to sufficiently power the new café and it was therefore recommended that options be explored for the installation of the supply at or near the current Council office building.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL that**

1. It be noted that, at its meeting held on 2 December 2024, the Leisure and Amenities Committee resolved the following:-

*‘Options be considered to explore the potential to install a three-phase electrical supply in Penlee Park.’*

2. Virements of up to £20,000 be made from the Penlee Park Infrastructure reserve (currently standing at £60,984) to budget line 1015/10 Penlee Park – Capital Projects to install a three-phase electrical supply in Penlee Park.

(Proposed: Councillor Tonner; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

**43. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

(a) Future Devolution and Cornwall Council Assets

Having now completed the devolved transfer of the Princess May Recreation Ground, Penzance Council had committed to a community consultation to understand the local community’s aspirations for the site in terms of improvements and future management, which could potentially inform the approach to other sites.

The Leisure and Amenities Committee had committed to developing an Open Spaces Strategy but it had been acknowledged that the significant budgetary challenge for Cornwall Council was having a particular impact on the Environment Service and on open space delivery. Discussions were ongoing regarding additional funding for footpath maintenance, play equipment had been removed from the Heamoor

Recreation Ground and there was uncertainty over all play areas as well as the future maintenance of Town Deal public realm enhancements. This was in addition to recent consultations on the future of leisure provision and on the closure of a number of services.

At the recent Cornwall Association of Local Councils Larger Council's Committee, concern was raised by all town councils regarding the impact of Cornwall Council's budget cuts and its current approach to devolution. As a result, a meeting was being established with the Strategic Director responsible for Localism and Devolution and town council representatives.

In order for Penzance Council to develop any future plans for devolution it was proposed that the Devolution Working Group be convened to develop an options appraisal, taking into account both local priorities as well as future provision and challenges in terms of Cornwall Council budget cuts. To inform this work it was further proposed that authority was delegated to the Town Clerk to enter into direct discussions with Cornwall Council to understand the impact of budget cuts on services locally.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL** that

1. Meetings of the Devolution Working Group be convened to begin the development of an options appraisal for a future devolution programme.
2. Authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to enter into negotiations with Cornwall Council to determine the likely outcomes of its budget constraints and the potential for the future devolution of assets and services.

(Proposed: Councillor Beveridge; seconded: Councillor Osborne)

(b) Financial Papers to Receive and Accept

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the following financial papers be received and accepted:-

(i) – Paid Expenditure from 1 October to 30 November 2024

(ii) – Bank Reconciliation from 1 October to 30 November 2024

(iii) - Financial Comparison for the Period Ending 30 November 2024

(Proposed: Councillor Pengelly; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

**44. 2025/26 BUDGET SETTING**

- (a) Finance and General Purposes Projected 2024/25 Outturn and Proposed 2025/26 Budget

The Town Clerk presented the report and provided an overview of its content.

The report and its appendices set out the context and background for the proposed 2024/25 Finance and General Purposes budget.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO PENZANCE COUNCIL** that

1. The projected out-turn for 2024/25, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
2. The Finance and General Purposes proposed budget for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.
3. The level of existing earmarked reserves and their respective contributions in 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor S Elliott)

**45. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

Members received the following reports for information:-

- (a) Arts and Culture Projected 2024/25 Outturn and Proposed 2025/26 Budget
- (b) Leisure and Amenities Projected 2024/25 Outturn and Proposed 2025/26 Budget

**46. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT NEXT MEETING**

There were no matters arising for report at the next meeting.

The meeting closed at 7:28 pm

Chair  
17 February 2025