



MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the St Piran’s Room, the Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 2 December 2024 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors	N Broadhurst (Chair)	
	J Power (Vice-Chair)	
	W Elliott (until 7.40 pm)	TS Marrington
	JM How	PI Osborne
	B Jackson	SJ Reynolds
	PA Law	R Sorrell
	Z Lawlor	P Young

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

29. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for early departure were received from Councillor W Elliott.

Councillors S Elliott and Reed were absent without having provided apologies.

30. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

31. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke regarding the proposed financial contribution from Penzance Council for improved footpath maintenance through the parish. He made reference to the need for close liaison with the contractor to assess which footpaths might be those most in need of maintenance and, with this in mind, suggested that Councillors might be those best placed to visit the footpaths within their wards.

In response, it was advised that the final decision regarding the budget allocation of £15,000 would be taken by Penzance Council at its meeting due to take place on 13 January 2024. Discussions had already taken place with the contractor and a specification was in the process of being finalised but the proposed funding would lead to a far better standard of maintenance than could be provided through the Local Maintenance Partnership.

Another member of the public was in attendance and spoke regarding the play area at Heabrook Parc in Heamoor. It was highlighted that there was a lack of play equipment in Heamoor in general but that a number of pieces of equipment had been removed from Heabrook Parc play area due to being dangerous, with those which remained being in a



particularly poor state of repair. Furthermore, despite being responsible for the site, Cornwall Council had adopted a policy of providing no maintenance for its play sites and removing any equipment which was in disrepair.

A meeting of concerned residents had taken place which had been attended by Penzance Council's Ward Councillors and the view had been expressed that other areas of the parish received greater levels of funding from Penzance Council. An Informal Committee of local residents was in the process of being established in order to consider how improvements to the area might be made but it was hoped that Penzance Council would consider adopting the play area in order to progress matters and ensure that adequate facilities were provided for the young people in the area.

In response, it was advised that there were a number of ways in which funding might be gained to improve the site and that adoption by Penzance Council would not necessarily be the best option in order to achieve this aim as, for instance, it had taken six and half years for the devolution transfer of the Princess May Recreation Ground to be finalised due to delays imposed by Cornwall Council. However, Penzance Council had recently been able to act as accountable body for Community Infrastructure Levy funding for new play equipment at Gwavas, without taking responsibility for the site or its future maintenance, and a similar funding bid might be preferable in this instance in order to achieve the required improvements in a far more timely manner than through site adoption.

It was important to note that, ultimately, the site remained the responsibility of Cornwall Council and that Heabrook Parc play area was one of a multitude of sites with Penzance parish where it was withdrawing all funding and maintenance due to its budgetary pressures. With that in mind, the various sites and issues would need to be considered as a whole and the Devolution Working Group which had been established some years ago would be best placed to undertake this work.

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

In respect of Agenda Item 9(a) 'Alexandra Play Park Security Contract', it was unanimously

RESOLVED that members of the press and public be excluded from that section of the meeting.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Young)

33. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 7 OCTOBER 2024

The Minutes having previously been circulated, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 7 October 2024 be approved as a true and correct record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Sorrell; seconded: Councillor Jackson)

Vote; Eleven in favour. One abstention.



34. REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Three Phase Electrical Supply – Penlee Park

Aspirations had previously been expressed 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 whether 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 that options be considered to explore the potential to install a three-phase electrical supply in Penlee Park.

It was then further,

RESOLVED TO RECOMMEND TO THE FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE AND, SUBSEQUENTLY, PENZANCE COUNCIL that 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 W Elliott; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

(b) Open Spaces Strategy

A number of Open Spaces Strategy documents produced by other councils had been reviewed and, while there were forward-looking elements to the some of these documents, they were focussed on current sites and the opportunities and weaknesses within them.

Having now completed the devolved transfer of Princess May Recreation Ground, a community consultation would take place to understand the local community's aspirations for the site in terms of improvements and future management, which may have informed the approach to other sites.

Since the initial resolution had been passed to develop an Open Spaces Strategy, the significant budgetary challenges faced by Cornwall Council were having a particular impact on its Environment Service and on open spaces. As had been referenced earlier during the meeting, officers were currently in discussion 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.



It was therefore suggested that the Devolution Working Group was reconvened to consider these challenges and outline Penzance Council's position both in terms of its future role and aspirations but also to understand budget and staffing capacity in order to recommend the future strategy and potential devolution to Penzance Council.

However, alongside this work, there remained value in the production of an Open Spaces Strategy which encompassed the sites currently owned and managed by the Council and referenced its long term aims for those sites.

Categories which would typically form part of the document were set out within the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The scope of the proposed Open Spaces Strategy document be amended to comply with the categories identified within the report.
2. Said strategy be finalised following the completion of the Princess May Recreation Ground consultation in order to ensure it captures the results and the corresponding strategic aims of Penzance Council.

(Proposed: Councillor W Elliott; seconded: Councillor Osborne)

(c) Wellfields Car Park Quarterly Parking Permits

Wellfields Car Park had 162 spaces, including 4 spaces for blue badge holders, with an all-day ticket costing £2.50 and a quarterly ticket costing £100. If the car park was used daily, the quarterly permit would represent a saving of approximately £80 across the quarter.

The numbers of quarterly permits issued had gradually risen over recent years, having historically been relatively static at around 50 tickets, with 63 quarterly permits having been sold for the current quarter, which represented just over 40% of the available spaces within the car park.

At times Wellfields Car Park became very full and sometimes had no spaces remaining, with the issue in part caused by the increasing number of quarterly permits being issued. It was recommended that the number of permits be capped in order to keep the number of daily spaces available relatively high.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the number of quarterly permits issued for Wellfields Car Park be capped at sixty-five per quarter and provided on a 'first come, first served' basis.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Jackson)

Vote; Eleven in favour. One abstention.

Councillor W Elliott then left the meeting.



(d) Penzance Football Club Development

This item had been withdrawn from the Agenda and so was not considered by the Committee.

35. 2025/26 BUDGET SETTING

(a) Leisure and Amenities Projected 2024-25 Outturn and Proposed 2025-26 Budget

The Leisure and Amenities Manager and the Responsible Finance Officer 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 Leisure and Amenities budget.

In addition, it was advised that, due to discussions which had been ongoing with the contractor, the proposed £15,000 contribution for footpath maintenance had not been included within the 2025/26 proposed budget. It was therefore requested that the recommendation be amended to include this item.

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 Leisure and Amenities proposed budget for 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved, subject to the inclusion of a new budget line, consisting of £15,000, entitled 'Parish Footpath Maintenance (1130/7)'.
3. The level of existing earmarked reserves and their respective contributions in 2025/26, including proposed new reserves, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Young)

36. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no reports for information.

37. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION

(a) Alexandra Play Park Security Contract

The context and background associated with this item were set out within the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the recommendations, as set out in the report, be approved.



(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Young)

38. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8:06 pm

Chair
3 February 2025