

**MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING** held in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 10 March 2025 at 7:00 pm.

**PRESENT**

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

MJ Beveridge	TS Marrington
SJ Bosworth	J McKenna
NC Broadhurst	PI Osborne
NA Davis	NG Pengelly
S Elliott	J Power
JM How	SJ Reed
B Jackson	R Sorrell
PA Law	N Tonner
Z Lawlor (from 7.03 pm)	P Young

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

**84. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

There were no apologies for absence.

**85. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

**86. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION**

No requests had been submitted.

**87. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME**

There was no public participation.

**88. CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS****Councillor Dwelly**

Councillor Dwelly provided a verbal report to the Council which focussed on the following areas:-

- i) The pay on exit system at Penzance Harbour Car Park was reverting to a pay and display system, largely due to the fact that the pay on exit system had



initially been installed in order to encourage longer stays and therefore present a greater financial return. However, due to continued system malfunctions the system had in fact proven more costly and was therefore being replaced in order to make cost savings. The pay on exit equipment had not been purchased by Cornwall Council but was, in fact, leased.

- ii) He would be campaigning to provide residents with cheaper parking in Council owned car parks, with a residents' permit costing £2 per day. However, were such a scheme to be approved by a new administration at Cornwall Council then it would need to be cost neutral, meaning that, for example, some car parks which were currently free in the winter might be required to introduce a charge.
- iii) Reference was made to the report entitled 'Redistribution of Cornwall Council Community Chest Funding' listed later in the Agenda and he thanked Penzance Council for holding and distributing the funds to the community group on his behalf.
- iv) A graffiti clean-up project was shortly due to commence, with Penzance BID acting as accountable body, whereby people on probation would be carrying out work to clear and/or cover graffiti in the area.

#### Councillor George

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

#### Councillor Marrington

Councillor Marrington provided a verbal report to the Council which focussed on the following areas:-

- i) She had attempted to request that the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny Committee at Cornwall Council 'call-in' the decision of its Cabinet to let a number of its car parks to be managed by an 'arms-length' organisation, Corserv, due to the concerns she had regarding St Peter's Hill Car Park in Newlyn. However, her 'call-in' request had been refused. She had since spoken to the appropriate officers and representatives of Corserv in order to express her concerns.
- ii) New signage was beginning to appear on the Bay to Bay Multi-Use Path but unfortunately the fence between Newlyn and Mousehole had not yet been fully repaired and a landslip had been experienced in the area. She had been unaware that the signage would be appearing prior to the repair of the fence and this represented a wider problem at Cornwall Council, whereby officers undertaking certain highways projects wouldn't necessarily be aware of other projects taking place in the area, such as those funded by Town Deal. She had therefore raised concerns in relation to this issue in the hope that it might be rectified.
- iii) A feasibility study in relation to ways to manage the traffic issues in Mousehole was shortly due to be undertaken.
- iv) She had arranged a meeting in Penzance on Saturday 8 March relating to 16



Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence and Penzance was now beginning to be recognised in a number of different quarters for its positive contribution in this regard.

Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna provided a verbal report to the Council which focussed on the following areas:-

- i) He was part of a group which was considering safety and security in Morrab Gardens. The Group had met on a number of different occasions and there was now an aim to install CCTV in five different areas of the Gardens in order to address anti-social behaviour issues.
- ii) He had attended two Safer Penzance meetings and was pleased to announce that funding had been gained for additional police patrols in the area.
- iii) He had held a meeting with residents of the area around Trewithen Road regarding antisocial behaviour, which continued to be a problem, albeit that some improvements had been made since two untaxed caravans had been towed away.
- iv) He had attended two workshops which had been hosted by Growing Links and was due to attend another soon. The work undertaken in their new premises was of great importance and so it was concerning that Cornwall Council intended to move them elsewhere in order to deliver extra care housing on the site.
- v) He continued to meet with residents of the new housing development at St Clare in an effort to address a variety of issues, including the poor standard of remedial works on site, their wish to form a residents' association against the wishes of the management company and continued problems with road markings.
- vi) He had met with residents of Chirgwin Court who had concerns relating to fire safety as their housing association, Livewest, intended to remove all fire extinguishers in the building. A Fire Safety Officer was going to attend the building in order to speak to the residents.
- vii) He was currently working with a number of people in an effort to prevent them from being evicted from their homes.
- viii) Finally, he had recently voted against Cornwall Council's decision to increase its council tax by 4.99%

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

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

**90. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2025**

Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Penzance Council meeting held on 13 January

2025 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor Beveridge)

Vote; Fifteen in favour. Five abstentions.

**91. TO RECEIVE QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF WHICH PRIOR WRITTEN NOTICE HAD BEEN GIVEN**

No questions had been submitted.

**92. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS**

Members noted the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:-

- (a) Planning Committee – 8 January, 29 January and 19 February 2025
- (b) Personnel Committee – 23 January and 6 February 2025
- (c) Arts and Culture Committee – 27 January 2025
- (d) Leisure and Amenities Committee – 3 February 2025
- (e) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 17 February 2025

**93. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR DECISION**

**Finance and General Purposes**

a) Revised Grants Policy

At the meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 19 August 2024 it was resolved that a Working Group would be established in order to consider the Council's Grants Policy. A number of changes were proposed by the Working Group and these were included in the revised policy, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, which had been recommended for approval by the Finance and General Purposes Committee at its meeting held on 17 February 2025.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that the revised Grants Policy, set out using tracked changes at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

**94. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

a) Redistribution of Cornwall Council Community Chest Funding

Cornwall Councillor Tim Dwelly had made available £853.54 of Cornwall Council Community Chest Grant funding to support a residents' group from 'the Battlefields' in

Penzance to deliver a range of community improvements such as planting and seating. This voluntary group was not formally constituted but was receiving support to become legally and formally established.

In order to ensure that funding from current financial year could be utilised, Cornwall Council had agreed that the funds could be transferred to Penzance Council for it to hold and then redistribute once the group was formally constituted.

Approval was therefore sought to receive the grant funding on behalf of the 'Amazing Alleyways' project and for it to be redistributed upon the completion of the formal governance arrangements.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. A Cornwall Council Community Chest Grant be received by Penzance Council on behalf of the Amazing Alleyways Project.
2. A payment of £853.54 be made from the General Fund to the organisation which will be undertaking the project, once established, subject to:-
  - i) The completion of its constitution; and
  - ii) The creation of a bank account in the organisation's name.

(Proposed: Councillor Pengelly; seconded: Councillor Power)

b) **Deletion of 'X' Accounts**

Social media platforms had a duty of care to their users to moderate the content displayed on their platforms. However, 'X' continually failed to moderate hate speech on the platform while pro-actively removing its fact checkers and moderation protections.

A number of individuals, businesses, charities and Councils had now withdrawn from the platform and it was suggested that Penzance Council do the same.

Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that

1. The 'X' accounts of Penzance Council, and Penlee House Gallery and Museum, be deleted.



2. New social media accounts be opened with an alternative provider which moderates its content, be that: Blue Sky, Threads, Mastodon or an alternative provider.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor Broadhurst)

Vote; Fourteen in favour. Two against. Four abstentions.

c) Future Open Spaces Devolution

Following extensive discussion among Members, an increasing number of comments received from residents and the widely understood challenges for Cornwall Council in terms of managing and maintaining public open spaces and play facilities, a meeting of the Devolution Working Group took place on the 17 February 2025, followed by an informal Penzance Council meeting on 3 March 2025, in order to consider and prioritise future sites for potential devolution to Penzance Council. The results of said prioritisation exercise were set out in the report.

Approval of the identified sites was sought to allow for further investigation and to enter into discussion and negotiation with the appropriate parties in order to inform a detailed devolution programme.

During the debate, a Member highlighted that the report and its recommendations referred to 'The Rosebud Memorial Gardens' when the site was not, in fact, a memorial garden. A request was therefore made that this be amended.

Following consideration, it was

**RESOLVED** that

1. Any future open spaces devolution programme be focussed on the following areas, in order of highest to lowest priority:-
  - i) Towns Fund Public Realm Environmental Enhancements
  - ii) Heamoor Recreation Ground
  - iii) Foster Bolitho Gardens and Play Area
  - iv) St Anthony's Gardens
  - v) The Rosebud Gardens
2. Discussions take place with Cornwall Council, Treveth and any other interested parties in order to inform the development of a detailed devolution programme and, if necessary, a review of the associated staffing capacity and/or structure(s) for future consideration.

(Proposed: Councillor Pengelly; seconded: Councillor Tonner)

Vote; Nineteen in favour. One abstention.

**d) Letting of Public Toilet Cleaning Contract**

The existing public toilet cleaning contract was due to expire on 1 July 2025 and so work was being undertaken to let a new contract to commence on that date. The contract specification would largely replicate that which was previously issued but with the inclusion of additional elements which had been added to the service during its years in operation. Examples of such additions were the cleaning of Newlyn Public Toilets and the Wherrytown Water Fountain.

Due to the timescales involved, the release of the tender and the contract award would fall within the pre-election period and/or town and parish council elections themselves, meaning that it would not be possible to present the contract specification, nor contract award, to Members for consideration. It was therefore recommended that authority was delegated to officers to approve the contract specification and to, subsequently, award the contract.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. Authority be delegated to the Leisure and Amenities Manager to finalise the public toilet contract specification and release it for public tender.
2. Subject to the successful bid being met from within the allocated budget, authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to appoint the successful contractor following the conclusion of the public tender process, with the result reported to a future meeting.

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

**95. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

The following reports for information were noted:-

- i. Councillors' Attendance at Meetings
- ii. Update from Newlyn Community Flora Group
- iii. Sustainable Penzance Schools Symposium

**96. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES**

Reports from the representatives to the following Outside Bodies were noted:-

- i. Chapel Street Creative CIO
- ii. Penzance/Concarneau Twinning Association
- iii. Penzance/Cuxhaven Twinning Association
- iv. Larger Councils Committee of Cornwall Association of Local Councils



- v. Penwith Community Area Partnership
- vi. Penzance BID
- vii. Penzance Community Flora Group

**97. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING**

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

The meeting closed at 8:12 pm

Town Mayor  
2 June 2025

DRAFT