

MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING held in the St Piran's Room, the Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 6 October 2025 at 7:00pm.

PRESENT

Councillors NC Broadhurst (Chair)
 SJ Reed (Vice-Chair)

JM How
B Jackson
PA Law
PI Osborne

JS Power
SJ Reynolds
P Young

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

18. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Hadley.

Councillor Jameson was absent without having provided apologies.

19. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Reed declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in Agenda Item 6(a), 'Proposed Allotment Charges from 2027 Onwards', as an existing allotment tenant and left the room for the duration of the item.

20. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

There were no members of the public present.

21. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

22. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 11 AUGUST 2025

The Minutes having been circulated, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the meeting held on 11 August 2025 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Osborne; seconded: Councillor Young)

Vote; Eight in favour. One abstention.

23. REPORTS FOR DECISION**(a) Proposed Allotment Charges from 2027 Onwards**

Allotment pricing had not been reviewed in over ten years and, during this time, the costs associated with their upkeep had increased significantly. These costs often exceeded the income received from allotment rents and meant that it was necessary to meet the difference through the precept.

A number of Councils priced their allotments by 'full' and 'half' plots and some also required refundable deposits, with said deposits being refunded upon the allotment being handed back in a condition which required no additional expenditure from the council and which was able to be utilised by the next person on the waiting list. Where work was required, the deposit was retained to offset the cost of returning the allotment to a lettable condition. Penzance Council currently operated a "full plot" and "half plot" charging system, although no refundable deposit was taken.

The report demonstrated the charges levied by neighbouring Councils and also recommended new charges for Penzance allotment holders, to be implemented from 2027, which were as follows:-

Full Plot on a site with water - £50
Full plot on a site without water - £45
Half Plot on a site with water - £30
Half plot on a site without water - £25
Refundable Deposit - £60

It was further recommended that these charges were index linked and would therefore rise, or fall, with the Consumer Price Index (CPI) annually. This would remove the need for periodic price increases, with the associated larger increases for tenants resulting from each review, and result in a lessened risk that Penzance Council's allotment pricing was not within the broad range of local and industry averages.

During the debate, a Member suggested that the refundable deposit should not be applied to existing tenants as, for some, it may have been unaffordable.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the proposed allotment charges from 2027 onwards, including annual CPI adjustments, as set out in the report, be approved and adopted, but that a refundable deposit be applied to new tenants only.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

(Councillor Reed was not present for this item.)

(b) Expenditure for Repairs to Penlee Park

The 2025 Penzance Food Festival occurred during periods of heavy rain and, although it was undoubtedly a success, Penlee Park experienced significant damage as a result.

Repairs to the ground and reseeding would be required and could not be carried out by officers within their existing capacity without abandoning duties across the other parish sites.

A local contractor had therefore been contacted to provide an estimate for the work. This work was time critical as the grass would need to be seeded prior to winter in order to allow it to recover sufficiently for the 2026 Food Festival.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. Expenditure of up to £5,000 from the Penlee Park – Infrastructure Improvements earmarked reserve (1995/11) be approved in order to carry out repair works to Penlee Park following the 2025 Penzance Food Festival.
2. It be noted that an additional contribution to the earmarked reserve will be proposed as part of the 2026/27 budget setting process in order to replenish this amount, in addition to the regular annual contribution.

(Proposed: Councillor Law; seconded: Councillor Young)

24. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

- (a) Health and Safety Audit - Update
- (b) Leisure and Amenities Staffing
- (c) Budget Comparison Report – 1 April – 28 September 2025
- (d) Project Updates

25. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 7:36 pm

Chair
1 December 2025