



**MINUTES OF THE LEISURE AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE MEETING** held in the St Piran's Room, the Penlee Centre, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 13 April 2026 at 7:00pm.

**PRESENT**

Councillors NC Broadhurst (Chair)

PM Hadley

JM How

B Jackson

PL Jameson

PA Law

PI Osborne

DM Paul

SJ Reynolds

D Smart Knight (as substitute)

P Young

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

**44. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Power and Reed.

Councillor Smart Knight was acting as substitute for Councillor Power.

**45. TO RECEIVE DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

There were no declarations of interest.

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

No requests for dispensation had been received.

**47. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A member of the public was in attendance who spoke to request permission to reintroduce the Corpus Christi fair at the Princess May Recreation Ground.

Four other members of the public were in attendance who spoke to oppose the reinstatement of chemical weed treatment recently announced by Cornwall Council.

**48. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

There were no confidential matters for consideration.

**49. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 9 FEBRUARY 2026**

The Minutes having been circulated, it was



**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the meeting held on 9 February 2026 be approved as a true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Law)

Vote; Eight in favour. Three abstentions.

## **50. REPORTS FOR DECISION**

### (a) Use of Penlee Park for the 2026 Penzance Food Festival

Penzance Council had been approached with a request to utilise Penlee Park for the 2026 Penzance Food Festival.

A number of additional requirements had been set, in comparison with previous years, including ensuring that sufficient wet weather plans were in place prior to permission being granted, as well as to providing clarification as to the responsibility for the costs of repair work, should it be required.

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 grant or refuse permission for the use of Penlee Park for the 2026 Penzance Food Festival.

(Proposed: Councillor Law; seconded: Councillor How)

### (b) Penlee Lodge – Change of Use

Penlee Lodge had been vacated by the former tenant and consideration had been given to how the building could best suit the needs of the Council. The potential future uses of the lodge were detailed in the report and, as part of any future changes, it would be necessary to seek various planning consents.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. Subject to the appropriate permission(s) being granted, Penlee Lodge no longer be used as a residential unit of accommodation and instead be used to facilitate the organisational needs of the Council.
2. In light of (1.) above, all necessary documentation be completed and submitted to facilitate the change of use of Penlee Lodge from a residential let to the most appropriate categorisation for future use.

(Proposed: Councillor Smart Knight; seconded: Councillor Paul)

### (c) Exploration of Options for Ride-On Mower Replacement



Officers recommended that the current ride-on mower was replaced and sought approval to explore potential replacements.

A report would be presented to a future meeting of the Committee with a number of options alongside an analysis of the various strengths and weaknesses of each.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that options be explored for the replacement of the ride-on mower.

(Proposed: Councillor Smart Knight; seconded: Councillor Young)

(d) Future Management of Princess May Recreation Ground

Following conversations between the Town Clerk and the remaining members of the Princess May Community Interest Company (CIC), the CIC had suspended its operations and would no longer be providing services on behalf of Penzance Council. The CIC was no longer equipped with the skills or expertise to deliver effectively the majority of services which were required by the former Service Level Agreement, which had itself expired some time ago.

The responsibilities set out in the expired Service Level Agreement would now need to be incorporated into the duties of the Leisure and Amenities team but, at present, there were no available staff resources and no budget to deliver these services.

Additional funding was therefore required in the short term to ensure that the necessary contractor support could be procured prior to the recruitment of the new posts which had recently been approved.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that a virement of up to £20,000 be made from the Princess May Earmarked Reserve to the "Maintenance" budget (1320/2) to support the future delivery of services at the Princess May Recreation Ground.

(Proposed: Councillor Osborne; seconded: Councillor Smart Knight)

(e) Review of Quarterly Permits for Wellfields Car Park

Officers had suggested that the Committee might wish to review the use of quarterly parking permits within the Wellfields Car Park and, if so, a further report would be presented to allow for the consideration of the financial impact of the scheme when set against the officer time involved in its administration.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that a review of the quarterly car park permits for the Wellfields Car Park be undertaken.

(Proposed: Councillor Jameson; seconded: Councillor Smart Knight)



(f) Permission for Development at Penzance Football Club

Penzance AFC was required under the terms of its lease to obtain permission from Penzance Council prior to the submission of planning applications. However, in this instance a planning application had already been submitted and had appeared before Penzance Council's Planning Committee. The detail of the planning application was set out in the report.

Penzance AFC had confirmed that the stand would be owned and insured by the club and that all maintenance would remain its responsibility. It also suggested that the lease was amended to reflect this situation.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. Permission be granted to the Penzance AFC for it to submit a planning application for land at the Penzance Football Club as detailed in the report.
2. Should the application be approved, permission be granted for the development to be undertaken and the lease with the Penzance AFC be amended to reflect this change, on the basis that the stand will be owned, insured and maintained by the Penzance AFC.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Young)

(g) Potential Future Development for Penzance Tennis Club

Officers had met with representatives of the Penzance Tennis Club at their request to discuss the potential expansion of Penzance Tennis Club and the development of two 'padel' courts within the boundary of Penlee Park.

While initial drawings proposed the development of the land adjacent to the clubhouse building, Penzance Tennis Club had committed to providing additional information in support of an application, including details and information around community consultation work.

Further information would be shared with the Committee when available and formal permission for any use of land and/or the submission of a planning application would be sought at a future date

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that it be noted that Penzance Tennis Club has approached Penzance Council regarding the development of 'padel' courts on land adjacent to its current site.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Law)

(h) Reintroduction of Weed Treatment by Cornwall Council



On 30 March 2026 all town and parish councils in Cornwall were notified that Cornwall Council's Cabinet had instructed its Highways and Environment Services to commence a new programme of weed treatment and public realm improvements across Cornwall. The decision followed evidence of declining standards since routine weed management ceased in 2013, resulting in increasing complaints, narrowing footways, damaged surfaces and the perception of reduced community pride.

Further detail was set out within the report and its appendices but, having reviewed the documentation, the Committee was advised that there was not sufficient officer capacity to meet Cornwall Council's service specification criteria in order to allow Penzance Council to 'opt out' of chemical weed treatment.

New posts for the Leisure and Amenities Service had recently been approved, the Council's Strategic Plan was in the process of being revised and negotiations had been entered into for the next phase of service and asset devolution from Cornwall Council. It was therefore recommended that monitoring was undertaken during the first year of the reintroduced service and that an evaluation, including a cost benefit analysis, was undertaken to determine future service delivery and the potential ability to 'opt out' in future years.

During the debate, Members raised a number of points including the following:-

- i) The lack of notice provided by Cornwall Council prior to making this change was utterly disappointing and was an example of extremely poor partnership working.
- ii) Given the declaration of a climate emergency by Cornwall Council and its supposed commitment to nature, the decision to reimpose chemical weed spraying was extremely disheartening given the adverse impacts which it would have upon the wider nature and biodiversity of the area, in addition to any health consequences for residents due to the employment of a known carcinogen.
- iii) It was acknowledged that it would be impossible for Penzance Council to 'opt-out' of the proposed weed treatment programme as it simply did not have the resources, nor the various licences required, to do so, and it could not undertake to make those commitments within a legally binding contract. However, despite this, assurance was sought that Penzance Council would not be liable for future legal claims for not having 'opted-out'.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

**RESOLVED** that

1. Cornwall Council's decision to reinstate weed treatment throughout the authority area be noted.
2. This Council expresses its dismay and dissatisfaction with Cornwall Council's decision to use herbicides across Cornwall in spite of the known negative consequences for the climate crisis, the environment and the health of local residents.



3. The Town Mayor and Town Clerk write to the Leader and the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council to express this Council's disappointment at the lack of notice provided to town and parish councils, given the significant environmental and resource implications.
4. Written assurance be sought from Cornwall Council that this Council will be discharged from liability in the event of any legal claims brought as a result of chemical weed treatment undertaken due to any decision of Penzance Council not to 'opt out' of the proposed treatment programme.
5. In light of the recently approved new posts within the Leisure and Amenities Service, an evaluation of the proposed reintroduction of weed treatment be undertaken to determine how it may impact upon officer capacity and workload and future service delivery.
6. Said evaluation assess any further impact(s) associated with the Council resolving to 'opt out' in future years.

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

**51. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

- (a) Storm Response
- (b) Operational Performance Report
- (c) Budget Comparison Report – 1 April 2025 – 31 March 2026

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

A report would be presented to assess any implications associated with the reintroduction of the Corpus Christi fair on the Princess May Recreation Ground.

The meeting closed at 8:43 pm

Chair  
22 June 2026