MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING held in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 1 June 2026 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors PA Law (Mayor)

KM Baker	DM Paul
JM How	SJ Reed
B Jackson	SJ Reynolds
PL Jameson	PC Trevail
P Lapin	MA Wilson
TS Marrington	P Young
J McKenna (until 7.37 pm)	

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk), Cal Bagshaw (Corporate Services Manager), Cameron Sil (Finance Manager), Laura Prisk (Corporate Services Officer) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services and Governance Officer).

8. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Broadhurst, Hadley, Osborne, Power, Pugh and Smart-Knight.

9. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Lapin declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda Item 13(g), 'Jubilee Pool – 2026/27 Strategic Grant and Service Level Agreement', as the Council's nominated representative on the board of Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd. He therefore left the meeting during the consideration of this item, having made a brief representation in accordance with Standing Order 15(i).

10. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No written requests for dispensation had been submitted.

11. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There was no public participation.

12. CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Dwelly

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

i) Members would likely be aware that the children's soft play facility was no longer available in St John's Church. He was therefore working to potentially house this facility within the Main Hall at St John's Hall in the hope that the building could be far more community focussed. He also wished to ensure that the building was far more affordable for use by other groups, such as food and craft markets, as, due to the current pricing structure, the hall often sat empty.
ii) He was pleased to report that the graffiti on the railway sidings at Ponsandane had finally been removed and, again, hoped that when the proposed planting was established that it would prevent further incidents in the future.
iii) The Automatic Number Plat Recognition camera(s) to enforce the existing traffic regulation order on Market Jew Street had now been approved, purchased and was ready to be installed. However, installation had now been delayed by Cornwall Council's Information Services department as it had not yet approved the use of the associated software on the Council's network.

Councillor Line

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

i) She referenced the traffic improvement scheme(s) in Heamoor, with the first phase being the trial of a timed closure of Boscathnoe Lane, which was ultimately unsuccessful. The second phase focussed on a number of physical interventions, only one of which she felt able to support, and she had published her response to the consultation if Members wished to see it. The public consultation for the second phase of works had now concluded and she awaited the publishing of the results.
ii) Parc Letta Green in Heamoor had, in the past, been used as a space in which children could play. However, in recent years it had been taken over by parked cars. She was therefore hoping to work with local residents to discourage parking and allow the space to be used for play once again.
iii) She was taking part in a community 'tidy-up' in Parc Mellan.
iv) She had recently been informed that the skate ramp in Roscadghill Parc had reached the end of its life and that there was no funding for its replacement. She would therefore be working to identify how the wider facility could be retained and improved.
v) She had attended a technical briefing regarding the proposed removal of the conditions on the existing planning permission at Penzance heliport.
vi) She was working with the Cornwall Bicycle Project to undertake projects for Bike Week 2026 and publicity would be undertaken in the near future.

Councillor Marrington

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

i) The Newlyn traffic improvement scheme was now approximately two thirds complete and was scheduled to be completed on time. In addition, the Mousehole traffic improvement scheme had also now commenced and would change traffic priorities. Publicity regarding both schemes would be undertaken in the future.

ii) An event had recently taken place to celebrate the completion of the improvements to the Mousehole Rock Pool and, in addition, funding had now been identified to make further improvements to paths in order to make them more accessible.

iii) Cornwall Council's Annual Report had recently been published and the Cabinet was now in the process of developing the Delivery Plan for future services.

Councillor McKenna

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

i) He had attended a meeting with the Chief Medical Officer for England regarding local health and wellbeing priorities.

ii) He had attended another public meeting regarding the proposed development on the former Lidl site at Wherrytown.

iii) He had attended a Cornwall Local Plan workshop at Krowji.

iv) He had attended a small public meeting regarding the use of Abbey Slip by motor vehicles as it was regularly being used as a shortcut which was damaging its surface. He hoped that bollards could be installed at either end with access only provided for the emergency services.

v) He had attended a meeting with Celtic Sea Power and it was looking increasingly hopeful that it could become more self-sufficient.

vi) It had been approximately twelve months since Cornwall Council's Adult Social Care inspection by the Care Quality Commission and it had been provided with a score of 70 out of 100, which was classed as 'good' and was the best in the southwest. Children's Services was also classed as 'good' and he was unaware of any other authority where both services held this rating.

vii) He had recently sent a second letter regarding the proposed abolition of Healthwatch organisations by the Government as he felt that it was essential that these independent organisations were in place to provide scrutiny.

Councillor McKenna then left the meeting.

13. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor had provided a written report to the Council which had been published and circulated with the Agenda for the meeting.

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

There were no confidential matters scheduled for consideration.

15. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16 MARCH 2026

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Penzance Council meeting held on 16 March 2026 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Wilson; seconded: Councillor Jameson)

16. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18 MAY 2026

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Annual Penzance Council meeting held on 18 May 2026 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

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

No questions had been submitted.

18. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members noted the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:-

(a) Planning Committee – 18 March, 8 April, 29 April and 20 May 2026
(b) Arts and Culture Committee – 30 March 2026
(c) Leisure and Amenities Committee – 13 April 2026
(d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 27 April 2026

19. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR DECISION

Arts and Culture

a) Creation of New Income Line for Commission on Artists Sales

The Coach House Café provided gallery space for local artists to exhibit their work on a three-to-six-month basis and this would be subject to a written agreement between the artist(s) and Penzance Council. Sales would then be managed by the artist(s) and works would remain on display until the end of the exhibition period.

An income budget line was required to receive the commission on artists' sales and a commission rate of 35% of the sale price was recommended. This commission rate would be reviewed as part of the annual review of fees and charges.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Arts and Culture budget be amended to create a new income line for the 'Commission on Artist Sales'.

2. The commission rate on the sale price of works be set at 35%

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

20. REPORTS FOR DECISION

a) Proposed Expansion of the Penzance Council Helpdesk

The Helpdesk was a service which had been introduced to offer support to residents of the Penzance parish. It assisted residents in accessing Penzance Council's services as well as reporting issues to Cornwall Council. The Helpdesk also provided support through signposting residents to a wide range of local organisations in the Parish. Additionally, the service provided key support in aiding people to navigate complex communication channels, ensuring that enquiries were directed to the appropriate authority / organisation(s).

It was proposed that the helpdesk function be expanded through increased promotion and enhanced engagement with the community and further information was set out within the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The expansion of the helpdesk function, through increased promotion and enhanced engagement with the local community, be approved.

2. It be noted that said expansion may result in more regular 'out-of-hours' working and the potential need for additional staffing resources in the future.

3. It be noted that discussions with Cornwall Council are ongoing and that this dialogue will continue in order to assess if and how it can complement and/or contribute to the effective running of the helpdesk function.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Wilson)

b) Conflicts of Interest with the External Auditor

As a requirement of the external auditors, BDO LLP, it was necessary that each audited authority completed the conflict of interest form, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, to declare any Members who had a conflict of interest with the organisation.

If there were any persons with an interest, it was a requirement to write each person's name on the form and declare the nature of the interest.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that it be confirmed that no Members of Penzance Council have any conflict of interest with the appointed external auditors, BDO LLP.

(Proposed: Councillor Wilson; seconded: Councillor Trevail)

c) Internal Audit 2025/26 End of Year Report and Appointment for 2026/27

The Council was subject to an accounting and reporting regime of limited assurance as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations applied to every local authority in England with an annual turnover up to £6.5 million.

The section set out in report formed part of the Annual Governance and Accountability Report which had to be approved by Penzance Council prior to the submission to the external Auditors, BDO LLP.

The Council's Internal Auditor had concluded the final audit review of 2025/26 and the conclusions were set out at Appendix 1 to the report, with further commentary provided within the report itself.

In addition, the agreement with Hudson Accounting Ltd had come to an end and the Council needed to appoint an independent and competent person to undertake an effective internal audit to evaluate the effectiveness of its risk management, control and governance processes. The internal auditor also had to be able to demonstrate independence from the Council's financial decision making.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Internal Audit Report for the financial year 2025/26 be received and noted.
2. Hudson Accounting Limited be appointed as the internal auditor for the financial year 2026/27.
3. The Council confirms that it is satisfied that said internal auditor is

independent from the Council's financial decision making.

(Proposed: Councillor Wilson; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

d) Statement of Internal Control

Regulation 6 of the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015 required Penzance Council to review the effectiveness of its system of internal control annually and to do this ahead of approving its Annual Governance Statement.

The Statement of Internal Control, Financial Regulations and Standing Orders were all last reviewed and updated together in June 2025. There were no proposed changes to the Financial Regulations or Standing Orders and so the Statement of Internal Control was presented alone in order to satisfy the requirement.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Statement of Internal Control, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

(Proposed: Councillor Jameson; seconded: Councillor Young)

e) Annual Governance and Accounting Statement 2025/26

The Council was subject to an accounting and reporting regime of limited assurance as set out in the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. These regulations applied to every local authority in England with an annual turnover of up to £6.5 million.

The two sections referenced within report contributed to the Annual Governance and Accountability Report which required the approval of Penzance Council prior to submission to its external Auditors, BDO LLP.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Annual Governance Statement for the financial year 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved.

2. The Accounting Statement for the financial year 2025/26, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved.

3. The Council's Reserve position on 31 March 2026, as set out at Appendix 3 to the report, be noted.

(Proposed: Councillor Trevail; seconded: Councillor Young)

f) Investment Strategy Review

Last updated in 2025, the Investment Strategy was readopted annually and provided an update of shares received from investments in the prior financial year.

The Investment Strategy for the coming year would continue to collect dividends from shares in Pennon Group and to accrue interest from reserves kept in a higher interest rate savings account and the Public Sector Deposit Fund.

The Town Clerk had been furnished with delegated authority to vote at Pennon Group's Annual General Meeting, on behalf of the Council as shareholder, with the Council's adopted strategic aims in mind.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Investment Strategy for 2026/27, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted and the Investment Report of 2025/26, set out therein, be noted.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

g) Jubilee Pool – 2026/27 Strategic Grant and Service Level Agreement

Each year when setting its budget Penzance Council reviewed its strategic grant commitments to outside organisations. On 19 January 2026 the Council resolved to maintain its funding contribution for the 2026/27 financial year at £40,000.

The Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd's Operational Delivery Plan for 2026/27, set out at Appendix 1 to the report, reflected a change in emphasis, with a strategic focus on securing the long-term sustainability of the organisation

The Service Level Agreement between Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd and Penzance Council for the 2026/27 financial year, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, was recommended for approval in order to maintain Penzance Council's contribution to both the affordability and accessibility of facilities for parish residents and to the sustainability and maintenance of the Jubilee Pool as an important asset.

Prior to the debate, Members were advised that there were formatting errors in Sections 8 and 25 of the Service Level Agreement and that these would need to be rectified.

During the debate, Members referenced the Operational Delivery Plan and the potential for future improvements and developments to the site and therefore requested that a site visit be arranged in order to allow them to envisage the future changes.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The Service Level Agreement between Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd (JPPL) and Penzance Council for the 2026/27 Financial Year, as set out at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved, subject to the correction of formatting errors in sections 8 and 25 of the document.

2. Said Service Level Agreement be signed by the Town Mayor and Town Clerk on behalf of Penzance Council.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Wilson)

(Councillor Lapin was not present for the debate or vote in relation to this item.)

h) Commitment to Creating a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement

Members had previously expressed their desire to play as big a part as possible in the development of the Cornwall Local Plan and, for this reason, it was recommended that a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement was developed for the Penzance parish.

In order to do so, a Steering Group would need to be established in a similar format to that which was used for the development of the Neighbourhood Plan. It was recommended that up to £5000 of the Neighbourhood Plan earmarked reserve was utilised in order to undertake this development work.

It would also be necessary to undertake consultation with local residents and, for this reason, it was recommended that up to £2,500 of the Community Engagement Budget was utilised for this purpose.

Further background was set out in the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. A Neighbourhood Priorities Statement be developed for the Penzance parish.

2. Notice be given that Penzance Council intends to make an application to designate a Neighbourhood Area, the parish of Penzance, for the purposes of producing a Neighbourhood Priorities Statement.

3. The use of up to £5,000 from the Neighbourhood Plan earmarked reserve be approved in order to support the development of said Statement.

4. A Steering Group, consisting of both Councillors and community volunteers, be established to manage the development process and authority be delegated to the Town Clerk to seek and appoint members to said Group

and to develop and approve its Terms of Reference.

5. It be noted that the Planning Committee maintains responsibility for the coordination of the Council's work in respect of Neighbourhood Planning and will therefore maintain an overview of said Steering Group, its work and the overall progress of the Statement.

6. A survey of residents be undertaken and, if necessary, the use of up to £2,500 from the Community Engagement Budget (2200/4) be approved, with the content and method(s) of engagement approved by the Planning Committee in accordance with its Terms of Reference.

7. The workload associated with the development of the Neighbourhood Priorities Statement be kept under review and, should it be unmanageable within existing staffing resources, further reports be presented to the appropriate Committees as necessary.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Trevail)

i) Prayers at Council Meetings

Under the Local Government (Religious etc. Observances) Act 2015, all local councils were permitted to conduct prayers at their meetings. At Penzance Council, a Chaplain had been appointed by the Mayor at the Annual Council meeting each year in order to allow prayers to be conducted at the beginning of each subsequent Council meeting.

However, no Chaplain had been appointed for the current year since the Mayor felt that, as a matter of principle, the Council should be afforded the opportunity to determine if it wished to continue conducting prayers at its meetings.

It was therefore recommended that the Council determine if it wished to hold prayers at the beginning of each meeting. Should the Council resolve to continue holding prayers, the Mayor would then appoint a Chaplain.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that prayers no longer be conducted prior to Council meetings.

(Proposed: Councillor Reed; seconded: Councillor Wilson)

Vote; Twelve in favour. One abstention.

21. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

a) No Confidence in South West Water

The motion had its origin in 'Dowr Glan', 'Clean Water', a grassroots campaign by

Cornish local councillors, activists and residents who were frustrated with the ongoing sewage crisis. The campaign moved beyond "consultation" and "summits" toward a direct challenge to South West Water's licence to operate in the Duchy.

It aimed to:-

- Mobilise councillors to get parish and town councils across Cornwall to sign a letter of no-confidence regarding South West Water to the Government, Ofwat and Cornwall Council; and
- Put pressure on the Government and local MPs to support the removal of South West Water from managing water and sewage in Cornwall and to transition its assets into a publicly-owned organisation, run as a public service.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that this Council notes with grave concern the systemic failure of South West Water to manage the sewage system in Cornwall. Despite record bills and government intervention, raw sewage continues to impact our environment and public health. Therefore, this Council:-

1. Formally declares a vote of no confidence in South West Water; and

2. Signs the amended collective letter to the Secretary of State, as set out at Appendix 1 to this motion, demanding the removal of South West Water's management through a Special Administration Order.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Law)

Vote; Six in favour. Three against. Four abstentions.

22. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

There were no reports for information.

23. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

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

a) Penzance Community Flora Group
b) St Paul's Charitable Trust

24. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8:47 pm

Town Mayor
20 July 2026