MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING held in the Alverne Room, St John's Hall, Alverton Street, Penzance on Monday 20 July 2026 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

Councillors PA Law (Mayor)
PI Osborne (Deputy Mayor)

KM Baker	J McKenna (until 8.14 pm)
NC Broadhurst (until 8.12 pm)	DM Paul
PM Hadley	JS Power (until 8.30 pm)
JM How	SJ Reed
B Jackson	SJ Reynolds
PL Jameson	PC Trevail
P Lapin	D Smart Knight
TS Marrington (until 8.28 pm)	P Young

Also present: James Hardy (Town Clerk) and Elliot Ridington (Democratic Services and Governance Officer).

25. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Pugh and Wilson.

26. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

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

Councillor Broadhurst declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda Item 11(b), 'Application for Grant – Montol Festival CIC' as a Director of the Montol Festival CIC.

Councillor How declared a non-registerable interest in Agenda Item 11(d), 'Contract Variation Relating to the Service Level Agreement with Sustainable Penzance' as a Director of the Sustainable Penzance CIC and left the meeting for the duration of this item.

27. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

Councillor Broadhurst had submitted a written request for dispensation to remain in the meeting while Agenda Item 11(b), 'Application for Grant – Montol Festival CIC', was considered, but not to vote nor speak, save to answer any questions which the Members of the Council may have had.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that, in accordance with Standing Order 15(m), Councillor Broadhurst be granted a dispensation in respect of Agenda No. 11(b) – 'Application for Grant – Montol

Festival Community Interest Company' for the duration of its consideration but that this dispensation solely provide for remaining in the meeting and not for taking part in either the vote or the debate, save to provide points of clarification.

(Proposed: Councillor McKenna; seconded: Councillor How)

Vote; Sixteen in favour. Two abstentions.

28. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

A member of the public was in attendance and spoke regarding issues with antisocial behaviour in Penzance town centre. In response, she was advised that Devon and Cornwall Police had recently provided a number of assurances that there would be targeted action to disrupt the sorts of antisocial behaviour which had been mentioned.

29. CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Dwelly

Councillor Dwelly was in attendance and had provided a written report to the Council which was as follows:-

'Mazey Day and the planters

I was pleased to see the planters on Market Jew Street very much survive Mazey Day and in fact enhance the look of the street, now that the plants/flowers have matured. Many people commented to me on how much more accessible the street was with stalls not totally dominating both sides. I made sure the slope access from the top side of MJS was reopened in time for Mazey to help people with limited mobility. The railings there are temporary and will be replaced by proper heritage railings (they are not easy/quick to source).

Moving traffic cameras MJS

I have been told the IT department at CC that their review of the digital security of the system was due to be completed in early July. So we can now all lobby the highways team to install it asap. The camera will be at the bottom of MJS facing up. For the first six months those caught ignoring the 11-4 rule will be sent a warning. Automatic fines will follow after the introduction period. We will all need to spread the word on this to reduce traffic congestion on the street in the summer school holiday peak season. I am sure the TC social media can play an important role here

Soft Play St John's Hall

I set up a visit for the team behind the now closed St John's Church soft play project with CC property staff at St John's Hall. They are working up a possible *relocation to the underused stage area in the hall. I am also encouraging markets to use the hall more and ideally pay an affordable monthly fee to guarantee inside/outdoor weekly markets. My view is that we need to make it much easier and cheaper to have regular community use of the hall. I am confident that deals done on a monthly fee basis will not only make it cheaper for projects to use the space but will match or increase the income there. If anyone knows of groups/markets wanting to explore regular sessions there please do contact me.'*

Councillor Line

Councillor Line was in attendance and had provided a written report to the Council which was as follows:-

'HEAMOOR

Heamoor Green Spaces

- *Roscadghill Skate Park – skate ramp due to be removed due to safety concerns. I'm seeking funding opportunities and residents' involvement to secure future of this space for local children.*
- *Heamoor Rec – more equipment being removed due to safety concerns. I'm supporting the devolution process and working with Town Councillors and residents to consider interim activities and gather views and ideas for future of rec.*
- *Parc Letta Green – Friends of Parc Letta Green – new community group been formed, very active and already making impact, working together with Cormac Volunteers Scheme.*
- *Parc Letta – led by Rev Chris Butler, worked with Cormac Volunteers to do a tidy up gardening session there.*

Heamoor Traffic Scheme

- *Work to commence 27 July to 2nd September. Junctions at both ends will remain open throughout during the day.*
- *Final version of the scheme (much amended from what was previously published) is available to view online.*

Hill Close, No Cold Callers Zone

- *Hill Close has been designated a "No Cold Caller Zone". Last month I joined Trading Standards and Tri Service Safety Officers to launch a new initiative tackling rogue doorstep traders.*
- *Signs have been put up in the area and residents have been given stickers to put on their doors telling cold callers to stay away. The zones will be regularly patrolled by Cornwall's Tri-Service Safety Officers.*

Hea Day and Golowan

- *Both brilliant events, congratulations to all involved and thanks for hard work that went on to make them happen*

GULVAL

Heliport planning application

- *I spoke, along with Cllr Reynolds, at the Stategic Planning meeting at County Hall on behalf of residents affected by heliport activity. Close vote – 4/4 with the Chair delivering the casting vote. Approval was granted.*

Gulval GVCA meeting

- *Well attended meeting at Gulval Village Hall, many issues discussed and list of action points for me to follow up*

Foxes Field new housing estate opening event

- *Attended official opening of the new development in Gulval, also attended by the MP, the Cabinet Member for housing and the ward Cllr.*

Active Cornwall Place-based Partnership

- *I've been appointed the representative for all four Penzance Cornwall Councillors for this programme which is about tackling social inequalities in access to physical activity in Penzance and St Austell. Very interesting programme bringing together a wide range of partners toward building resilience and capacity across various sectors.*
- *Attended Beat the Streets stakeholder workshop to review the project and consider next steps for this work*
- *Met with Abi Dennison (Active Cornwall) to discuss her work promoting walking and cycling to Gulval and Heamoor schools.*

Public footpaths and highways issues

- *constantly discovering anomalies and issues and trying to fix them.*

Smartphone Free Schools campaign

- *I continue to support this work, led by PZTC and have attended a meeting with primary schools discussing establishing smartphone free school policy that can be adopted across all schools.*

National Bike Week – 13th and 14th June

- *Worked with Cornwall Bike Project to lead two successful community bike rides starting from Heamoor, and a free bike repair session at the Pulse Venue. All events well attended and enjoyed by all.'*

Councillor Marrington

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

i) She had recently undertaken site visits with the Head of Cornwall Council's Environment Service which had been particularly useful in allowing her to understand various issues, such as the responsibilities which fell to the highways service rather than the environment service.
ii) She had also spent a morning with the parking enforcement team in order to consider a number of issues throughout Penzance. It had been a particularly interesting morning, particularly in relation to areas which were unenforceable due to their not having sufficient lines marked. She intended to take this up with the highways team as clearly the savings realised from the reduction in line painting was a false economy when set against the loss of income from parking enforcement.
iii) Double yellow lines had now been painted on Newlyn old bridge which appeared to have improved the situation in terms of fewer cars which were parking there.
iv) She had attended a second meeting with a representative of Go Cornwall regarding the bus stop in Mousehole which was now on the outskirts of the village. While the former bus stop would not be reinstated, real-time travel information signage would be installed in the near future.
v) The Cornwall Fire and Rescue Service had recently been inspected by His Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services and had been rated as 'good'. She had since met with the leadership team of the Service and they were considering twenty-nine areas for improvement.
vi) She had attended the Newlyn clean air day at the school, had attended a useful meeting with Cormac and had attended the Cornwall dentistry summit.

Councillor McKenna

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

i) He had attended a meeting with adult social care providers and had discussed the problems associated with Central Government's reductions in the use of foreign workers which would inevitably lead to increases in the costs of care.
ii) He had sent another letter to Central Government to ask that it reconsiders its decision to abolish Healthwatch organisations.
iii) Cornwall had joined the UK Network of Age-friendly Communities with the Centre for Ageing Better to enhance the lives of older residents, having succeeded in achieving the 'Age Friendly' accreditation in just four months. He

was now looking to develop funding bids for further support for the scheme over the coming months.

iv) He had visited PZN Youth in their new premises and watched a film which had been created by the service users.

v) He had supported residents with issues in relation to their waste collections.

vi) He had attended the Penwith Community Area Partnership meeting.

vii) He had held a 1:1 meeting with the Chair of the Integrated Care Board.

viii) He had attended the Local Government Association Conference in Bournemouth.

ix) He had a meeting regarding the revised planning proposal(s) for the development at Coinagehall Street, Penzance in order to better understand what was proposed.

x) Finally, he could advise that there was now up to £800,000 in funding available for the sea front in Mounts Bay, predominantly between Penzance and Marazion, and further information would be made available in due course.

30. 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.

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

There were no confidential matters scheduled for consideration.

32. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 1 JUNE 2026

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Penzance Council meeting held on 1 June 2026 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Paul)

Twelve in favour. Six abstentions.

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

No questions had been submitted.

34. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members noted the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:-

(a) Planning Committee – 10 June and 1 July 2026
(b) Personnel Committee – 10 June 2026

(c) Leisure and Amenities Committee – 22 June 2026
(d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 6 July 2026

35. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR DECISION

Leisure and Amenities

a) Replenishment of Penlee Lodge Underspend

On 31 March 2026 the Penlee Lodge budget contained £4,490 which was then subsumed by the General Fund at year end. It was therefore recommended that £4,490 was vired from the General Fund to the Penlee Lodge budget to support the ongoing costs which had become Penzance Council's responsibility upon the conclusion of the previous tenancy.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that a virement of £4,490 be made from the General Fund to the Penlee Lodge budget (1211).

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

Finance and General Purposes

b) Application for Grant – Montol Festival CIC

Information about the organisation, its cause and the reason for the grant request was set out at Appendix 1 to the report, the grant application form.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that a grant of £7,470 be awarded from the General Grants Budget to the Montol Festival CIC for the project: 'Montol 2026'.

(Proposed: Councillor Young; seconded: Councillor Reed)

Vote; Sixteen in favour. Two abstentions.

36. REPORTS FOR DECISION

a) Creation of a New Partnership Board to Promote Regeneration in the Penzance Parish

The current Town Deal Board was due to be dissolved, with its final meeting scheduled for November 2026. It had therefore been proposed that a new body be established with an expanded membership, reflecting a broader vision of "regeneration" and encompassing issues like health and social inequalities, younger people, housing, education and training alongside the more traditional "regeneration" issues.

It was intended that this new body would include representatives from Penzance Council, alongside serving Cornwall Councillors representing divisions within the Parish and other representatives from key stakeholder groups. A terms of reference for the new body was in the process of being established and would be presented to a future meeting of Penzance Council, and the Town Deal Board, for approval.

Given the central role intended for Penzance Council, Members' support for the creation of the new Board was sought alongside a request for the Town Clerk to identify any associated staffing and funding resources which might have been necessary.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The creation of a new Partnership Board to promote regeneration in the Penzance Parish be supported.

2. An exercise be undertaken to identify any staffing and funding resources required to facilitate the establishment and effective operation of said Board.

(Proposed: Councillor Broadhurst; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

(Councillors Broadhurst and McKenna then left the meeting.)

b) UK Partners Against Crime (UKPAC) – Parish Wide Participation and Encouraging Local Business Uptake

Until recently, local Business Improvement District towns, such as Penzance and St Ives, participated in 'DISC', a crime information-sharing system for UK businesses. However, UKPAC had now been introduced, with the aim of enabling businesses, regardless of size or location, to work together to address antisocial and criminal behaviour in real time.

UKPAC built upon the DISC platform but offered a more structured, partnership-focused approach to sharing information between businesses, councils, and police. It enabled real-time communication around issues such as anti-social behaviour, retail crime, violence and vulnerability, allowing for earlier identification of emerging risks.

Further information was detailed within the report and Penzance Council support was sought for local engagement to promote and encourage uptake of the scheme.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The work of the Penzance BID, to encourage businesses to join the UKPAC initiative and help reduce crime across the Parish, be supported.

2. Councillors and officers be requested to engage with the appropriate business owners and to encourage participation in the scheme.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Jameson)

(Councillors Marrington and Power then left the meeting.)

c) <u>Deed of Easement for Access to St Mary's CofE Primary School Playing Field</u>

It was understood that Cornwall Council was intending to transfer the ownership of the St Mary's CofE School Playing Field to the School and, as a part of this process, had requested that Penzance Council enter into a deed of easement to confirm the future arrangements which would allow the School to access the site.

The proposed deed of easement was set out as an appendix to the report and was presented for approval prior to being entered into. As it was necessary to apply the common seal of the Council, a resolution of the Council was required.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

<u>RESOLVED</u> that

1. The deed of easement between the Penzance Town and Cornwall Councils in respect of Access to St Mary's Church of England School Playing Field, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be completed and entered into.

2. The common seal of the Council be affixed to said deed by the Town Clerk in the presence of two Councillors who shall sign as witnesses.

(Proposed: Councillor Osborne; seconded: Councillor Reed)

d) <u>Contract Variation Relating to the Service Level Agreement with Sustainable Penzance</u>

Sustainable Penzance had identified a working capital constraint arising from the timing of funding payments. As a small organisation with limited financial reserves, it had been experiencing cash flow pressures because funding was paid quarterly in arrears, while operational costs were incurred and paid monthly. To mitigate this issue, it was proposed that the payment terms of the Service Level Agreement were revised to provide funding in advance of each quarter. Payments for subsequent quarters would remain contingent upon the receipt and satisfactory review of the monitoring report for the previous quarter before any further payment was made.

In addition, the report and its appendices detailed the additional services which would be provided by the Sustainable Penzance CIC.

During the debate, reference was made to existing the Service Level Agreement set out at

Appendix 1 to the report, and specifically Section 3, which contained incorrect dates relating to the timescale of the contract and a request was made that this be rectified. Furthermore, the recommendation set out within the report referred to Section 2.1 which should, in fact, have been Section 2.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that a contract variation letter be issued to Sustainable Penzance CIC to amend the approved service level agreement from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029 to include the following:-

(i) Section 2 "PZTC Funding": The payments section within said service level agreement be amended to payments in advance of each quarter rather than in arrears as at present, with sufficient monitoring reports from the previous quarter received by Penzance Council prior to the release of payment for the next quarter.

(ii) The additional 'deliverables', outcomes and key performance indicators, as set out within in Appendix 2 to this report, be added i into said service level agreement.

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

Vote; Twelve in favour. Two abstentions.

e) Expenses Relating to the Appointment of a New Town Crier

Members were recently informed that a recruitment/audition exercise would be undertaken for a new Town Crier and work in this regard has recently commenced.

Once a new Town Crier had been appointed, it would be necessary for them to be outfitted and these costs would need to be met. As there was no suitable budget available to meet these costs, it was recommended that they be met from the General Fund.

In addition, having undertaken a review of the arrangements of other Councils, many paid an annual retainer to their Town Crier, in addition to their expenses for each event, to encourage them to remain in the role and so it was recommended that Penzance Council also adopted this practice. Again, there was no budget available for this, and so it was recommended that this this cost was also met from the General Fund during 2026/27 and then added to the draft budget for 2027/28.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. The use of up to £3,000 from the General Fund be approved in order to meet the expenses associated with the appointment of a new Town Crier.

2. In addition to the £25 expenses fee for each event, a £450 annual retainer be approved and, for 2026/27, be met from the General Fund.

(Proposed: Councillor Reed; seconded: Councillor Paul)

Vote; Twelve in favour. Two abstentions.

37. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

a) Cornish Devolution

Andy Burnham MP had that day taken office as Prime Minister of the United Kingdom and, in addition, had recently given a speech in Manchester outlining his vision for devolving extensive powers away from Westminster.

It was therefore suggested that it was imperative for the Prime Minister to be made aware as soon as possible of the overwhelming support for devolving powers to Cornwall, and Cornwall alone. Further information, and a position statement, was set out in the report.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that this Council endorses the position statement regarding central government devolution to Cornwall, as set out at Appendix 1 to this motion, sends it to the addresses listed and circulates it to the other town and parish councils across Cornwall for their endorsement.

(Proposed: Councillor Reynolds; seconded: Councillor Paul)

Vote; Twelve in favour. Two against.

38. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

a) Members' Attendance at Meetings
b) Outcome of Code of Conduct Complaint Received

39. REPORTS FROM OUTSIDE BODIES

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

a) Penzance Community Flora Group
b) Good Old Furniture Available (GOFA)
c) Jubilee Pool Penzance Ltd
d) Penzance / Concarneau Twinning Association
e) Newlyn Community Flora Group

40. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

Members were advised that the proposed Terms of Reference for the proposed new Penzance Regeneration Partnership Board would be presented to a future meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:58 pm

Town Mayor
21 September 2026