

EXTRAORDINARY PENZANCE COUNCIL – 2 NOVEMBER 2026**REPORT FOR DECISION****CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR FOR THE PENZANCE PROMENADE WARD**

Culture	Money & Decision Making	Places & Resilience	People & Wellbeing	Facilities& Open Spaces
				
	✓	✓	✓	

Recommendation:

A person be co-opted as a Councillor for Penzance Promenade Ward.

Background:

Penzance Council has been operating with a vacant seat in Penzance Promenade ward since 31 August 2026 following the resignation of a former councillor.

This vacancy was advertised in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 and there were no requests for an election from the electors of the ward. Penzance Council is therefore required to fill this seat by co-option and interested persons were requested to apply in writing stating their relevant experience and the reasons why they wished to become a Councillor. The deadline for applications was 5.00 pm on Friday 9 October 2026 and those received are set out as appendices to this report.

Candidates will each be afforded five minutes to provide a verbal presentation to the Council to elaborate on their applications and to address the question:-

“How would you best represent the people of Penzance Promenade ward and what do you think should be the priorities of Penzance Council for the coming year?”

Once these presentations have concluded, Members will each be required to choose their preferred candidate for co-option. When a person receives over 50% of the votes from Members present, through a process of elimination if necessary, they will duly be co-opted as Councillor for Penzance Promenade ward.

Elliot Ridington
Democratic Services and Governance Manager

- Appendix 1 – Process for Co-opting a Councillor
- Appendix 2 – Application for Co-option – Mayar Akash
- Appendix 3 – Application for Co-option – Sarah Buck
- Appendix 4 – Application for Co-option – Mark Gilmour
- Appendix 5 – Application for Co-option – Tracey Grundy
- Appendix 6 – Application for Co-option – Martin Nixon
- Appendix 7 – Application for Co-option – Mandy Paul
- Appendix 8 – Application for Co-option – Hilary Tyreman
- Appendix 9 – Application for Co-option – Charlotte Welham

CO-OPTION OF A COUNCILLOR

FORMAT OF THE CO-OPTION MEETING

- At the Co-option Meeting, candidates will have five minutes to introduce themselves to Members, give information on their background and experience, explain why they wish to become a Member of Penzance Council and answer the following question:-

“How would you best represent the people of your chosen ward and what do you think should be the priorities of Penzance Council for the coming year?”.

- After presentations, Members may ask candidates a few questions for clarification before proceeding to vote. (If a candidate is unable to attend the meeting, this process will still take place and voting will be based on their application alone.)
- The process will be carried out in the public session and there will be no private discussions between Members prior to a vote being taken.
- As soon as all candidates have finished providing their submissions and answering any questions Members may have, the Council will proceed to a vote, with each candidate being proposed and seconded by the Councillors in attendance (as defined by Standing Order 2b).
- In order for a candidate to be elected to the Council, it will be necessary for them to obtain an absolute majority of votes cast (Over 50% of the votes available at the meeting).
- If there are more than two candidates and none receives an absolute majority in the first round of voting, the candidate with the least number of votes will be eliminated from the process. Further rounds of voting will then take place using this process until a candidate has an absolute majority.
- Only Councillors present at the meeting may vote upon a person to fill the vacancy. Each Councillor may vote in favour of one candidate only during each round. If necessary, the Mayor may exercise the casting vote.

Dear James,

Re: Penzance Town Council – Co-option to the Penzance Promenade Ward

Further to my letter of 9 September 2026, in which I formally expressed my intention to stand for the Penzance Promenade Ward, I wanted to provide some further context about what I believe I could bring to Penzance Town Council if considered for co-option.

Since 2018, I have thrown myself into the town and its community. I have tried to use my experience, qualifications, creativity, networks and practical skills to help people and to contribute positively to the place I have chosen to call home.

My contribution has taken many different forms.

Through my publishing work, I have helped **more than 100 individuals bring their poetry and creative work into print**. I have not simply provided a printing service; I have helped people develop their ideas, publish their work and give themselves a platform through websites, online promotion and YouTube. For some people, having their work recognised and brought into print has been an important step in giving them confidence and a voice.

I have also continued to use my professional qualifications and experience in youth work. Through **Whitegold Cornwall**, I work directly with disadvantaged young people and their families on a one-to-one basis. This is grassroots work, dealing directly with people and the circumstances they face, and trying to help them overcome social and economic barriers and recognise their own potential.

I have similarly made my publishing and printing expertise available to individuals, organisations and businesses in Penzance and further afield, providing affordable and competitive services wherever possible. I believe that practical support matters, particularly when someone has an idea but lacks the resources, knowledge or confidence to turn that idea into something tangible.

My work has increasingly moved towards creating opportunities and connecting people.

This was one of the reasons for establishing **Promote Penzance Positively CIC**. Through PPPCIC, I am seeking to contribute directly to the promotion and development of the town. The **Penzance Fashion Hub**, work around the **Promenade**, and other projects currently in development are intended to connect local businesses, residents, visitors and community interests and to create positive activity around Penzance.

One of the things I believe I bring is the ability to connect.

I am a very active networker. I speak to people, businesses and organisations at grassroots level. I make connections between people who may otherwise never meet, and I try to turn conversations into projects, events, opportunities and practical outcomes.

I bring together skills that do not necessarily sit within one conventional category: **community work, youth work, publishing, printing, creative practice, photography and visual communication, networking, project development and local business promotion.**

I also bring diversity.

I represent a part of the diversity of modern Penzance, while having spent many years working with people from very different backgrounds and communities. I believe that representation is not simply about who sits around a table; it is also about the experiences, networks and perspectives that a person brings into the room.

Since 2018, I have continued to contribute positive information, creative work and visual imagery to my wider community in Penzance, Cornwall, London, across the UK and internationally. Some of the books, photographs, publications and visual material I have created will, I hope, outlive me and become part of the record of the communities and people I have encountered.

I am therefore not approaching the possibility of becoming a Town Councillor without a history of involvement in Penzance. I have already been doing what I can, using the tools available to me, without holding public office.

What I would like now is the opportunity to bring those tools and experience into the democratic life of the town.

As I have said previously, I am not seeking a title for its own sake. **I am trying to belong in Penzance as a resident, and to share what I have with the town in which I live.**

I believe I have something practical to offer: my experience, my qualifications, my publishing and creative skills, my community connections, my ability to communicate with people from different backgrounds, and perhaps most importantly, my ability to make connections and turn ideas into action.

If considered for co-option, I would bring all of this and more to the role. I would also bring an independent mind and a willingness to listen, learn and work constructively with the existing Councillors, Council officers, community organisations, businesses and residents of Penzance.

I would be grateful if you could ensure that this further statement is available to the appropriate members of the Town Council when my expression of interest and the question of co-option are considered.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours sincerely,

Mayar Akash



[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dydh da / Hello,

For the attention of the Town Clerk James Hardy,

I am writing to put myself forward for consideration for co-option for the Town Councillor vacancy for Promenade Ward.

I have a strong interest in local affairs and have previously sat in on a number of Council and committee meetings. I am currently assisting with the NPS steering Group, and have a genuine desire to contribute to the future of Penzance and the community I am proud to call home.

I currently work within Cornwall Council's Cornish Language Office as part of the Local Government Impact Graduate Scheme. The first year of my graduate scheme was a placement with SEND children's commissioning. I will complete the scheme next month, after which I hope to extend my role within the culture and language team at CC pending funding. My role at Cornwall Council is not politically restricted. Before joining the Council, I worked at Battersea Dogs & Cats Home for a year, and prior to this I worked in early years education in Sweden and the UK. I also have degrees in Animal Welfare and Environmental Studies.

As a Cornish speaker, Cornish language, culture and heritage are particular interests, alongside the environment and nature, disability and inclusion, and the experiences and aspirations of younger communities. Communications and community engagement are also a large part of my professional experience.

The reinvigoration of Penzance over recent years has been incredible to see. There is a real opportunity to build on that momentum, further raise Penzance's profile and support its growth while protecting the distinctiveness, character and identity that make our town special.

I would particularly like to help bring younger voices and perspectives that are not always well represented into local decision-making, and to play a part in making sure Penzance remains a place where people want to live, work, visit and build a future.

I would be very proud to contribute to that work as a Town Councillor if successful, and I look forward to hearing more about the next steps of the process.

My address and contact details are below.

Meur ras / thank you,

Sarah Buck

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Mark Gilmour.

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Dear James,

I would like to put my name forward to be Co-Opted onto Penzance Promenade Ward.

I have lived in Penzance all my life, I'm 65 on the 11th Oct, apart from when I served Queen and Country between '79 and '85 when I served in the Royal Air Force Police and a Police Dog Handler.

I have BA (Hons) Degree level education which I achieved at Falmouth College of Arts in 1999 as a mature student.

Apart from when I was in the RAF I was employed for nearly 26yrs as an Enforcement Agent with Rossendales Enforcement Ltd, later Marston's, on behalf of Cornwall Council collecting unpaid Council Tax, National Non Domestic Rates, Commercial Rent and Parking Fines.

During this time I was also Vice Chair for 3yrs and then Chairman for 3 more years at Penzance Camera Club.

I was also a Team Manager from Under 7's throughout to Under 16's until the Covid Pandemic at Penzance and Newlyn RFC.

During this time I was also Chairman of the Mini/Junior section for nearly 4yrs and was the "section rep" on Penzance and Newlyn RFC Amateurs committee.

I love Penzance and I believe I have a wealth of experience that I could bring to this roll and would like to be considered for the vacant position.

Regards

Mark.

Hello,

I would like to put myself forward for the current vacancy for Penzance Town Councillor in the Promenade Ward.

I previously served as a councillor for the Promenade Ward from 2017 to 2020 and really enjoyed being involved in the community and representing local residents. I'd now like the opportunity to get involved again and continue supporting the ward and Penzance.

For the last five years I've been working for an alcohol and substance misuse organisation. This has given me a good understanding of some of the issues people in our community face, as well as experience of working with local services and organisations.

I also have a good knowledge of Penzance, its amenities and the many events that take place throughout the year. I feel the town is moving in a really positive direction, particularly with the regeneration investment and the upcoming opening of Market House. There is a real opportunity for Penzance to build on this and continue to be a great place to live, work and visit.

Having previously represented the Promenade Ward, I'd be really pleased to have the chance to do so again and contribute to the next stage of Penzance's development.

Please let me know if you need any further information from me as part of the co-option process.

Kind regards
Tracey Grundy
(Was Halliday)

Dear James,

I wish to be considered for co-option as the new councillor for Penzance Promenade.

Having lived in Penzance for over 30 years, my wife and I raised our family of three here. We consider ourselves very fortunate to reside in such a unique, distinctive, and characterful Cornish town. I am passionate about its future and now wish for it to become an even better place for 'one & all' to live, work, and visit.

As a proud Cornishman I have long championed Penzance and its environs. In particular, over the past 35 years, I helped ensure Jubilee Pool was saved from potential closure in the early 90's and became a community-owned asset in 2014.

I founded and operated a successful marketing agency for over 30 years, employing 15 people before I retired and passed ownership to them in 2024. My wife, [REDACTED], is a jewellery designer who recently relocated her team from Hayle to Penzance. We now employ a team of 14 at our building on Morrab Road.

I would stand as a Liberal Democrat councillor, and would strive to do my very best to represent the interests of the residents of Penzance Promenade ward.

I hope this provides sufficient background for now, but please let me know if you require more information. I can of course confirm that I am eligible to stand according to the criteria outlined in the notice of vacancy.

With kind regards

Martin Nixon

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

[REDACTED]

Hello James

I would like to put my myself forward as a candidate for the vacancy on Penzance Town Council.

My name is Mandy Paul, I live at [REDACTED].

I am 59 years old, originally from St Ives (Cornwall), but I've lived in Penzance p for 20 years.

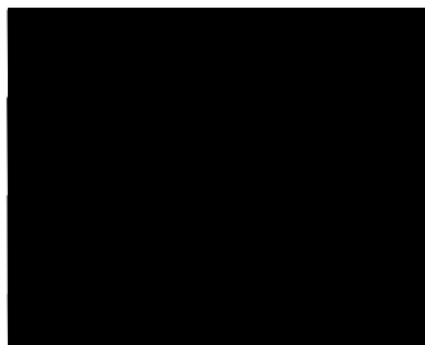
Up to the end of May of this year, I ran Buttons & Bows, a haberdashery, getting to know a lot of people (local & tourists) that came into the shop. I am use to dealing with people of all ages, helping th to find what they wanted in my shop & giving directions to local services.

I have a BcS Honours Combined Social Sciences, HND Playwork & several qualifications in working with children - I've specialised in preschools & Key Stage 1.

I'm sure these qualifications & skills will be of use to the council, dealing with a variety of people.

Regards

Mandy Paul
[REDACTED]



Dear James Hardy,

Application for Town Councillor Vacancy Penzance Prom Ward – Co-option

I am writing to apply for the co-option Councillor Vacancy in Penzance Prom Ward.

I am a retired headteacher having taught from 1985-2023. I have lived in Penzance from 1994 with my husband [REDACTED]. We have two grown up children, [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] who grew up in Penzance. I have taught in primary schools in Penzance from 1998. For the last 13 years of my career I was privileged to be headteacher of St Mary's Church of England Primary School in Penzance, which is located in Prom Ward. In 2017 I was asked by the Local Authority to take on the leadership at St Maddern's (now Madron Daniel) Primary School and from this I drove the formation of a hard federation between the two church schools in 2019. The chosen strap-line of the An Baya Federation which encapsulated my vision for the schools and the community they serve was 'Together we can make a difference'.

My experience in teaching in Penzance means that I know the demographic of the area. I recognise both the opportunities and challenges for children and families living in Penzance. I am knowledgeable of governance structures, reporting accurately, being accountable, listening and communicating clearly to all. I am experienced in building teams and nurturing their development.. I believe these skills would be transferable to being an effective councillor.

In retirement I have continued to 'make a difference' in areas I have chosen to be involved in. Since April 2023 I have been volunteer manager of The Rainbow Project at St Mary's Church, supporting the family workers who now run Holiday clubs and provided support to families. I am currently leading 'St John's Clothes Rack' project at St John's Church which has an ethos of 'collect what you can, donate if you can' approach. The aim of this is to help families with the cost of living, encourage more sustainable living and to build community.

As a primary school teacher passionate about reading I also volunteer with the National Literacy Trusts as a Literacy Champion. This work is focused in Redruth and Camborne but I would love for something similar to develop in Penzance as well, supporting families with young children and encouraging the whole community to have a commitment to improving children's literacy. I would be very interested in any initiatives to develop support for families and young people.

I am also a keen violinist and have been a member of Penzance Orchestral Society since 1995 and since January 2024 become the secretary of the orchestra. This requires a lot of liaising with many people and being very efficient! I have expanded my musical skills and in April 2025 joined the Golowan band. Having taken part in Mazey Day parades since 1999 I had to find a way to continue

this! Penzance has a wealth of artistic talent and this adds a richness and uniqueness to our town that I would very much like to support.

I am passionate and positive about Penzance. I am proud of our Celtic Culture and attended the Lorient Festival this year with the focus in on 'Cornwall in the heart of the Celtic Sea'. I would welcome any opportunities to build on these inter-celtic connections and developing this in our community.

Although I am currently Women's Officer for St Ives Labour party (and have been a life long Labour member), I appreciate that the role of a Town Councillor is about a more in common and collaborative approach to ensure that the Town Council makes a positive difference for all. I am passionate about women's representation at all levels of government. I would welcome the opportunity to be part of this team.

Thank you for reading this letter of application and I look forward to hearing from you.

Kindest regards,

A black rectangular box redacting the signature of Hilary Tyreman.

Hilary Tyreman

James Hardy
Penzance Council
Penlee Centre
Penlee Park
Penzance
Cornwall
TR18 4HE

To James Hardy and Penzance Town Council,

I am writing to apply for the co option position of town councillor for Penzance Promenade Ward. Having lived in Penzance most of my life, and being Cornish, I have developed a deep appreciation and love for Penzance, observing the town transition through many changes, good and bad. I am eager to contribute my skills and commitment to its continued growth and wellbeing. My background in working in pharmacy and living in Penzance has helped my passion and need for community and looking out for one another. This has also given me the confidence and skills in communicating with local residents and listening to their needs.

As a stay at home mother I have committed to voluntary roles.

After the pandemic, I set up a community Facebook group called Parents of Penwith. What started out as a channel for local parents to connect and arrange "safe" meet ups has now turned into a community of over 2300 members, and is used as a hub for information, social networking for local families and groups. Through this group, I have developed partnerships with the local authority, HomeStart Kernow, Healthy start Cornwall and other CICs and charities. This group became a pathway for other opportunities from becoming an oversight panel member for HomeStart to being chair of governors for my son's primary school, a position I have held for the last 3 years. I also have a professional relationship with BBC Radio, as a contact to discuss topics live on air, on BBC Radio Cornwall and BBC Radio 3,4,5 and 6.

With the skills I have gained from these positions, I am confident that my dedication, integrity and ability to listen and act in the best interests of the community make me a strong candidate for the role.

I am committed to working collaboratively with fellow councillors, local organisations, and residents to achieve positive practical outcomes. I am so excited by the direction Penzance is heading in, the town is looking and feeling the best it has in years. Through my representation of the Green Party, my care for local environment is a priority, safeguarding our beautiful town for generations to come.

However my passion at heart is being a voice for local families and children living in poverty.

Thankyou for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to present myself and discuss how I can contribute to the work of Penzance town council and support its vision in the future.

Yours sincerely Charlotte Welham,

