MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING held in the Coach House Cafe, Penlee Park, Penzance on Monday 9 November 2026 at 7.00 pm.

PRESENT

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

KM Baker
PM Hadley
JM How
B Jackson
PL Jameson
P Lapin
TS Marrington
DM Paul (from 7.07 pm)
JS Power
JR Pugh
SJ Reed
SJ Reynolds
D Smart Knight
PC Trevail
C Welham
MA Wilson
P Young

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

65. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Broadhurst.

66. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

67. TO APPROVE WRITTEN REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

No written requests for dispensation had been submitted.

68. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

There was no public participation.

69. CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Councillor Dwelly

Councillor Dwelly had submitted a written report to the Council which was as follows:-

'Some good news on the future of the St. John's Church play zone. The dispute between the project and the church may be coming to a close, with the church offering to allow the project to take the tall tower and bouncy castle to a new venue: St. John's

Hall.

As I have previously told the town council, my role on Cabinet includes running Cornwall Council's buildings and land. And I am also the divisional member covering both St John's Hall and St John's Church. There is no doubt that St John's Hall itself (the actual hall) is underused and only generates around £11,000 per year to Cornwall Council which barely covers the cost of staff time. The soft play project met property officers at the hall and discussed a possible location there for the play zone. It was agreed that the stage in the building was the best place. This allows for markets and many performances and public meetings to take place in the main floor space.

Our hope is that we can bring in more markets and other activities that can take place alongside children being able to play in the soft play zone (more customers). So for example someone could do some market stall shopping or have a coffee while their kids are playing on the secure stage area. The stage itself and its lighting and sound as a venue have never been properly invested in. Given the proximity of the youth club over the road in the Old Town council buildings, having a an affordable playspace for local families could be the start of a young people's indoor activity zone in Penzance. The hall will also of course continue to host Mazey Day parades organised by Golowan who I helped to gain the building opposite Saint Johns Hall.

There may be some minor displacement of performances to other venues in town. But places like the Acorn, the Ritz (both funded through Town Deal), Penlee Park and St Mary's Church are all venues we as a town should support. And there are many live shows that don't use the stage.

I was delighted to hear from the Reverend Jackie Wise that the Penlee cluster church group have finally agreed to let the soft play equipment be moved to this new venue. I'm also pleased to report that the project coordinator is willing to drop a claim made against the the Church for what happened a year ago when the facility was abruptly closed. A painful stand off can now hopefully be resolved.

My thanks to the town council for its support on this. My hope is that you all as councillors may want to consider some TC grant funding alongside my £1000 of community chest to help move the equipment and perhaps help towards a crowd funder to bring in new equipment for the soft play zone. My thanks also to former town councillor Rob Crago for in principle offering to provide a free removal service to the project which will reduce the cost of the setup. I don't know when all this can happen but if things go well and we act quickly we can all give a Christmas present to the people of Penzance: the reopening of an affordable play area for young children.

The recent introduction of traffic enforcement cameras in Market Jew Street has seen a huge (circa 90%) reduction in vehicles entering the street between 11-4. This will improve further as fines kick in. In the first six months anyone ignoring the rules gets a warning letter but if they do it a second time they get fined during the first six months. I personally lobbied for cameras at the outset (it was obvious to many of us that without enforcement the 11-4 system would not work properly). But Cornwall Council was too

slow to get permission from Government (required for any council wating to introduce Moving Traffic Enforcement (MTE) cameras. We can hope that years of disruption and road works blighting Penzance (not just council but utilities especially gas) are finally coming to an end.

The congestion on MJS that was a major problem before cameras came in has also been reduced hugely during 11-4. One of the problems (outside the no car hours) has been people parking in spaces meant to be layby space for cars to let buses come down the hill. These pull in bays are now double yellow lined and are being actively enforced. For those suggesting no buses on MJS, this is not possible and would undermine bus passengers who can currently catch buses home in either direction.'

Councillor Line

Councillor Line had submitted a written report to the Council which was as follows:-

'Heamoor

Pavement extension on Holly Terrace

Residents have reported issues with drainage and puddling outside and towards their homes since the new pavement was installed. A solution has been designed and communicated to residents and will be installed as soon as possible. This remedial work has been delayed due to other urgent incidents needing attention such as work needed on the Prom wall. However I will continue to chase this work until it is complete. Work at Trannack Site.

I was approached by several residents last week regarding work vehicles operating in and out of the field at Trannack. Having made enquiries I was able to confirm this was work being done by the administrators who took over the site from Devonshire Homes earlier this year. I was told by Cornwall Council planners that their intention was to make a start on the work so the planning permission that exists on the land is kept alive.

However, it was apparent that the work being done was likely be a breach of the condition of the permission which stipulates there should be no works traffic via Polmennor Road. I made an urgent request to planners to intervene to get the administrators to cease the works, and on Wednesday they left the site and closed it up.

I also raised a formal enforcement case - case number EN26/00961. If anyone wishes to forward further information/photos, or be added as a complainant to the case, they can do so by emailing planning.enforcement@cornwall.gov.uk and citing that reference number.

I'd like to thank Councillor Reynolds for being the first to bring this situation to my attention.

I wish to put on record that I condemn the mindless destruction of contractors' equipment that happened the week before last.

MBA New 3G Sports Pitch

I was delighted to attend Mounts Bay Academy's launch of their new football pitch at the end of September and would like to congratulate them on the success of this fantastic project.

Gulval

Gulval traffic site visit

Traffic continues to be an issue in Gulval and on 19th October I convened a meeting of residents concerned about speeding and lack of crossing facilities on Green Lane Hill together with the local Highways Officer. We resolved to pursue a resident-led Community Speed Watch initiative, and the Highways Officer noted the residents' request for speed bumps there. They were also reminded that it is hoped that vehicle-activated signs could be making an appearance there soon, thanks to signs purchased by the Town Council.

There's clearly an impatience to do "something" about the traffic in Gulval but we need a consensus about what that should be. Unfortunately some of the solutions that seem obvious, such as a formalised priority system at Ponsandane Narrows are not possible for technical reasons. A one-way system is often suggested although the expert opinion on this is that one-way systems might help congestion but they also cause vehicles to go much faster as drivers aren't concerned about anyone coming the other way.

There is discussion being had around possible more radical solutions, such as pedestrianisation of Trevarrack Lane, which would allow many residents a much safer traffic-free route to the supermarkets and a "less-traffic route" to the beach and multi-user coast path. There have been many problems on Trevarrack Lane in recent years including a serious collision between a cyclist and a car in 2023, several peafowl deaths, concerns about children coming down the hill on their scooters, and wayward HGVs getting stuck trying to get through the narrows. I appreciate opinions are likely to vary on the pedestrianisation idea and I'd like to hear them all. I would also like emphasise that it is just an idea at this stage and nothing is actually happening yet (if at all!).

Footpath being fixed

Progress is being made on the footpath that connects Ponsandane to the end of Branwell Lane (by the Barn Club). This has been a long job due to the fact that when the tree fell down during Storm Goretti it disturbed some gas pipes, which, I am told, has made remedial work extremely complicated.

In the meantime some steps were built to allow the path to reopen temporarily, although residents who use mobility scooters raised concerns with me that the route was no longer accessible to them.

I was therefore pleased to learn from my conversation with the team on the ground last week that the plan is that once the collapsed wall has been rebuilt properly (pending some input from Wales and West re the gas pipe) the steps will be removed and that section will be smoothed out and re-tarmacced as it was before.

Thanks to Gulval residents for their patience while this is done and Team at Cormac for their work.

Heamoor and Gulval

Active Cornwall Stewardship Group

I sit on the Stewardship Group for the Active Cornwall Project that is developing work building on the success of the Beat the Streets project to deliver a Sport England-funded programme of investment to tackle inequalities in physical activity in Penzance. I'm keen to make sure Heamoor and Gulval residents and groups get to benefit from this work. I'd be happy to hear from any groups or individuals interested in being part of it.'

Councillor Marrington

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

i) She referenced community resilience, particularly after Storm Austen, where properties were without electricity and the National Grid set up a number of warm hubs in response. There was work ongoing in this respect, particularly with regard to communications to demonstrate the work which took place behind the scenes, such as the cleaning of culverts and gullies, and what members of the public could do to help.
ii) A significant amount of work was taking place at Cornwall Council to develop its 2027/28 budget and no areas were off limits when it came to the consideration of potential savings.
iii) A Mental Health Summit had taken place, which had been really positive, but it had demonstrated that work was being undertaken by a variety of differing organisations and that a mapping exercise may have been helpful to demonstrate which services existed and how people could access help earlier.
iv) She had also attended a 'Hate Crime Awareness' event for Cornwall Councillors.

Councillor McKenna

Councillor McKenna had submitted a written report to the Council which was as follows:-

'Penzance Specific

- *Penzance Regeneration Company re Penzance Town Deal.*
- *Penwith Community Area Partnership (CAP) meeting.*
- *Meetings re Penzance businesses and the BID re the impact of the changes to roads and traffic in the Town Centre.*
- *An update re MJS traffic flow and bus access through Greenmarket.*
- *Calls and meeting with Coastline Housing re their new housing development adjacent to the A30.*
- *Several meetings re the former LIDL site and Churchill Housing's proposals.*
- *Coinagehall - Treveth's proposal to remove all affordable housing from the scheme, due to additional costs.*

NB – both the former LIDL site and Coinagehall are due to be considered by Planning Committee, rather than 'delegated powers' available to CC Officers.

Other Items of Possible Interest

- *South West Public Health Assurance visit*
- *BBC Radio Cornwall studio interview*
- *Screening of the 'Peoples Emergency Briefing' … well worth a watch if you can.*
- *Three Informal Cabinet meetings re the current and next year's Budget*
- *A visit to the former Bolitho School site to progress an Extra Care Housing site.*
- *I Chaired the 'Committee in Common' at CC, which included the Health and Wellbeing Board and the Integrated Care Partnership.*
- *A 'Teams' call regarding Farm Cornwall.*
- *Attended the Cornwall Mental Health Summit at Cornwall Council.*

Best wishes,
Jim McKenna,
Cornwall Councillor & Cabinet Member, Penzance Promenade Division.'

70. 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.

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

In respect of Agenda Item 14(a), 'Update Regarding Grant Provided to the Hypatia Trust', it was unanimously

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RESOLVED that, in accordance with S.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the Press and Public be excluded from that section of the meeting due to the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

(Proposed: Councillor Osborne; seconded: Councillor Marrington)

72. TO CONFIRM THE MINUTES OF THE PENZANCE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21 SEPTEMBER 2026

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that the Minutes of the Penzance Council meeting held on 21 September 2026 be approved as true and accurate record and signed by the Chair.

(Proposed: Councillor Pugh; seconded: Councillor Paul)

Vote; Fifteen in favour. Four abstentions.

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

No questions had been submitted.

74. TO NOTE THE MINUTES OF THE FOLLOWING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Members noted the Minutes of the following Committee meetings:-

(a) Planning Committee – 23 September and 14 October 2026
(b) Personnel Committee – 8 October 2026
(c) Leisure and Amenities Committee – 12 October 2026
(d) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 26 October 2026

75. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES FOR DECISION

Finance and General Purposes

a) Application for Grant – Mounts Bay Marine Group

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.

In accordance with Standing Order 4(s), Councillor Lapin requested that the voting on this question be recorded.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that a grant of £5,270.00 be awarded from the General Grants Budget to

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Mounts Bay Marine Group for the project: 'Seawater Quality Monitoring in Mount's Bay'.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Trevail)

Vote; Councillors Baker, How, Jackson, Law, Marrington, Osborne, Paul, Power, Pugh, Reed, Reynolds, Smart-Knight, Trevail, Welham and Young in favour. Councillors Jameson, Lapin and Wilson against. Councillor Hadley abstained.

76. REPORTS FOR DECISION

a) Appointments to Committees

At the extraordinary meeting held on 2 November 2026, Councillor Welham was co-opted to fill the vacant seat in the Penzance Promenade ward.

Councillor Welham had expressed a preference to be appointed to the Arts and Culture and Finance and General Purposes Committees and it was therefore recommended that these appointments be made.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that Councillor Welham be appointed to the following two Committees:-

The Arts and Culture Committee
The Finance and General Purposes Committee

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Reynolds)

b) Penzance Council Risk Register

The regular review of Penzance Council's Risk Register had been completed and the risk management strategy had also been reviewed. The updated Risk Register and the revised Risk Management Strategy were set out as appendices to the report and were presented for adoption.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The updated Penzance Council Risk Register, as set out using tracked changes at Appendix 1 to the report, be noted and adopted.

2. The updated Risk Management Strategy, as set out using tracked changes at Appendix 2 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Jameson)

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c) Fees and Charges Review

Financial Regulations prescribed that fees and charges for Council services were reviewed annually.

The areas of income which were the responsibility of the Arts and Culture and Leisure and Amenities Committees, and the recommendations from the respective budget holders, were set out as appendices to the report and were presented for approval.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that

1. The fees and charges which fall within the purview of the Arts and Culture Committee, as set out in Appendix 1 to the report, be adopted from 1 April 2027 and used to inform the draft budget for 2027/28.

2. The fees and charges which fall within the purview of the Leisure and Amenities Committee, as set out in Appendix 2 to the report, be adopted from 1 April 2027 and used to inform the draft budget for 2027/28.

(Proposed: Councillor How; seconded: Councillor Wilson)

d) Service Level Agreement with PZN Youth

This item had been withdrawn from the Agenda for the meeting.

e) Co-option Policy

The Local Council Awards Scheme required that the Council had a published co-option policy in place. A Co-option Policy for Penzance Council had therefore been drafted in advance of any future application(s) to the Scheme being made.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the Co-option Policy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor Power; seconded: Councillor Smart-Knight)

f) Complaints Policy

The updated Complaints Policy provided a clear framework for complaints to be submitted to the Council and included a form to provide a standardised process for the submission and administration of all formal complaints.

Once received, all formal and informal complaints would be recorded in a log to ensure that there was consistent administration and oversight. The log would remain confidential and would be monitored routinely by the Corporate Services Manager to identify trends, monitor recurring issues and highlight areas for service improvement.

It was recommended that the proposed Complaints Policy be approved and adopted.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that the revised Complaints Policy, as set out at Appendix 1 to the report, be approved and the document be adopted.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Paul)

77. MOTIONS ON NOTICE

a) Strengthening Democratic Resilience and Trusted Community Information

The view was expressed that public trust in politics and institutions had declined significantly, with many citizens expressing doubts that political leaders acted primarily in the public interest.

The growth of digital and social media had transformed how communities received information, communicated and engaged with local democracy. While these platforms had brought many benefits, they had also enabled the rapid spread of misinformation, disinformation, abuse, intimidation and politically polarising content.

Much local public discussion now occurred in community Facebook groups and other hyperlocal online forums which often operated without formal support, training or access to reliable sources of information.

It view was further expressed that healthy democracy depended upon informed citizens, respectful disagreement, evidence-based discussion and the ability of people to participate in public life without fear of harassment or intimidation. Many people felt that they could not engage online as it could be toxic and polarised and a place where intimidation and harassment could happen if people did not agree with a particular view. True democracy was being stifled when moderate voices removed themselves from the public arena.

Further information was set out within the motion and its appendices.

During the debate, a Member raised concerns regarding the proposed Democratic Resilience and Trusted Community Information Position Statement, set out as an appendix to the report, and its reference to working ‘in partnership with Cornwall Council’ within the section on ‘Strengthening Access to Reliable Local Information’ as, often, the positions of the Penzance and Cornwall Councils were at odds.

Following discussion, the proposer and seconder of the motion agreed to remove this reference from the document.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED that

1. This Council believes:-

   I. Political disagreement is healthy and essential in a democracy while abuse, intimidation, harassment and deliberate disinformation are not.
   II. Misinformation can be genuinely posted, believed and shared and needs to be countered by accurate, factual and evidenced information.
   III. Public trust is strengthened when information is accurate, decision-making is transparent and debate is conducted respectfully.
   IV. Those who hold positions of leadership should seek to inform rather than inflame and should place truth and public trust above short-term political advantage.
   V. Communities benefit from trusted spaces, both online and offline, where information can be shared fairly, openly and respectfully.

2. This Council recognises that democracy is not sustained by elections alone. It depends upon trust, truth, respectful disagreement and active citizenship. At a time of growing polarisation and declining confidence in public institutions, it commits itself to playing its part in fostering healthier public debate, supporting trusted community information and strengthening the democratic culture upon which the communities of Penzance parish depend.

3. In light of these issues, the Democratic Resilience and Trusted Community Information Position Statement, as set out at Appendix 1 to the motion, be approved and adopted, subject to the removal of the reference to working in partnership with Cornwall Council within Item 3 of the document – 'Strengthening Access to Reliable Local Information'.

(Proposed: Councillor Marrington; seconded: Councillor Law)

Vote; Eighteen in favour. One against.

78. CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS FOR DECISION

a) Update Regarding Grant Provided to the Hypatia Trust

The background and issues associated with this item were set out within the report.

Following consideration, it was unanimously

RESOLVED that an extension to the Hypatia Trust's grant funded project, "Who Makes History", be approved to allow the public exhibition to be rescheduled to take place from 8 December 2026 to 13 January 2027, with the project being concluded thereafter.

(Proposed: Councillor Paul; seconded: Councillor Power)

79. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The Council noted the following reports for information:-

a) Councillors' Attendance at Meetings
b) Service Level Agreement Update – Sustainable Penzance

80. 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) Larger Councils Committee of CALC
d) Penzance / Concarneau Twinning Association

81. MATTERS ARISING FOR REPORT AT THE NEXT MEETING

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

The meeting closed at 8:34 pm

Town Mayor
18 January 2027

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