

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 28 JANUARY 2019 at 7.00 pm at the Large Community Room, Truro Library**

PRESENT: The Mayor (Councillor Ms L Southcombe), Honorary Freeman Cllr Wells
Councillors Allen, Biscoe, Mrs Butler, Mrs Callen, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-
Gibbons, Ellis, Mrs Neale, Rich, Roden, Mrs Swain, Smith, Mrs Tudor, Vella,
Webb and Wilson

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs Cox, Miss Jones,
Nolan and Mrs Nolan, Mrs Stokes, Tamblyn.

Also in Attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk
Deacon Hayley Preston (Highertown and Baldhu)
David Harris CC
and Isabelle Risner, Parks and Amenities Assistant.

PRAYERS

Prior to the formal business of the Council, as the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend
Jeremy Putnam was unable to attend the meeting, Deacon Hayley Preston said
prayers.

298 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

**Mayor's Communications (Minute 302 (ii), Page 164 – Devolution of the Library)
and Committee Reports (Minute 303, Meeting of Finance & General Purposes
Committee (b))**

Councillors Mrs Carlyon and the Mayor declared an interest on the above items as they
are on the board of trustees for Truro Community Library (the latter in ex-officio capacity).

299 CORNWALL COUNCIL (F1)

(i) Capital Programme - Langarth

Councillor Harris CC reported that at a meeting of Council, an increase in budget to
the Capital Budget had been approved in relation to the aspirations at Langarth. This
was subject to Cabinet approval, and would be reviewed by Cornwall Council's
Investment Panel, of which David Harris CC was a member.

Councillor Mrs Tudor commented in addition, there was a Stakeholder Panel, which
would be primarily looking at community aspects of Langarth. With agreement of
Councillor Vella (Chairman of the Planning Committee), this would be placed on the
agenda for the next meeting on the Planning Committee to ensure Truro City Council
representation on the panel.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon expressed concern over the borrowing of a vast sum of
money and that tax payers would be funding infrastructure for these new
developments. David Harris CC responded that it was in his understanding the
money for the A390 Northern Access Road would be funded by central government,
and whilst Cornwall Council may pre-fund some of the infrastructure related to the
development, the idea is the money would be recouped as building took place.

(ii) Cornwall Council Meeting - Climate Change

Councillor Biscoe commented that Cornwall Council had discussed climate change at
its last Council meeting and that a resolution had been passed regarding Cornwall
Council's desire to become carbon neutral. A climate emergency had been declared.

(iii) Cornwall Council Meeting – Langarth Calculation

Councillor Biscoe also spoke about the issue of Langarth that was discussed at the
last Cornwall Council meeting, and provided a simple sum indicating that after the
cost of infrastructure for the development, and the cost of borrowing, each proposed
dwelling came with a rather hefty "price tag" regardless of the actual retail cost.

(iv) Taxis

Councillor Biscoe reported that following an unmet demand survey on taxi usage in the area, the results had been released, and it had been decided that the number of hackney carriage license plates issued would be controlled (with enough to meet demand) and therefore provide some stability for the sector.

(v) Bus Patronage

Councillor Biscoe commented the number of people using buses had increased, which was bucking the trend seen elsewhere in the country. In May, “The One” public transport initiative that combined rail and bus services would be launched, which was hoping to improve the efficiency of the public transportation network.

(vi) Public Car Parks

Councillor Biscoe informed Members that signs informing blue badge holders of a consultation had been placed in Garras Wharf, Moorfield and Old Bridge Street car parks. The consultation related to the “pay on exit” proposed scheme.

Councillor Allen asked how City Councillors who used the spaces at Garras Wharf for Council business would be impacted, and how they would navigate the barriers. The Town Clerk would investigate.

(vi) Langarth – Community Infrastructure Levy

Councillor Biscoe reported he had asked Bob Edgerton, Portfolio Holder for Planning and Economy at Cornwall Council, whether some of the money spent on the infrastructure at Langarth could be recouped through Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) and what would happen if it couldn't. Mr Edgerton had replied that if the money couldn't be recouped then developers would be taken to court, but Councillor Rich felt this was not a satisfactory answer as he was unsure that if this was the case then why hadn't it happened with Wainhomes over Truro City Council's money and the Beechwood Parc development.

Councillor Rich continued by pointing out he had an ongoing complaint with [Cornwall Council concerning] Wainhomes about this, and he had submitted a further complaint about the complaints procedure. He would keep both complaints live and report back with any updates.

(vii) Plastic Beach Litter

Councillor Rich commented there was a lot on social media about plastic litter on beaches, and this was a real threat to the environment. He had asked Councillor James, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Public Protection, what she felt about the National Trust refusing to install bins in their car parks. Councillor Rich felt that the answer that not a lot could be done was not satisfactory, and he intended to have a second conversation with Councillor James to point out he felt this was a neglect of duty. He commented that the National Trust had managed to install parking machines in its carparks but as there was no legal order for enforcing a parking policy, charges could not be upheld.

Councillor Rich added that he has spoken to Paul Masters, Strategic Director for Neighbourhoods, who would be perusing these issues and would contact the National Trust and report back.

(viii) Section 106 Monies

Councillor Biscoe asked Councillor Rich whether he knew what the grand total of the 106 monies attributed to Cornwall was, and how this could be accessed. Councillor Rich explained the total was in the region of nineteen million pounds, however not all of this could be accessed because Section 106 money had strict guidelines attached,

and if the condition was it had to be spent in a specific area then Cornwall Council was unable to access it for use elsewhere.

300 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no matters raised.

301 MINUTES

The minutes of the Confidential Minute (tabled) of Council held 10 December 2018, having been previously circulated, and written for information purposes only for future consideration of the item (Arts and Culture Hub, Minute 262, page 131) were proposed by Councillor Ellis, seconded by Councillor Smith, taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following minor corrections and comments:

Page. 3 – Councillor Biscoe wasn't sure the last resolution made sense in context of the minutes. Councillor Wells pointed out the resolution was based on the correction of the previous resolution at the start of the minute and therefore did read correctly. The Town Clerk reminded Members the minute was tabled for consideration of accuracy only.

The minutes of Council held 10 December 2018, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following minor corrections and comments:

Page. 140 (Minute 274) – Councillor Mrs Carlyon asked the Mayor whether the letter regarding the request for the anaerobic digester in Cornwall had been written. The Mayor responded that new information had come to light in a meeting with the Town Clerk and Cornwall Council waste management officers that there were two anaerobic digestors just over the border in Devon that would be dealing with household food waste. Therefore, the letter no longer needed to be sent.

Page. 145 (Minute 281) – Mrs Neale commented she had attended the location summit with Councillor Mrs Nolan and that she was the person who had asked the Town Clerk to obtain booklets on the devolution of libraries to circulate, not Councillor Mrs Nolan.

302 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to her written report (tabled), the Mayor reported the following:

(i) Social Prescribing

The Mayor asked if any Councillors wished to be part of an informal working group relating to social prescribing to please let her know. A meeting would be arranged for 20 March 2019, most likely in the Mayor's Parlour.

Councillor Mrs Neale showed Members a poster that had been displayed at Truro Health Park, Infirmary Hill, that advertised the services of a social prescriber at the practice and asked if this was linked with the social prescribing that Truro City Council had helped fund.

Councillor Biscoe left the room at 7:35pm.

The Town Clerk explained that Cornwall had been awarded some grant monies to expand social prescribing in Cornwall, and eight staff had been appointed, one of which was based in Truro at the Health Park. There was no overlap between this provision, as the work consisted of GP referrals, and the social prescribing partially-funded by Truro City Council, which was based in the community.

Councillor Biscoe re-joined the meeting at 7:38pm.

During further discussion on social prescribing, where Councillors Mrs Neale and Mrs Carlyon commented they did not fully understand its function, the Town Clerk explained that the Community Navigator appointed for the role that the City Council had partially funded would attend a future meeting of Truro City Council once she was more established in her role.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells commented that social prescribing was proving to be valuable work, and he was aware of members of the public in the community who had benefitted positively by the initiative. Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells added he hoped when the Community Navigator attended a meeting, it would be at Finance and General Purposes Committee, and all Councillors would be welcome to attend.

Councillor Smith added that the idea of social prescribing was in its early stages and there were various representatives around the country where social prescribing was having a massive impact on people's lives. Councillor Smith was including social prescribing within the Cultural Strategy to encourage integration with the community.

Councillor Allen and the Mayor both gave anecdotal stories about gentlemen they had encountered who had been helped by social prescribing, and Councillor Webb added that he was proud to say the City Council had been involved in social prescribing at a very early stage, urging Councillors who might be sceptical to give it more time.

(ii) Devolution of the Library

The Mayor wished to extend her thanks to the trustees of Truro Community Library, in particular Councillor Mrs Carlyon and Mr David Flexman, for their hard work on the devolution of the library.

(iii) Truro Rifles – Freedom of the City

The Mayor informed Members that Truro Rifles (formerly known as the Cornwall Light Infantry) would be exercising their right of freedom of the City and parading through Truro (to be followed by a formal ceremony) on Saturday 27 April 2019.

(iv) City Clean-up

The Mayor informed Members there would be a clean-up around the City on the 16th, 17th and 18th of April and asked for any volunteers to help support the community groups with their litter picks and aspects of health and safety to please contact her direct.

(v) Coffee Morning – Lifehouse Project

The Mayor mentioned there would be a coffee morning the following Saturday in the Mayor's Parlour to raise money for the Lifehouse Project at All Saints Church, Highertown, and she would be grateful to any Councillor who wished to bake a cake.

303 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Minutes of the Meetings of the under-mentioned Committees were approved and adopted by the Council, except where otherwise stated:-

MEETING OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE

3 JANUARY 2019

Proposed by Councillor Vella, seconded by Councillor Webb

- a) Chairman's Report – 79 Lemon Street (PA18/11650 & PA18/11651) (Minute 287, Page 148)

Councillor Biscoe questioned the wording of the item and wondered why a vote had been taken but a recommendation had not been made.

The Town Clerk responded that though he had not been at this meeting, it was in his understanding from reading the minutes that the Chairman had requested views of Members on the item, but as the item was not on the agenda, it would be determined under delegated powers by the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, hence why there was no formal recommendation.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells concurred with the above and it was agreed this would be made a little clearer in the minutes.

MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE 7 JANUARY 2019
Proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Mrs Callen

- a) **Trafalgar Roundabout – Waterloo Bank** (Minute 290, Page 150)
Councillor Biscoe asked that the last sentence of the first paragraph be reworded to read “A group of Breton visitors” (as opposed to “French”). It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe, seconded by Councillor Rich and

RESOLVED that “French” be reworded to read “Breton” in Minute 290, page 150.

- b) **Estimates 2019/202** (Minute 291, Page 152)
Councillor Mrs Carlyon felt the penultimate paragraph on page 152 was not clear. It was suggested that the final sentence read that “...the forthcoming abolition of business rates payable on public conveniences in 2020-21 would be considered at the next Estimates meeting in 2020” (as opposed to “*should* be considered”).

Councillor Allen added that the final paragraph on page 152 should be reworded to read “In response to a concern about the limited bicycle storage in the City Centre” (as opposed to “*complaint*”).

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE
18 JANUARY 2019

Proposed by Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Mrs Callen with the following amendments as outlined below:

- a) **Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer’s Report – Draft Estimates 2019/2020** (Minute 294, Page 155)

Councillor Mrs Carlyon did not feel that the penultimate paragraph on page 155 was what she had said. She wished for the paragraph to be amended to read as follows:

“Councillor Mrs Carlyon expressed concern as to the level of progress the City Council was making with the Neighbourhood Plan because in the future the City Council would be involved in the formal Council decision-making process in matters affecting the City of Truro.”

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells agreed to accept the amendment as part of the proposal, but commented he agreed with the comment that it was aspirational.

- b) **Library Service Devolution** (Minute 295, Page 158)
Councillor Mrs Neale commented that she had concerns that this item was tabled at the Finance & General Purposes Committee as it was an important step in the decision-making process, and there were financial implications due to Cornwall Council changing their mind regarding the service. Councillor Mrs Neale hoped this would appear as a separate item on the agenda for a future meeting of Council.

Members briefly discussed the nature of the training of the library staff and that they were trained to be able to also work in the One Stop shops. The Town Clerk confirmed this to be the case but that this would cease if the City Council came to an agreement in relation to the takeover of the Library staff. He had been told not to speak to the staff at present as they were currently in a consultation period, but that he would be having an informal meeting with them about this in a couple of weeks. The Town Clerk also confirmed he did not have any transfer details as he had not seen the original service level agreement yet. It was also mentioned that a fire report was forthcoming, after which fire regulations could be considered.

Following a question regarding the current status of the building devolution, the Town Clerk confirmed he had a meeting with the trustees the previous week, but it had been frustrating that there was no representative of Cornwall Council's property department in attendance. The Town Clerk also confirmed the City Council's solicitor did not feel there was anything contentious in the legal agreement, and that the trustees had agreed some terms of transfer at the meeting, with required repairs being the main issue of contention.

Members discussed the nature of taking on the library staff and Councillor Webb pointed out that it was likely the staff were worried about their jobs and it was important to give reassurance as soon as the Town Clerk was able to. Councillor Biscoe asked about the structure of staffing once the City Council had taken over the library staff, and the Town Clerk responded the manager of the library staff would report directly to him, but that they would be subject to transfer regulations that secured their current terms and conditions. The Town Clerk also confirmed the manager of the library staff would become involved in the corporate life of the Council in the same way managers of other areas were. Regarding training of new library staff, the Town Clerk commented that Cornwall Council would do this under the service level agreement, and that the City Council's obligation was simply to release staff from the work place to undertake their training when required.

304 Precept Resolution 2019-2020

(Appendix A)

The Town Clerk drew Members' attention to his report, including recommendations from the Finance & General Purposes and the Parks & Amenities committees. On page 13 of his report the resolutions could be found, and on page 14 a summary of expenditure.

It was proposed by Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells, seconded by Councillor Smith that it be

RESOLVED that the resolutions, as set out on page 13 of the Estimates Report 2019-2020 (as below) be adopted:

- 1) agreement to the Corporate Mission Statement and Objectives;
- 2) that the Council agree the Action Plan
- 3) that the revised estimate for 2018-19 is approved
- 4) that the estimates for 2019-2020 are approved
- 5) that the precept is set at £1,742,934 for 2019-2020
- 6) that the financial forecasts for 2020-2021 and 2021-22 are agreed in principle.

Prior to the vote being taken on the above item, Councillor Mrs Carlyon raised a concern about whether the City Council was being overstretched, and cited the recent employment of a number of staff in different areas of the City Council; she felt more structure was needed to control ongoing expenditure, and also asked whether the new members of staff were in the pension scheme.

The Town Clerk confirmed that, by law, all staff were invited to participate in the pension scheme if they wished, which included part-time staff. It was also pointed out by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons that all recruiting was passed by the relevant

committee prior to being ratified at Council, and that in many cases, the hiring of staff instead of contracting work out had made significant savings for the City Council. Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons also commented that in relation to progress on Idless Nursery, the Parks & Amenities Manager would provide an update upon request, and periodically this was taken to the Parks & Amenities Committee for information. Councillor Biscoe asked if the Parks & Amenities Manager could provide a written update for all Members, adding he was satisfied the Town Clerk provided the correct figures to underpin decision-making on new staff.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells commented the point of the committee system at Truro City Council allowed for free discussion of relevant items at respective committees, the result from which was then passed through Council. This included discussion on items for Estimates, which allowed for more time to be spent on relevant matters.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon wished for her name to be recorded as having voted against the above resolution.

305 2019 Off-Street Parking Order

The Town Clerk reported on an Off-Street Parking Order consultation, and that there was a short date for response of 1 February 2019 (which Councillor Biscoe explained was due to the limited date for Cornwall Council to set its budget), and therefore requested that any Member who wished to be involved or to comment to please attend an informal meeting in his office at 2pm on Wednesday 30 January 2019. If a Member could not attend this meeting, then emailing comments direct to the Town Clerk prior to this meeting would also be acceptable.

Members briefly discussed the above, with comments seeking clarification on whether tariffs would remain the same for the pay-on-exit car park initiative, why some free parking started at 4pm and some at 5pm, and whether pay-on-exit still required payment across increments (for example, per half hour of stay) or the exact time a car was parked for.

306 Climate Change – Declaring a Climate Emergency

The Mayor reported that following Cornwall Council's decision on 22 January 2019 to declare a Climate Emergency, she felt this should be discussed in depth at the next meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, with the possibility of setting up a working group. The Town Clerk noted the minutes of Cornwall Council had not yet been published but referred Members to the tabled proposed recommendation from Cornwall Council.

It was proposed by the Mayor, seconded by Councillor Roden and

RESOLVED that an item to discuss climate change be placed on the next agenda for the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Members also wished for it to be recorded that they welcomed and congratulated Cornwall Council on their decision to declare a Climate Emergency.

Councillor Biscoe commented that if a working group was formed then it should include a broad range of people and be constituted to allow members of the public to attend and participate, as every person needs to take responsibility for climate change. Councillor Smith added that it was an ideal time to engage with younger people of Truro.

307 Correspondence

Pedestrianisation of Boscawen Street

The Town Clerk reported a letter he had received from a member of the public who was also active in numerous community events and groups across the City. The letter outlined a case for pedestrianising Boscawen Street to both make moving around the City easier and to preserve the state of the cobblestones which were once again being repaired.

The Town Clerk commented he had written to a representative from the Highways department at Cornwall Council, who advised that there was a case to be put forward to prevent cars from using Boscawen Street, but as with Exeter City, to allow buses and taxis to still utilise the streets.

It was therefore proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by the Mayor that it be

RESOLVED that an item be placed on the agenda for the next meeting of the Planning Committee for Members to discuss the potential pedestrianisation of Boscawen Street.

Relating to members of the public being able to contact Councillors (following the letter above which was addressed to all Councillors), it was mentioned that not all Councillor emails were correct on the website. The Town Clerk would check and email Members to seek permission to publish their email addresses. Councillors Mrs Neale and Mrs Swain both asked for their emails to go on the website.

308 TRURO ROSELAND COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL (F20)

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells reported the next meeting of the Network Panel would take place the following day at 7pm at County Hall. A presentation on Winter Wellness was on the agenda, as well as littering concerns, particularly over the Roseland.

309 REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Councillor Roden reported he and Councillor Mrs Carlyon attended a Larger Councils meeting where there was a talk from Professor Jane Wills from Locality about the impact on parish councils. Subsequently, Professor Wills had been invited to visit Truro City Council on Tuesday 5 February at 2pm. Councillors would be able to speak to Professor Wills about devolving services from Cornwall Council.

Councillor Biscoe reported he had received an email regarding the maritime railway line to report that there had been a derailment on the Truro to Falmouth branch line, near to Penryn. Nobody had been hurt but an investigation was underway. The branch line would be closed for two or three days and a bus replacement service would be in operation.

310 COMMON SEAL

RESOLVED that the Common Seal be affixed to any document or documents necessary to give effect to the resolutions passed by the Council at this Meeting.

The meeting closed at 8:30 pm.

MAYOR