

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 25 FEBRUARY 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 Carlyon, Mrs Cox, Mrs Eathorne-  
Gibbons, Ellis, Mrs Neale, Nolan, Mrs Nolan, Rich, Roden, Smith, Mrs Stokes,  
Mrs Swain, Tamblyn, Vella, Webb and Wilson.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs Callen, Miss Jones and  
Mrs Tudor

Also in Attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk  
David Harris CC  
Isabelle Risner, Parks and Amenities Assistant,  
Nikki Santomalazza, Administrative Assistant. And  
Taren-Lee Corin, Events Co-Ordinator

Mr Peter Bailey and Ms Sarah Douglas-Martin along with a  
third member of the public.

**PRAYERS**

Prior to the formal business of the Council, as the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend  
Jeremy Putnam said prayers.

**345 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

**Town Clerk's Report (Minute 305)**

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

**246 CORNWALL COUNCIL (F1)**

**(i) Residents Parking Zones**

Councillor Harris CC reported that the implementation of the residents parking zones  
had been moved from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2019 to 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019.

**(ii) Cycle Zones**

Councillor Rich CC commented he had attended a meeting at the Knowledge Spa  
with Mr Nigel Blacker, Service Director for Transport and Infrastructure, about a cycle  
zones initiative in Cornwall that would receive significant funding from the  
Department of Transportation. There were various suggested cycle zone schemes,  
including one from the A30 to Carnon Cross, to turn the Perranporth to Newquay part  
of the Newquay branch line into a cycle lane, and two other schemes.

Councillor Rich felt the investment was good as it encouraged people to use  
alternative forms of transportation instead of cars, however despite the significant  
need for investment in cycle ways in and around Truro as proven by the Truro Loops  
Project, none of the money invested in the initiative would be used in Truro, which  
was very disappointing. Councillor Rich added he would be meeting with Mr Blacker  
later that week to further discuss his concerns.

Councillor Roden spoke briefly about the lack of cycle racks within Truro and  
mentioned a scheme where a cyclist could feed money in a specially designed  
storage area and store their bike for as long as they wished, which he felt would be a  
useful addition to Truro.

Councillor Biscoe CC commented that he did not support changing part of the branch  
line into a cycle way, and he would be writing to the Highways Department in  
objection as he felt that the branch line could be useful in the future.

**(iii) Cornwall Council – Changes to the Planning Department**

Councillor Nolan CC spoke about the imminent changes to the Planning Department, and that there would be a dedicated team for each area, with the same Planning Officers in order to build up a knowledge base of both the area and the policies relating to it, such as Neighbourhood Plans.

**(iv) Affordable Housing**

Councillor Nolan CC commented that Cornwall Council had been announced as the number one provider of affordable housing in the country. Councillor Nolan CC had seconded Councillor Tudor CC's proposal regarding modifications to the Langarth development and the creation of a Stakeholder group (also see Minute 299 of Council, 28.01.19). At the first meeting, which had recently taken place, Councillor Tudor CC had been elected as Chairman for the group, and she would report back to Truro City Council on a regular basis.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon asked whether there was a business plan for Langarth. Councillor Nolan responded there wasn't, but instead a masterplan would be produced in due course.

**(v) Boscawen Street**

Councillor Biscoe CC commented that Mr Kevin Bryant, Head of Highways and Infrastructure at Cornwall Council, was anxious to know when the cobbles in Boscawen Street would be replaced, and also to determine the methods used so that in the future he would be aware of the involvement required to make any repairs, and to hopefully avoid any further instances of subsidence such as that which had occurred outside of Barclays Bank.

Councillor Biscoe CC added that the repairs were taking time because of the amount of research going into the repair works, and that he was hoping the Highway Engineer would be able to attend a meeting of Council to discuss the works.

**(vi) "The One" – Integrated Public Transport System in Cornwall**

Councillor Biscoe CC spoke about "The One" – the proposed integrated public transport system for Cornwall that would link bus and rail travel, with one timetable showcasing both forms of travel, and one ticket. There would also be a half-hour shuttle train between Penzance and Plymouth that was due to be implemented in December. Councillor Biscoe CC commented that despite the widespread impact the initiative would have, very few people were aware of it.

**(iii) Higher Newham Farm Proposal (PA19/01094)**

Councillor Biscoe CC informed Members he met with a representative of the Higher Newham Farm proposal and confirmed it was his understanding that permission was being sought for the application to keep consent "live", but the current proposal was not likely to be implemented. Councillor Biscoe CC felt housing was better placed along the estuary and that water transportation could feature, however access should be via Higher Newham Lane or Newham Road.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon agreed with Councillor Allen's comments that it was unacceptable to install traffic lights across Morlaix Avenue, and that visibility in high sunlight was very difficult in that area. Councillor Biscoe CC added that he felt it was a mistake that Cornwall Council's Highways allowed for this to be passed as access onto that road was incredibly difficult.

**(iv) High Cross**

Councillor Rich CC asked Councillor Biscoe CC if he had an update on the accident that had taken place at High Cross and had significantly damaged an ancient monumental cross. Councillor Biscoe CC responded that the people involved in the

accident were okay, but that the cross would need substantial repair work. It was also felt protective measures for the future of the cross should be put in place once it was back in situ. Though it was hoped the repairs would take place quickly, it was felt it may take longer due to procedures relating to the insurance company of the driver who had the accident.

Councillor Biscoe CC added that Ann Reynolds, Senior Archaeologist for the Historic Environment, Strategic Environment Service at Cornwall Council, who attended the accident to assess the removal of the damaged cross, had informed him what a wonderful, careful job staff from the Parks Department had done in the removal of the cross for safe-keeping until it could be repaired. Councillor Biscoe CC formally thanked the Parks Department for their speedy response.

Councillor Smith (Deputy Mayor) asked whether historical monuments in Truro had separate insurance. Councillor Biscoe CC responded it was uncertain who owned the cross, which he believed was dug up during road works in the 1960s and was subsequently attached to a plinth and displayed in the 1980s. Councillor Biscoe CC was unsure if there were other scheduled monuments – possibly just the Lander monument. The Town Clerk confirmed Cornwall Council Highways had taken ownership of the repairs to the cross.

**347 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO**

There were no matters raised.

**348 MINUTES**

The minutes of Council held 28 January 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**349 MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

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

**(i) Truro Loops Walk**

The Mayor informed Members she had attended a walk with Truro Loops, that was very well organised and worth doing if another chance arose.

**(ii) Moorfield Carpark**

The Mayor commented that some Councillors may already be aware that there was increased concern regarding street drinking in Truro. Truro City Council's Compliance Officer, Ms Kate Bell, had made the decision to temporarily close the public conveniences at Moorfield Carpark due to the street drinking in the area and staff being targeted. Zoe Wonnacott, the Community Safe Officer, later asked for the public conveniences to be reopened. However, Ms Bell still did not feel that the area was sufficiently safe to allow for this.

The Mayor commented that the Town Clerk and the Truro BID Manager had contacted Inspector Rick Milburn to request a multi-agency meeting to tackle the problem with Street Drinking. However, Inspector Milburn had responded that he did not have time at present, adding that he was unable to put more police in place in Truro as it would leave rural areas at a shortfall.

In addition, there had been miscommunication regarding the Street Drinking and making police reports – the Mayor commented The Cornish Food Box Company had been told not to report incidents, but then when speaking to the police, the Mayor was informed that Street Drinking was not deemed problematic as there had been very few reports. The Mayor added that retailers had no problem with the homeless in the City as they were not causing the problems, and there was concern that the issue with Street Drinking would cause backlash on the homeless. Honorary

Freeman Councillor Wells directed Members' attention to the recommendation of Minute 322, page 177 of the Parks and Amenities Committee meeting held on 11 February 2019, suggesting that the above concerns regarding miscommunication could be raised within the letter.

Councillor Biscoe commented that matters now seemed to be in hand with Zoe Wonnacott, and formal thanks were given to Ms Kate Bell for taking control and continuing to monitor it, in a potentially dangerous situation.

Councillor Tamblin mentioned he had spoken to one of the street cleaners from Biffa who had just spent half an hour cleaning up human excrement from Robert's Ope and he said that this was a regular occurrence. As the street cleaners started work at 5:30am, often the worst had been cleaned by the time early morning commuters had entered the City Centre.

Councillor Smith agreed it was a major problem and that if Truro was going to be properly looked after and developed to attract visitors, then it was imperative the street drinking was tackled. Councillor Smith added that moving the street drinkers only drove the issue to different parts of the county and there needed to be a county-wide initiative to properly address the issue.

### 350 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 7 FEBRUARY 2019  
Proposed by Councillor Vella, seconded by Councillor Webb

MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE 11 FEBRUARY 2019  
Proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Mrs Nolan

- a) **Boscawen Park and the Swanpool** (Minute 326 (i) Swanpool, Page 178)  
Councillor Mrs Carlyon asked why the dredging of Swanpool was taking place. Councillor Ms Southcombe (the Mayor) explained that due to the accumulation of silt, Swanpool was now very shallow. Councillor Biscoe added this had been done before, many years previous.
- b) **Bicycle Racks in Truro** (Minute 323, Page 177)  
Councillor Allen commented there were two abandoned bicycles outside of Marks and Spencer, and another two outside of Truro Public Library. Councillor Allen commented she had sought advice from Cornwall Council's Highways Department as to how to deal with the bicycles and was advised a notice be placed on the bikes advising of their removal if they had not been collected within a certain number of days. Cormac would remove the bikes on Truro City Council's behalf once the notice period had expired.

Councillor Allen commented she was happy to proceed with this in liaison with the General Office (for the notices) subject to there being no disagreement from Members, which there was not.

- c) **Idless Nursery** (Minute 329, Page 180)  
Councillor Mrs Carlyon asked for an update on the progress at the nursery, commenting that each time she asked for one she was told one would be forthcoming. Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons pointed out a request (as outlined in the above minute) had been made for the Parks Manager to send a copy of the progress report to Councillor Mrs Carlyon, and for a copy of the completed project

timeline to be circulated to all Councillors for information. Once the above minutes had been ratified by Council (this meeting), this could be actioned.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

18 FEBRUARY 2019

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

a) **Town Clerk/Responsible Financial Officer's Report – Management Accounts 2018/2019** (Minute 336, Page 183)

Councillor Mrs Stokes commented that the second paragraph of the page should read as follows:

*“Councillor Mrs Stokes requested information relating to the new NHS GP contract as the cost for the appointment of a Social Prescriber will now be included in the fee paid to GP's, will this affect the amount that we pay for the Social Prescriber...”*

b) **Declaring a Climate Emergency** (Minute 343, Page 187)

Councillor Mrs Neale commented that while she felt Members of the Finance & General Purposes Committee agreed with the general spirit of the letter that had been drafted to send to the leader of Cornwall Council, the actual wording had not been agreed and she had expected to see a final draft which could then be agreed by Members.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells pointed out the amended draft was attached with the Council agenda and Members could make additional comments if they wished to. Councillor Mrs Neale looked at the letter and commented she was not happy with the reference to Cornwall Citizens Assembly and whilst she recognised there was no direct reference to supporting the formation of a Citizens Assembly, the tone of the letter implied it was felt to be a good idea.

Further to the above, Councillor Mrs Neale, acknowledging that she did not request her name be recorded at the meeting of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, requested that her name be recorded in these minutes that she did not vote for the recommendation to the above minute.

Councillor Biscoe commented on part two of the recommendation that referenced the formation of a steering group and wondered if persons other than Councillors could be invited to meetings. The Town Clerk commented this was discussed at the meeting, and this was a possibility.

**351 Selection of Mayor and Deputy Mayor 2019/2020 in accordance with Procedural Guidance**

**(i) Mayor Elect 2019-2020**

The Town Clerk explained the Mayoral Selection process in accordance with Procedural Guidance and called for a proposer and seconder in respect of the nomination of Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Municipal Year. It was proposed by Councillor Rich and seconded by Councillor Mrs Cox that the present Deputy Mayor, Councillor Bob Smith, be nominated.

The Council then proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, as a result of which Councillor Smith was duly elected with a unanimous vote of twenty-one for.

Councillor Mrs Butler left the meeting at 7:53pm.

Councillor Smith thanked members of the Council for their support and electing him to serve as Mayor.

**(ii) Deputy Mayor Elect 2019-2020 (F6/4)**

Members were informed the most senior Councillor who had agreed for his name to go forward for nomination of Deputy Mayor was Councillor Biscoe.

The Town Clerk then called for a proposer and seconder in respect of the nomination for Deputy Mayor Elect for the forthcoming Municipal Year. It was proposed by Councillor Mrs Carlyon and seconded by Councillor Tamblyn that Councillor Biscoe be nominated.

The Council then proceeded to vote, by secret ballot, as a result of which Councillor Biscoe was duly elected by a vote of nineteen for, with one against.

Councillor Biscoe thanked members for their confidence and electing him to serve as Deputy Mayor.

It was therefore proposed by the Mayor that it be

**RESOLVED** that

- (a) Councillor Smith be invited to accept the office of Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal year 2019-2020;
- (b) Councillor Biscoe be invited to accept the office of Deputy Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal Year 2019-2020.

**352 Town Clerk's Report**

**(Appendix A)**

In addition to the Town Clerk's Report (Appendix A), the Town Clerk informed Members he attended a meeting at the end of the previous week along with Councillor Mrs Carlyon, as a Trustee of Truro Community Library, and with Cornwall Council. It was discussed that the goal was to transfer the building and the staff and library service to the City Council at the end of May 2019.

Councillor Vella asked the Town Clerk whether he had received any updates on the Hall for Cornwall development from Julien Boast regarding the access into the Municipal Buildings upon the City Council's return, and whether crossing a "busy bar" to get in, as well as the loss of the ceremonial arch was acceptable. The Town Clerk confirmed he had not received a response to date, but he would chase this up.

**353 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**354 TRURO ROSELAND COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL (F20)**

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells reported the last meeting of the Network Panel took place on 29 January 2019, and there was a presentation regarding Winter Wellness. Residents were able to apply for assistance if they did not have income for central heating. Julian German CC also spoke about the Litterless Cornwall campaign, and issues with fly tipping in Cornwall, particularly on the Roseland. There was also a discussion regarding non-authorised motor vehicles parking on public rights of way, which was a issue in Feock parish.

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells also pointed out there had been a first allocation of funding for the "Strengthening Community Networks Project" to Veryan Parish Council.

The next meeting of the Network Panel would take place on 19 March at 7pm at County Hall.

**355 REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED**

Councillor Roden reported he had attended a National Association of Local Councils (NALC) conference on 11 February, and he would write a report to circulate to Members via email. A review of the Standards Regime was discussed, with the suggestion serial offenders may be subject to a sanction suspending them from being a Councillor for up to six months. However, for this to take place, Parliament would need to approve a change to legislation.

The Mayor reported she had been to a presentation of Cornwall Plastic Pollution, which she felt was excellent, as it brought together all the hard work being undertaken by various agencies in Cornwall at present.

Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) reported he attended the first meeting of the Langarth Stakeholder Group, chaired by Adam Burchill and John Gregson. The first meeting dealt with general strategy and the organisation of the group, as well as determining the weight the group would hold in responding to the development. It was explained the group would act in an advisory capacity and could influence Cornwall Council's Planning Committee. Councillor Smith commented that Adam Burchill had assured the group their opinions would be considered.

Councillor Tamblyn advised Members of the sad news of Father Ken Roger's passing. His funeral would take place next Monday at Truro Cathedral at 11am, with Requiem Mass.

**356 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 8:10 pm.

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MAYOR