

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON
MONDAY 29 APRIL 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, Roden, Smith, Mrs Swain, Mrs Tudor, Vella, Webb
and Wilson.

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

An apology for absence was also submitted by Reverend Jeremy Putnam, the
Mayor's Chaplain

Also in Attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk
David Harris CC
Deacon Haley Preston (Highertown and Baldhu)
A member of the electorate

PRAYERS

Prior to the formal business of the Council, as the Mayor's Chaplain, the Reverend
Jeremy Putnam had tendered his apologies for the meeting, Deacon Haley Preston
(Highertown and Baldhu) said prayers.

Councillor Vella joined the meeting at 7:03pm.

420 PRESENTATION – His Honour, Judge Simon Carr

His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, Honorary Recorder for Truro City Council, gave
Councillors a presentation on the role of the Honorary Recorder and how it fits with
the function of the City Council, making the following points:

History

His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, thanked the City Council for appointing him in the
role of Honorary Recorder, and expressed what an honour it was.

Until 1971, Justice Judges would travel down from London, then Honorary Recorders
were nominated to all major cities to preside over cases when High Court Judges
were unable to. In the last twenty years, most High Courts in England have appointed
Honorary Recorders, with Truro the last tier one court to appoint an Honorary
Recorder, to keep with tradition. The role of Honorary Recorder is now purely an
honorary role with no legal function.

Relationship with Truro City Council

His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, explained he had been a judge for ten years, and he
felt there was often confusion from the community the law serves as to what
decisions are made and why, which he felt was similar to how councils are viewed. It
was also important to increase the link between the courts and the community where
possible. Frequently, the public had questions about the justice system, both civic
and criminal, and His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, was happy for Councillors to have
his email address in case they had any queries directed their way.

Educational Programmes

There was a strong schools programme run through the courts, where children could
visit the court and ask questions about the justice system. In addition, twice a month,
His Honour, Judge Simon Carr visited schools to talk about the work of the courts,
and he was open to suggestions of ways to increase this.

The Law Court

His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, spoke briefly about the building, explaining there were less than thirty Grade II* Listed Buildings in the country, and that the architecture inside the building was extraordinary. It was understood the grass to the right of the courts was where Truro Castle had been, and it was apparently kept clear for any future archaeological exploration that may be undertaken. Tours were available by appointment.

It was also noted the court was the only Crown Court that had witness dogs to help people feel comfortable giving evidence, and one of the dogs would always be at the court upon arrival. In addition, the Crown Court was one of the last in the country to have a dedicated Court Reporter.

Community Impact Statements

Though badly publicised, it was also important for Councillors to note it was possible, when a case is being sentenced, for a statement to be submitted for consideration that outlines how the crime has impacted the community. The statement would need to be for a specific crime, not a general statement for a type of crime.

Questions & Answers

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells thanked His Honour, Judge Simon Carr for taking the time to speak to Council, adding he had learned more about the role than he knew previously. Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells had been Chairman of the City Council's Planning Committee when the Crown Courts first opened, and he nominated the building for an architectural award, which it won. Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells asked how a Community Impact Statement could be initiated and it was explained the best way to do this would be to liaise with the local police in the first instance.

Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect) expressed his gratitude for the presentation and spoke briefly about a book, *Five Nations*, that included a photograph of the Listed Courts, adding County Hall was another example of a Grade II* Listed Building in Truro. Councillor Biscoe spoke about stannary courts, and asked, if a situation called for it, whether His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, would be willing to sit on a stannary court. The response was the Ministry of Justice would need to be contacted to determine the appropriateness of this.

Councillor Mrs Carlyon recalled she was Mayor of Truro when the courts opened, and queried the maintenance of the building and equipment, adding she was happy to write to appropriate persons to request maintenance works if required. His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, responded there was work that needed to be done and he would email with the relevant contact details. There was a pot of money being made available from the sale of courts across the country, but Truro Crown Court was considered one of the better maintained courts and therefore it may be a while before permission for maintenance works was granted. Following another question regarding heating by Councillor Webb, His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, responded the heating was still tumultuous at best.

Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons enquired about the possibility of meeting with a law student, and His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, responded he mentored twenty students per year at present, and though he found it frequently more productive to meet with younger students who had yet to make up their minds about the direction of their study, if the law student in question emailed him then he would be happy to arrange a meeting.

Councillor Ms Southcombe (The Mayor) thanked His Honour, Judge Simon Carr, for attending the meeting, of which he left at 7:25pm.

421 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS

Town Clerk's Report (Minute 427)

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

422 CORNWALL COUNCIL (F1)

(i) Parking Zones and Parking Permits

Councillor Harris CC informed Members the new permits and zones would come into effect from today, but enforcements would not be in place until all of the permits had been issued, which was predicted to be another couple of weeks.

(ii) Informal Investment Panel, Cornwall Council

Councillor Harris CC commented that an informal investment panel had been set up to discuss the loan investment programme and that he was one of the eight members.

(iii) Park & Ride Multi-Day Ticket Price Increases

Councillor Mrs Swain asked Councillor Harris CC if he knew why the decision had been made to increase the price of the multi-day tickets for the Park & Ride.

Councillor Mrs Swain felt this was counterproductive to the goal of decreasing the amount of car journeys, both for congestion and environmental reasons, particularly in light of Cornwall Council recently declaring a Climate Emergency. Councillor Harris CC asked Councillor Mrs Swain to email Geoff Brown, Portfolio Holder for Transport, but to copy him into the email in order to chase it up.

(iv) Boscawen Street Cobble Repair – Road Closure

Councillor Biscoe CC commented that Boscawen Street would be closed for two weeks to enable repairs to the cobbles to take place. The taxi rank would stay open.

(v) Pydar Street Development

Councillor Biscoe CC spoke briefly about the progress of consultation events relating to the Pydar Street Development, which were being run by Rachael Gaunt. The general feeling from members of the public seemed to be that reinstating town centre housing at this site would be a good idea. Proposals were likely to emerge by the summer, with firm plans in the autumn.

(vi) Unmet Demand Survey

Councillor Biscoe CC spoke about the unmet demand survey for Hackney Carriages, the result of which was that there was no unmet demand and therefore the same number of permits as last year would be issued for the next three.

Councillor Biscoe CC also commented the taxi companies had to pay for the unmet demand survey to be conducted, which he felt was unjust, but it did allow for the traders to set the parameters of the study, and they have since been more involved in the process, including participation in discussions as to the validity of the survey results, which were ultimately accepted.

423 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO

There were no matters raised.

424 MINUTES

The minutes of Council held 25 March 2019, having been previously circulated, were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record with the following corrections or comments:

(i) The One Public Transportation System in Cornwall.

Councillor Biscoe commented the timetable for “The One Public Transportation System in Cornwall” would include seven extra services to meet the promise of half hour services from Penzance to Plymouth. This was due to start in May with clock-face shuttle trains running from December. Alterations to timetables to link the buses and trains, as well as the new tickets and the route network would also come into effect from December, which was disappointing.

(ii) Letter to the Police and Crime Commissioner

Councillor Webb asked the Town Clerk whether he had received any additional response from Superintendent Sarah Crane. The Town Clerk responded he had not, but he had received a letter from Mark Bolt, Temporary Superintendent to Local Policing West Cornwall, regarding street drinking and anti-social behaviour, which he read out. In addition, a letter had also been received from Alison Hernandez, the Police and Crime Commissioner for Devon, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly on the same issue. This had been circulated via email prior to the meeting but could be re-circulated upon request.

(ii) Beechwood Parc

Councillor Mrs Swain asked if any progress had been made on the Section 106 monies for Beechwood Parc. The Town Clerk confirmed the monies had not yet been received, however he was aware of a small strip of ground on the site owned by a different developer and there was potential for asking for it to be transferred into the ownership of Truro City Council.

(iii) Langarth Stakeholder Group

Councillor Mrs Carlyon was now receiving correspondence regarding Truro and Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan meetings but had not received any regarding the Langarth Stakeholder Group. Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) promised to speak to Councillor Mrs Tudor CC regarding this.

425 MAYOR’S COMMUNICATIONS

In addition to her written report (tabled), the Mayor reported the following, with the acknowledgement of a correction that in the first paragraph it should read that Councillor Webb was the Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee:

(i) Freedom of the City – The Rifles

The Mayor informed Members she had attended the Rifles’ expression of their freedom of the city parade, which went very well. In particular, the Mayor felt the band was excellent.

(ii) Beating of the Bounds

The Mayor attended the Beating of the Bounds, and also with the Deputy Mayoress Elect, Mrs Sue Biscoe, was one of five who did the entire walk. It was a very pleasant event, though despite all the schools being contacted, unfortunately no children attended the event.

(iii) Health & Wellbeing

The Mayor commented that further to the informal meeting regarding health and wellbeing that she had with the Town Clerk and Councillor Roden, the subject would be discussed in more depth as part of both the Langarth Stakeholder Group and the Truro & Kenwyn Neighbourhood Plan revision. The Town Clerk added he was hoping to hold a meeting on 23 May in the afternoon, though this would be confirmed later, and various representatives from the health and social care sector would be invited.

(iv) The Funeral of Chris Mason, Former Mayor of Truro

Councillor Roden reported he and Councillor Rich attended Chris Mason's funeral to represent Truro City Council.

(v) The Mayor's Written Report

Members discussed how much they enjoyed the written Mayoral report and agreed it should be uploaded to both the Truro City Council website and Facebook pages.

Councillor Harris CC left the meeting at 7:43pm.

426 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

4 APRIL 2019

Proposed by Councillor Vella, seconded by Councillor Webb

MEETING OF THE PARKS AND AMENITIES COMMITTEE

8 MARCH 2019

Proposed by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, seconded by Councillor Smith

a) Boscawen Park & The Swanpool (Minute 405 (i), page 219)

Tennis Project – Stage 2 – Tennis Pavilion

Councillor Mrs Carlyon commented it was not clear what was happening with the sewage in relation to the tennis project and wondered what the cost would be as she did not think this was in the original Estimates. The Town Clerk confirmed that four years ago a pump had been installed to adjacent to the Boscawen Park public conveniences in order that the sewage from the toilets and depot would be put into the pressure main from Malpas rather than continue to use the private system. Part of the pipe work to enable this provision allowed for a further connection to a pump in the vicinity of the tennis court pavilion to be installed when the new pavilion was constructed. In the overall tennis scheme a provision of £40k had been made for this work based on a previous estimate, covering the pump, pumphouse, and infrastructure. The Town Clerk also commented he did not think the cost of usage would be high, but he would check and report back.

b) Update - Riverbank Reinforcement (Minute 405 (iii), Page 222)

Councillor Mrs Carlyon expressed concern over the potential public safety issues and potential resulting closure of the riverbank walk. The Town Clerk confirmed the Parks & Amenities Manager was in discussion with the Environment Agency to agree a way forward.

Councillor Biscoe commented that when the first section of Boscawen Park was created, the Environment Agency contributed a large sum, but when piping was installed along Lighterage Quay, the flow was redirected, which subsequently had a detrimental impact on the riverbank at Boscawen Park. Therefore, Councillor Biscoe felt a case could be made to commission a survey investigating the real impact of the lock gates on the direction and velocity of the flow in order to justify a case to the Environment Agency to pay for a substantial portion.

MEETING OF THE FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

15 APRIL 2019

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

**a) Community Development
Trelander and St Clements Youth Club**

Councillor Mrs Swain commented that Trelander and St Clements is one community association, who manage the Trelander Community Centre where the youth club is located, and that Beechwood Parc Community Association is a separate entity.

427 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT

(Appendix A)

(i) Library Transfer

In addition to the Town Clerk's Report (Appendix A), the Town Clerk informed Members he had attended a meeting with the trustees for Truro Technical School, a representative of Cornwall Council and the solicitors regarding the library. The Town Clerk felt the outcome was positive and all parties were moving in the same direction, determined to complete on the transfer at the earliest practical time. The current predicted transfer date was 1 July 2019.

Councillor Mrs Neale asked if the maintenance work would have taken place by then. The Town Clerk responded that a final specification plan for the works had been drawn up (with the inclusion of 200 windows) and the works had been officially ordered to take place. There was a slight delay of two weeks for the scaffolding licence and then the works would take approximately six weeks to complete, positioning them as either well underway, if not completed, by the time of the transfer.

Following a query from Councillor Webb, the Town Clerk explained the library staff were under contract with Cornwall Council and were currently being consulted about a transfer, however the building staff were under contract with Cormac and they had not yet been consulted by them. It was agreed this should happen as soon as possible.

(ii) Hall for Cornwall Development

Councillor Allen commented she had not received the promised monthly update on the progress of the works from the Hall for Cornwall recently. The Town Clerk confirmed he had not either, but he would chase them up. Councillor Mrs Neale commented she had received the invitation to view the Hall for Cornwall works in the previous month. It was confirmed this had been sent to all Members.

428 LEMON QUAY

Lemon Quay Screen

The Town Clerk reminded Members the issue of the screen was raised at the Annual Town Meeting. The current position of Cornwall Council was a debate as to whether to apply for permission for a smaller screen to be sited temporarily, or whether to suggest a screen be mounted on a trailer than can be towed around Cornwall.

Councillor Vella left the meeting at 7:55pm.

Councillor Biscoe spoke about the potential for a performance area on Lemon Quay, which was a suggestion made by a member of the public and would have provision for a screen. Councillor Biscoe asked the Town Clerk to investigate whether this was viable. The Town Clerk commented Penzance BID had recently purchased a temporary stage and he would speak with them.

Councillor Roden commented that proper debate was required for Lemon Quay as the City Council now had a long-term lease for the area. It was acknowledged there was a Lemon Quay Stakeholder Group, and Councillor Roden felt though other stakeholders could be included, the City Council should lead this discussion.

It was agreed by Councillors that there was an Events Manager for Lemon Quay, who was fairly new to the post but doing a wonderful job, it was important her ideas for the Quay were not undermined and she had a chance to settle into the post and organise the Quay before input from Members as to the direction of the management of the Quay was considered in greater detail.

Councillor Ms Southcombe (The Mayor) reminded Members at the Annual Town Meeting there was a desire for ongoing communication between Truro City Council and businesses. The Town Clerk confirmed this would need to go to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for consideration. Members briefly discussed the suggestion to try and hold an informal meeting sooner to acknowledge the businesses' desire for meetings, as they did not wish for them to feel ignored, but it was acknowledged the proper process was that meetings (and any associated decisions) would need to be approved via the normal committee process as per Council policies.

Councillor Biscoe felt as Truro BID represented the businesses, and had a business plan, they should advocate for the view of businesses in order to liaise with the City Council, and they should specifically request a regular forum if businesses felt this was a requirement, which would then give the City Council something tangible to consider and form a basis for debate about terms of reference at the Finance & General Purposes Committee. It was commented by Councillor Miss Jones that if there was a regular forum then this would be a good thing. It was also acknowledged by Councillors that the Town Clerk and the Truro BID Manager, Alun Jones, had regular contact and the Town Clerk was on the board of the BID. Subsequently, the Town Clerk agreed to liaise with Mr Jones on how to move regular communication forward.

Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons reminded Members that at the Annual Town Meeting it was suggested other organisations (not just businesses) were involved in a regular forum and therefore this should be given consideration in any discussions if the item went to the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

Councillor Smith left the meeting at 8:09pm.

Councillor Roden commented he felt there needed to be frank discussions between Truro BID and the City Council about responsibilities as he considered there were tasks that fell to the City Council, and, in particular, the Tourist Information Centre, that should be under the remit of Truro BID.

Councillor Smith rejoined the meeting at 8:11pm.

429 COMMITTEE SELECTION COMMITTEE

Prior to Members voting, the Town Clerk requested that should anyone be unable to attend the meeting on 16 May 2019 they should not allow their name to go forward for nomination.

In accordance with Procedural Guidance 3, the Council proceeded to elect by ballot, five members to serve with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for the ensuing year 2019/2020 as follows:-

Councillor Wells
Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons
Councillor Ms Southcombe
Councillor Roden
Councillor Nolan

RESOLVED that the Committee Selection Committee
(i) be held at 6.30 p.m. on Thursday 16 May 2019;
(ii) comprise Councillors Wells, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Ms Southcombe, Roden and Nolan together with the incoming Mayor and Deputy Mayor;
(iii) be given power to act in determining the membership of the Standing Committees of the Council for 2019-2020.

430 CORRESPONDENCE

(i) Climate Change Emergency

The Town Clerk informed Members a letter had been received from the Cabinet Office at Cornwall Council, thanking the Mayor for expressing the City Council's support of Cornwall Council's declaration of a Climate Emergency

(ii) Langarth Stakeholder Group

The Town Clerk read out a letter confirming Truro City Council's response to the 2019 Off-Street Parking Order, and outlining that the proposals, in most cases, would be proceeding as proposed apart from two car parks devolved in St Columb.

431 TRURO ROSELAND COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL (F20)

Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells reported there had not been another meeting of the Network Panel since the last reported meeting in March, and the next meeting would be the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on 4 June (previously billed for 14 May 2019). At the AGM there would be a presentation on mental health.

There would also be an extraordinary meeting of the Panel which would take place on 22 May 2019. This would exclusively determine the schedule of traffic projects, which had been approved in principle, but would now be discussed in detail with financial implications, for the projects to proceed.

432 REPORTS OF MEETINGS OR CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Councillor Mrs Swain reported she attended an event at Heartlands called "Creating Great Green Spaces". There were a lot of good ideas and Councillor Mrs Swain agreed to circulate guidance notes from the event, which could be useful when revising the TKNP.

Councillor Biscoe (Deputy Mayor Elect) had attended the Maritime Forum, who were discussing the Truro to Falmouth Branch Line, reporting numbers of travellers on the line were down in January due to the derailment and the weather. In total, roughly 685,000 passengers had travelled on the branch line the previous year. This year was the branch's 10-year anniversary.

Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) reported he had attended a Library forum at Wadebridge with the Mayor and Town Clerk, where a "libraries delivery" document had been circulated which was promoting the idea that libraries should be opened to the community. Two of the success stories were St Austell Library, where the footfall had increased by 47% since the Town Council had taken over (approx. 18 months previously) and by roughly 32% in Falmouth. Members briefly discussed the item, commenting it was not a new idea that libraries were for communities. Councillor Mrs Neale reminded Members she attended a meeting with Councillor Mrs Nolan a couple of months ago at St Austell Library, and it would be a good idea for some Members to go to visit the library to look at what had been achieved by the Town Council. The Mayor Elect agreed he would arrange for a small group to attend.

Councillor Ms Southcombe (The Mayor) drew attention to her tabled report briefly outlining a meeting with Cornwall Energy Plus for a general discussion, including points relating to Langarth. She also met with Stewart Bradley from Cornwall Sustainable Buildings Trust However, she felt this meeting was disappointing.

Finally, Councillor Smith (Mayor Elect) commented it was Councillor Ms Southcombe's (The Mayor) last meeting of Council and asked for formal thanks from the Council to go on record to thank the Mayor for her hard work and dedication during her Mayoral year.

433 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 8:34 pm.

MAYOR

**Town Clerks Report
Council 29th April 2019**

Financial Position 2018-19

We are currently working on the financial year end accounts which will be presented to the June Finance & General Purposes Committee

Truro Library

Much work is currently taking place to complete the transaction. The target date of 1st June has proved impossible to meet and that has been moved back to the 1st July. There is a meeting of the Trustees and Cornwall Council which I shall be attending on the day of the Council and if any decisions come from that meeting I will be able to report verbally at the meeting.

Hall for Cornwall Development

We continue to await the price for the external works from the contractor. This remains a risk to the City Council but I have agreed with Cornwall Council a payment in 2020-21 of any balance remaining after our fund is exhausted. I am not anticipating the need to increase the Precept as a result of these works.

Neighbourhood Plan

Neighbourhood Plan meeting are now taking place weekly on Tuesdays at 5.30pm. They are very well attended by both City Councillors and Kenwyn Parish Councillors. The various subjects to have detailed consideration agreed at the outset of the process are being examined one by one. Detailed notes are being written.

**Roger Gazzard
Town Clerk**