

TRURO CITY COUNCIL



CITY OF TRURO

Roger Gazzard
Town Clerk

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April 2021

To: The Mayor (Councillor B Biscoe)
The Mayor Elect (Councillor J Allen)
The Deputy Mayor Elect (Councillor S Webb)
Chairman and Members of
TRURO CITY COUNCIL

Dear Councillor

CITY OF TRURO – ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

I write to inform you that the 47th Annual Town Meeting will be held via **ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETINGS** at **7.00 pm** on **THURSDAY 22nd APRIL 2021**

Although the Mayor presides, this is not a Council Meeting. Any elector of the City of Truro has the right to speak and vote. Non-electors may speak, if the meeting consents, but not vote.

The agenda for the meeting will be as follows:-

A G E N D A

1. Welcome by the Right Worshipful the Mayor of Truro (Councillor Bert Biscoe)
2. Disclosure or Declarations of Interest
3. Apologies for absence
4. Minutes of the 46th Annual Town Meeting held on 18th April 2019 (hereto)
5. Reports attached from:
 - The Mayor
 - Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee
 - Chairman of the Planning Committee
 - Chairman of the Parks & Amenities Committee
 - The Town Clerk
 - Parks Amenities & Facilities Officer
 - Community Development Officer & Assistant
 - Tourist Information Centre Managers
 - Truro Public Library Manager
6. To consider items raised by Electors of the City of Truro

If you have any queries, please contact me prior to 21st April 2021.

ROGER GAZZARD
TOWN CLERK



CITY OF TRURO

**TRURO CITY COUNCIL
MINUTES OF THE FORTY-SIXTH ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2019 at 7.00 pm
in Truro Public Library, Union Place**

PRESENT: Mayor of Truro (Councillor Ms L Southcombe) (In the Chair)
Councillors Allen, Biscoe, Mrs Butler, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Cox, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Ellis, Miss Jones, Mrs Neale, Nolan, Mrs Nolan, Rich, Roden, Smith, Ms Southcombe, Mrs Stokes, Mrs Swain, and Webb.

Truro Residents present: Stuart Pearson, John Low, Kathryn Watson, Martyn Punnock, Godfrey Mortimore, Michael Eathorne-Gibbons, K Moore, Paul Caruana, Alun Jones, Diana Nelson, Simon Hendra, Sarah Douglas-Martin, Amanda Williams, Julie Calow, Mandy Moore, Matthew Williams, Sian Sixton, Victoria Amran, Emma Sixton, Scott Whitfield, Kerry Diamon, Lisa Hawker, Matthew Cobb, Jane Rickard, Sarah Wetherill, Sue Brown and Peter Burton.

Also in attendance: Roger Gazzard (Town Clerk), Damien Richards (Community Development Worker), and Taren-Lee Corin (Events Co-Ordinator) – Truro City Council
Mark O'Brien and Rachael Gaunt, Cornwall Council

APOLOGIES: Apologies for absence were submitted by Councillors Mrs Callen, Tamblyn, Vella, Wells and Wilson

1 DISCLOSURE OR DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest reported.

2 INTRODUCTION

The Mayor, Councillor Ms Southcombe, welcomed members of the Council, and the Truro residents present, to the forty-sixth Annual Town Meeting of the City of Truro to be held since Local Government Re-Organisation in 1974.

3 MINUTES

The Minutes of the forty-fifth Annual Town Meeting held 19 April 2018, having been circulated, were approved and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

4 CHAIRMAN AND MANAGERS' REPORTS

The following reports, having being previously circulated, were discussed: -

Report of the Mayor

Town Clerk

Parks & Amenities Manager

Community Development Officers

Tourist Information Centre Managers

Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee

Chairman of the Planning Committee

Chairman of the Parks & Amenities Committee

5 **ITEMS RAISED BY ELECTORS**

Pydar Street Development

It was commented that if any residents or business owners wanted to comment on the Pydar Street Development they could do so by either speaking to Rachael Gaunt, Truro Place Shaping or going to LoveTruro.net.

Wild Truro and Truro Cycling Campaign

Sarah Wetherill spoke briefly about Wild Truro, of which there were displays at the meeting, and Truro Cycling Campaign, commenting if any Councillors or members of the public wished to obtain more information, they could speak to her after the meeting.

Screen on Lemon Quay

Alun Jones, Truro BID, spoke on behalf of the businesses of the City that subscribed to the Truro BID scheme and asked to have a discussion about the proposal for a screen on Lemon Quay that had been considered by Truro City Council's Planning Committee on 7 March 2019 (PA19/00255).

Councillor Webb (Vice-Chairman of the Planning Committee) spoke about the reasons the Planning Committee turned down the application, which included advice from the Historic Environment Team that stated "a more sympathetic design and consideration for its location within a Conversation Area and its proximity to numerous listed buildings, not least the Hall for Cornwall, be considered." This would have to be addressed fully before an application could proceed. Other considerations included dangers posed by the proposed location, setting a precedent, and the belief there was a technical error in the application form that may render it invalid. There was an objection from a member of the public at the meeting, as well as an additional written objection. There were no public comments in favour of the application, and nobody attended the meeting to speak in favour. It was reiterated that the usual Council procedure was followed for considering a planning application, and the City Council is a consultee only on planning matters; the final decision resides with Cornwall Council. It was also explained the application was withdrawn shortly after the City Council's comments had been submitted, though a final decision had not been made by Cornwall Council. It was a month after this that letters of support for the screen were sent to the City Council by the Truro BID Manager, as well as an additional objection.

Councillor Webb felt if there was support for the screen then another application should be submitted that addressed the concerns of the City Council and the Historic Environment Team, as well as additional information for the use of the screen and whether it was expected to be a permanent fixture. It was acknowledged a decision could not be made at this meeting as the usual planning procedures would apply. It was also pointed out the City Council, business owners and residents shared a common goal in their wish to increase footfall in Truro, and that concerns raised in letters received by the Town Clerk were reflected in discussions during City Council meetings.

Discussion took place about the screen, with members of the electorate raising various points relating to the proposal. These included the comment that some members of the public first expressed interest in a screen when England was playing in the last World Cup, and that if a screen was introduced to the Quay it could be used for a variety of uses including other events, local activities, the showing of Evensong, advertising etc. It was acknowledged there needed to be a variety of methods used to try and increase footfall in the City Centre, and it was mentioned the Mayor Elect, Councillor Smith, had been working on a cultural strategy for Truro.

Other comments suggested the introduction of a screen would not solve the issues of the economy of the City Centre, pointing out the screen in Plymouth City Centre had been removed because it had not been financially viable, and the ongoing issue of the economy of Truro needed to be addressed holistically, including better communication between the different sectors (e.g. business, arts and culture, tourism etc.). Other views included the comment a screen would add to the visual clutter in the City and people overused screens generally. There was also the risk it would set a precedent. Some business owners commented they knew nothing about the proposal and felt it should be better advertised. It was pointed out that Cornwall Council is the Local Planning Authority and the proposal was in the public domain. Any members of the public could comment on any application.

There were additional comments that screening large sporting events would draw more people into Truro and help with the economy, though it was pointed out by the Events Co-Ordinator of Truro City Council, Taren-Lee Corrin, that it cost a significant amount of money to screen such events, including licensing, staffing, security etc. and the funding would need to come from somewhere. There was also the issue that providing a screen for sporting events would draw people from the surrounding bars, which could then potentially cause issues regarding trade. It needed to be carefully considered how such an addition would benefit everyone.

There was the suggestion that more community events should appear on the Quay as opposed to commercial ventures such as advertising cars. The Events Co-Ordinator pointed out the commercial ventures often funded community events, and felt frequently people were not aware of the cost implications of putting on such events (run by the City Council), and other groups and organisations should be encouraged to organise their own events too. It was acknowledged City Council community events such as Children's Day were of great benefit to the residents of Truro.

Concerns regarding isolation and mental health were raised, and it was pointed out these were big issues in society that needed to be addressed through community involvement. The City Council was supporting social prescribing through the funding towards a Community Navigator. It was also hard to predict how the public would respond to different suggestions for advertising and events, and some members of the public commented it was felt it was often worth a trial-run before dismissing an idea. A comment was made that to compete with online shopping there needed to be an overhaul of the City Centre, and members of the public needed to enjoy an entire experience of visiting Truro, not just retail focused.

Further to additional discussion reiterating the points above, it was proposed by Councillor Webb, seconded by Councillor Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons and

RECOMMENDED that, subject to Council approval through the standard process, a steering committee be formed consisting of representatives from the City Council, Truro BID, and other organisations within the community, to meet on a regular basis, as determined necessary, to create ongoing open communication.

Langarth Development

Following concern over the impact of the Langarth Development, Councillor Nolan gave a brief update, stating Cornwall Council were hiring a new Master Planner for the development, and the housing, which would be built by Cornwall Council, would be to a less dense specification than the previous approval. Councillor Nolan was uncertain what would happen on the old Football Club site.

Members of the public spoke about their concern regarding infrastructure in and around Truro, in particular the A390, which was already significantly congested without the introduction of additional housing. Councillors agreed this was a concern and was a frequent subject of discussion at Council meetings.

Conversation was had regarding the introduction of the new transportation system by Cornwall Council ("The One Public Transportation System in Cornwall") that would link rail and bus services into one network and provide a train service every thirty minutes from Penzance to Plymouth. Encouraging the use of public transportation was important, but it was acknowledged it needed to be more affordable for local residents to encourage them to leave their cars at home.

General Communication

Further to comments from business owners about being informed about matters relating to the Council, and events in Truro, the suggestion was made for an email circular, though it was pointed out issues relating to GDPR complicated this matter. A comment was made that all Council meetings are advertised to the public via agendas posted outside of the Municipal Buildings and on the Council website, and anybody could attend any of these meetings and raise a question.

It was mentioned the City Council should hold an events diary. It was pointed out the Tourist Information Centre had a full events diary and any business, organisation or member of the public could easily contact them and request to be included in this. Other members of the public commented that a stronger social media presence of the City Council would be useful for events, though it was acknowledged Visit Truro regularly updated their Facebook page and website with this information. Additional suggestions included adding a link to Visit Truro on signage on the main entrances to Truro and the roundabouts, as well as on noticeboards that could be erected around the City Centre.

Pedestrianisation of Boscawen Street

Consideration of the pedestrianisation of Boscawen Street was raised. The Town Clerk commented repair work to the cobblestones was currently taking place, and the City Council had looked into suggesting pedestrianisation of Boscawen Street on a trial basis to Cornwall Council but more research needed to be conducted into the viability.

Further discussion took place, including a reference to a survey conducted by Truro BID to gather the views of businesses on pedestrianisation, but it was also acknowledged other organisations and the public needed to be consulted. The meeting also considered the unevenness of the cobbles and how difficult it was to manoeuvre pushchairs and prams through the streets. The question was also raised as to why cars needed to come through the City Centre at all. Comments were given regarding disabled parking on Boscawen Street, and how it was potentially difficult for people with disabilities to exit cars on the cobblestones. It was acknowledged that despite some observations, not all disabilities were visible, or consistent, and therefore judgement should not be made on whether those parking in disabled spaces should do so.

A comment was made about the significant number of potholes around Truro, particularly around High Cross where it was a hazard. Despite numerous calls and emails to Cormac from a member of the public, this had not yet been rectified. The Town Clerk agreed to contact Cormac about this matter on behalf of residents.

Provision of Cycleways

Sarah Wetherill spoke about the provision for cyclists and pedestrians around the City, commenting there were significant pollution and congestion issues to be

considered. There was a new cycleway from St Agnes to Truro, which would answer a huge demand for cycling provision, but it seemed a shame that once it reached Truro it became very difficult to cycle without encountering issues such as those above.

The upcoming Tour of Britain was mentioned, with the comment there needed to be significant community engagement to advertise the event, as well as smaller events surrounding the main event to encourage public participation.

6 **MISCELLANEOUS**

Volunteers

It was recognised that volunteers in and around Truro contributed significantly to the community, as well as the amenity of the City Centre. These included individual volunteers and community groups, and it was also pointed out parish councillors, such as those on the City Council, were also volunteers who spent significant personal time trying to address issues relating to the City and community of Truro.

7 **CLOSE OF MEETING**

There being no further questions the Mayor thanked everyone for their attendance, commenting it was refreshing to see so many members of the public engaging with the Council, and declared the forty-fifth Annual Town Meeting closed.

The meeting closed at 8.30 pm.

MAYOR