

**MEETING OF TRURO CITY COUNCIL HELD ON  
MONDAY 17 MAY 2021 at 7.00 pm in TRURO CATHEDRAL**

**PRESENT:** The Mayor (Councillor Bert Biscoe), Honorary Freeman Cllr Wells, Councillors Ambler, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Green, Nolan, Mrs Nolan, Pascoe, Rabey, Rich, Roby, Roden, Sealy, Smith, Ms Southcombe, Mrs Stokes, Mrs Swain, Tamblyn, Unwin, Webb and Wilkins.

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies of absence were received by Councillor La Borde

Also in Attendance: Roger Gazzard, Town Clerk;  
Very Rev'd Roger Bush, the Dean of Truro.  
Guests

**PRAYERS**

Prior to the formal business of the Council, the Dean of Truro Cathedral said prayers.

**1 DISCLOSURES OR DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS**

There were no disclosures or declarations of interest.

**2 STANDING ORDERS AND PROCEDURAL GUIDANCE**

It was proposed by Councillor Biscoe (Mayor) and

**RESOLVED** that the City Council's Standing Orders and Procedural Guidance be adopted.

**3 ELECTION OF MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Nolan, seconded by Councillor Tamblyn and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Webb, being a member of the City Council, be elected Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

Councillor Webb was then invested with the Chain of Office and took the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, before assuming the office of Mayor of the City.

**THE RIGHT WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR  
(COUNCILLOR STEVEN WEBB IN THE CHAIR)**

The Mayor then addressed the Council.

**MAYOR'S COMMUNICATIONS**

The Mayor informed the Council as follows: -

(a) "I wish to inform the Council that I have requested Ms Kember Webb, my daughter, to be my Mayoress for the duration of my term of Office. The Reverend Jeremy Putnam is to be my Chaplain during my term of Office, and he is pleased to accept the appointment. However, as Reverend Putnam is currently unavailable, the Dean of Truro Cathedral, the Very Reverend Roger Bush, has agreed to say a prayer.

Will the assembly please stand for a prayer led by The Very Reverend Roger Bush."

(c) "The Mayor's Civic Service will be held at 4.00 pm in Truro Cathedral on Sunday 27 June 2021. I hope that as many members of the Council as possible will be able to support me on that occasion."

"I wish to inform the Council that the Charity I will be supporting during my Mayoralty will be the Invictus Trust".

**4 VOTE OF THANKS**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Carlyon, seconded by Councillor Tamblyn and

**RESOLVED** that this Council place on record their sincere thanks and appreciation to Councillor Biscoe, for the manner in which he has carried out his duties as Mayor of the City of Truro during the Municipal Year 2020/2021.

At the conclusion Councillor Biscoe moved into the vacant chair.

**5 ELECTION OF DEPUTY MAYOR**

It was moved by Councillor Mrs Carlyon, seconded by Honorary Freeman Councillor Wells, and

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Stokes, being a Member of the City Council, be elected Deputy Mayor of the City of Truro for the Municipal Year 2021/2022.

Councillor Mrs Stokes then took the Declaration of Acceptance of Office, before assuming the Office of Deputy Mayor of the City of Truro.

The Deputy Mayor then addressed the Council.

**6 MINUTES OF COUNCIL**

The Minutes of the Council Meeting held on 26 April 2021 were taken as read and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

**7 OPEN SESSION FOR ELECTORS OF TRURO**

There were no written questions.

**8 CORRESPONDENCE**

There was no correspondence to report.

**9 QUESTION TIME – WRITTEN QUESTIONS**

There were no written questions.

**10 MEMBERSHIP OF COMMITTEES**

The Town Clerk read out the membership of the Standing Committees, which had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor Webb (Mayor) and

**RESOLVED** that the allocation of membership to the Standing Committees of the Council be approved.

**11 SPECIAL MEETINGS OF THE COMMITTEES – ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING**

It was proposed by Councillor Webb (the Mayor) and

**RESOLVED** that the meeting be adjourned to enable the Special Meetings of the Standing Committees to take place to elect a Chairman and Vice-Chairman and to appoint members of Sub-Committees and Working Parties.

Following the Special Meetings of the Standing Committees the Council Meeting resumed.

**12 STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Town Clerk reported on the elections of the Chairmen and Vice-Chairmen of the Standing Committees.

**13 COUNCILLOR CONTACT DETAILS AND MEETING SCHEDULE AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAY TO AUGUST**

The councillors' contact details and the meeting schedule for May to August were noted by the Council.

**14 GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE**

Following consideration of a paper (Appendix 1) prepared by the Town Clerk it was proposed by Councillor Webb (the Mayor) and

**RESOLVED** that the City Council re-affirms the adoption of the General Power of Competence as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

**15 HEALTHY STREETS WORKING GROUP**

It was

**RESOLVED** that the Healthy Streets Working Group shall comprise of Councillors Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Mrs Eathorne-Gibbons, Roby, Sealy and Mrs Swain together with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor as well as representatives of interested stakeholder groups.

**16 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN STEERING GROUP**

It was

**RESOLVED** that the Council's representatives on the Neighbourhood Plan Steering Group shall comprise of Councillors Biscoe, Mrs Carlyon, Roden, Mrs Swain and Webb (Mayor).

**17 TOWNS FUND BOARD**

It was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Biscoe shall represent the Council on the Towns Fund Board.

**18 COUNCILLOR VACANCY – MALABAR WARD**

The Town Clerk announced that the councillor vacancy for the Malabar Ward would be filled by co-option and an advertisement would be published shortly.

**19 TRURO AND ROSELAND COMMUNITY NETWORK PANEL**

It was

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Mrs Carlyon shall represent the Council on the Truro and The Roseland Area Community Network Panel.

**20 APPOINTMENTS ON OTHER OUTSIDE BODIES**

It was

**RESOLVED** that the current appointments on other outside bodies shall continue until the next Council meeting to be held on 30 June 2021.

**21 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 8:38pm

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MAYOR

## Council

17<sup>th</sup> May 2021

### General Power of Competence

Local Councils in England were given a “General Power of Competence” in the Localism Act 2011, sections 1 – 8. In June 2012 the Council adopted the power, and re-affirmed the power following the May 2013 and May 2017 elections.

It is a requirement of the Localism act that a Council re-affirms the Power after each ordinary election. Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide the information to allow the Council to decide whether it wishes to re-adopt the power.

There are two criteria that the Council needs to fulfil to enable it to use the Power: -

- An electoral mandate (2/3rds of the council must be elected).
- A qualified clerk

We comply with these criteria.

Under the Power a Council no longer needs to ask whether it has a specific power to act. The Localism Act states: -

***“An eligible Local council has the power to do anything that individuals generally may do”*** as long as they do not break other laws.

This widens the scope of the work that the Council can legally do. Examples often quoted are: -

- Allowed to run a community shop or post office
- Can set up a company to provide a service

The Government hopes that the Power gives local councils confidence in their legal capacity to act for their communities. It encourages councils to use this power to work with others in providing cost effective services and facilities in innovative ways to meet the needs of local people. The council can lend or invest money; it can trade; it can even sell energy to the National Grid. It can also help a community trust to run a school.

The Council can undertake activities using the Power both inside and outside of the Parish.

There are a number of restrictions which may limit the use of the Power in specific situations, and these will need to be reviewed should the Council wish to undertake additional work using the Power.

However, a note of caution is that the Council continues to have the requirement to abide by the general principle of “reasonableness” so whilst the Power opens the door legally to undertake wider functions other tests need to be applied; such as an individual or company would apply.

If the Council agrees to re-affirm the adoption then this will be effective until the first Council meeting after the next ordinary election.

### Recommendation

That the City Council re-affirms the adoption of the General Power of Competence as defined by the Localism Act 2011.

**Roger Gazzard**  
Town Clerk