

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council held at Redruth
Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 18th May 2026**

Present:

Cllr A Biscoe Chair
Cllr Broad
Cllr Barnes
Cllr Cunningham
Cllr Ellenbroek
Cllr Mays
Cllr Morrison
Cllr Reeve
Cllr Selwood
Cllr Thomas

In attendance:

Mrs C Williams Town Clerk
Mrs H Bardle Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Mrs J Cockerham-Harris Minute Taker
Mr G Coombs Facilities Manager
Ms J Turner Senior Library Officer
Ms L Akerman Community Liaison Manager
Cornwall Cllr R Tarrant
2 members of the public were also in attendance

PART I – PUBLIC SESSION

1665.1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs H Biscoe, Allen, Jolly and Tremayne.

1665.2 Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda

None were declared.

1665.3 Public participation session – to enable members of the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda.

The Town Clerk read a letter from Cllr Jolly stating her disagreement with the motion in item 17 on the agenda, in favour of dark skies to benefit wildlife. The Town Clerk read a letter from a member of the public, stating her views on the move of parties by Cllr Tarrant. The Town Clerk then read a letter from Cllr Allen, asking for Cllr Tarrant to clarify the emphasis on political expression, to explain where the line sits between conduct.

1665.4 To receive a report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

Cllr A Biscoe summarised the report, commenting on the recent mayor making ceremonies they each attended around the county. Cllr Broad also commented on Treskerby park and the plan to follow up when the fence around the play area would be put into place. Cllr Reeve stated she had spoken to Cornwall Cllr Donnithorne about the issue and that it would be dealt with immediately.

1665.5 To receive reports from the divisional Cornwall Councillors.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Harrison and Donnithorne.

Cllr Cunningham asked Cllr Tarrant to clarify the acronyms in his report, and Cllr Ellenbroek stated her previous involvement with Cornwall Council and the need to take into account the need to keep green spaces in the area, and to utilise the Remediation Scheme (used in the North of England) and implement it down here, in the mining area. Cllr Tarrant stated he would work together with RTC to choose the right sites.

Cllr Barnes asked Cllr Tarrant to reinstate the finger signpost missing on Albany Road. Cllr Tarrant stated he would and added that the new digital timetable for the bus times was going up in June. He went on to answer Cllr Allen's letter regarding item 3.4 in his report, stating that he believed in free speech for all but that it needed to be civil and respectful.

1665.6 To confirm the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Council held 27th April 2026.

RESOLVED by Majority that the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Council held 27th April 2026 are received and approved [Proposed by Cllr Barnes; Seconded by Cllr Thomas] Cllrs Cunningham and Morrison abstained.

1665.7 To receive a report on the Residents survey findings.

Cllr A Biscoe and the Town Clerk stated their congratulations on the work done by the Community Liaison Manager. Cllr Barnes asked how the report could be implemented to increase footfall. The Community Liaison Manager answered that prioritisation of future projects could play a part in this.

Cllr Ellenbroek asked for the report to go to Youth Council for their input, stating her concern over how knowledge of how local Government works was low. She believed the TC should help raise awareness on the matter. The Town Clerk stated that any next steps would go through SMT who were in the process of drafting a strategic plan to bring to the Council.

Cllr Thomas stated his thoughts on the use of green spaces, how Anti-Social Behaviour (ASB) had impacted footfall in the local parks and asked if there was any feedback within the report commenting on this. The Community Liaison Manager stated that safe streets were a big priority, with a potential high for ASB during town events, and that she could put together a segment regarding the parks usage and speculation.

Cllr Morrison asked how the division of this report was circulated amongst the three wards, in order to cover all areas of Redruth. The Town Clerk answered that great care was taken to ensure all geographical areas of the data collected were statistically valid.

1665.8 To consider the Town Clerk's report

Cllr Broad stated that with addition of Treskerby park to the devolution negotiation, the Council should consider green infrastructure for growth.

Cllr Reeve asked about the current situation with Berryman's car park and the Town Clerk updated her.

1665.8.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to proceed with the Neighbourhood Priority Statement (NPS) [Proposed by Cllr Ellenbroek; Seconded by Cllr A Biscoe].

1665.8.2 Unanimously RESOLVED to adopt the draft of the Armed Forces Covenant and move to the signing ceremony. [Proposed by Cllr Ellenbroek; Seconded by Cllr Broad].

1665.9 Youth Council Update

The Report was noted.

1665.10 To consider a report on the Management Information for April 2026 from the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk.

Cllr A Biscoe asked about the cost to repair the vandalism and suggested a new locking method to combat the issues in the Market Way toilets and the DTC/RFO clarified the costs, and that they would be looked into.

Cllr Selwood asked if the operating costs for the CCTV were hidden in other categories and the DTC/RFO answered that it predominantly lied within salaries, but will be in a separate CCTV report. Cllr Selwood asked for a report regarding the businesses in Market Way, and the DTC/RFO answered she would do a report of costs attributed to the Council.

1665.11 Confirmation that there is no conflict of interest between the Council and the external auditor (BDO LLP).

No conflict of interest was declared.

1665.12 To receive the internal Audit Report for the Year Ended 31 March 2026

The report was noted and accepted.

1665.13 To approve the Annual Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2026.

1665.13.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Annual Governance Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2026 [Proposed by Cllr Barnes; Seconded by Cllr A Biscoe].

1665.13.2 Cllrs A Biscoe and Broad signed the relevant documents as witnessed by those present at the meeting.

1665.14 To approve Accounting Statement for the Year Ended 31 March 2026.

1665.14.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to approve the Accounting Statement for the Year Ended 31st March 2026 [Proposed by Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded by Cllr Broad].

1665.15 To confirm the dates for public inspection of the Financial records between Wednesday 3rd June 2026 and Tuesday 14th July 2026.

The dates were confirmed by the Council.

1665.16 To consider and approve the schedule of payments.

1665.16.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to approve the schedule of payments [Proposed by Cllr Ellenbroek; Seconded by Cllr Broad].

1665.17 To consider the following Motion;

Motion Title: Formal Opposition to Cornwall Council's Street-lighting Switch-Off Plan in Redruth scheduled from 11th May 2026.

That Redruth Town Council writes a formal letter of objection to Cornwall Council regarding the planned street-lighting changes scheduled from 11th May 2026. Redruth Town Council requests that Cornwall Council exempts Redruth from this entirely, or, at a minimum, implements a "dimming-only profile" in place of any total blackouts.

This is in response to Cornwall Council's plan to switch-off street-lighting from 11th May 2026 in Redruth. The current plan is a full switch-off midnight to 5am Sunday through Thursday night, and ultra-dimmed midnight to 5am Friday & Saturday night.

1. Safety of Residents and Essential Shift Workers: *Implementing a total switch-off between the hours of midnight and 5:00 AM creates a difficult environment for night shift employees and those who work irregular schedules. These hard-working residents are council tax payers and are entitled to a safe, well-lit commute and should not be forced to navigate unlit streets.*

2. Pedestrian Safety on Historically Narrow Streets: *Redruth is characterised by narrow paths and uneven pavements. Total darkness in these areas significantly escalates the risk of trips, falls, and injuries for any pedestrian traversing the town at night.*

3. Road Safety and Critical Infrastructure Visibility: *Severely diminished visibility prevents motorists and cyclists from identifying faded road markings, potholes, and other potential hazards in the carriageway. A complete cessation of street lighting compromises the fundamental safety of all road users, increasing the likelihood of avoidable vehicular accidents.*

4. Disproportionate Impact on Vulnerable Groups: *Residents living with visual impairments, or any disability that negatively affects sight and mobility, are effectively facing a de-facto "curfew." These individuals will be rendered unable to safely leave their homes during these hours, leading to increased isolation and a loss of independence.*

5. Crime Prevention and Anti-Social Behaviour: *While Cornwall Council cites ongoing police liaison, the public perception of safety is just as vital to community health as actual crime statistics. Darkened streets provide convenient cover for anti-social behaviour and criminal activity; furthermore, the safety of women and girls in these pitch-black conditions is a fundamental right that must be protected. Lack of light would also hinder residents'*

ability to accurately identify and report incidents to the authorities.

6. Council Tax Value vs. Diminishing Service Delivery: *Local residents have consistently faced the maximum allowable year-on-year Council Tax increases. To withdraw a fundamental public safety service while simultaneously increasing the financial burden on households is unacceptable and represents a failure in the Council's duty of care to the community. In short, residents are being asked to pay more money to be significantly less safe.*

Formal Conclusion:

While we acknowledge the pressing necessity of local government budget management, the safety and physical well-being of Redruth residents must not be the price paid for these financial savings. We strongly urge Cornwall Council to reconsider this policy and opt to exempt Redruth from the total switch-off. At an absolute minimum, we request the implementation of a "dimming-only" profile that maintains essential visibility while still achieving necessary energy efficiency targets.

1665.17.1 Cllr Cunningham asked for any data to understand the percentage of residents out during the specified timeline, to which Cllr Mays stated he did not have the data but was concerned more about public perception in paying more to receive less. Cllr Ellenbroek stated her own concerns over town safety and the implications the light switch-off would bring. Cllr Broad proposed that the lights turn ultra dim as a compromise and Cllr Mays agreed, stating his keenness to avoid a complete blackout. Cllr Morrison stated that there was an absence of complaints from areas where this had already occurred and proposed that more research should go into the motion.

Cllr Reeve asked if the lights were being switched off in areas covered by CCTV and the Town Clerk stated she was not certain as a map had not been sent by Cornwall Council. Cllr Ellenbroek proposed the amendment to defer the motion until more information was granted, moving it to the next Council meeting.

Cllr Mays accepted the amendment but reiterated the motion sat on the basis of public perception, and the Town Clerk stated they would be able to gather information from various avenues in order to make an informed decision.

1665.17.2 RESOLVED by Majority to defer making a decision on the motion in order to gather more information to make an informed decision [Proposed Cllr Ellenbroek; Seconded by Cllr Reeve] Cllr Selwood and Mays abstained.

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