



Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth, Cornwall TR15 2AT

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Town Mayor: Cllr A Biscoe

Town Clerk: C Williams

**Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council held at Redruth
Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 29th June 2026**

Present:

Cllr A Biscoe	Chair
Cllr P Broad	
Cllr E Allen	
Cllr S Barnes	
Cllr H Biscoe	
Cllr K Cunningham	
Cllr B Ellenbroek	
Cllr R Jolly	
Cllr A Mays	
Cllr J Morrison	
Cllr D Reeve	
Cllr M Selwood	

In attendance:

Mrs C Williams	Town Clerk
Mrs H Bardle	Deputy Town Clerk & Responsible Finance Officer
Mrs J Cockerham-Harris	Minute Taker
Ms L Akerman	Community Liaison Manager
Ms J Turner	Senior Library Officer

6 members of the public were also in attendance

PART I – PUBLIC SESSION

Cllr A Biscoe read the two statements from Redruth Town Council regarding respectful conduct and audio recording of the meeting for minute taking purposes. Redruth Town Council, Cllrs Mays and Allen declared they were audio recording the meeting.

1668.1 To receive apologies for absence.

Apologies were received from Cllrs Thomas and Tremayne.

1668.2 One-minute silence for former Mayor Wendy Lawrence.

All attendees stood for the silence.

1668.3 Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda.

Cllrs Allen and Morrison declared a pecuniary interest in item 15 on the Agenda.

1668.4 Public participation session – to enable members of the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda.

1668.4.1 Mr A Rogers addressed the Cllrs in support of Cllr Mays motion. He stated his extensive research into various studies that contradicted the reasoning for the streetlight's switch off. He asked Cllrs to consider this research and to put community safety first by supporting the motion.

1668.4.2 Ms C Schuoler asked Cllr Mays to consider the reduction in costs for the public concerning the streetlights, to ask how the additional spending to keep the lights on would be justified. She raised the point of protecting public health and the disruption of sleep by artificial light. She asked for other avenues to be explored and asked Cllr Mays what local evidence could demonstrate the measurable improvements of safety if the light's remained on.

1668.4.3 Mr S Rowe addressed the Cllrs with his own experiences of his mental health, stating his need to walk around at night, and suggested that every other light be switched off instead.

1668.4.4 Mr R Jenkins raised his concern over the negligence of the light switch-off and how long it would be before legal action was raised against.

1668.4.5 Ms V Kent raised her concerns over the Strategic Plan and the level of detail within the plan presented. She said that in her opinion, it should include a reference to the Lavigne Lonsdale Investment Plan and the Hemingway reports. She asked for the plan to state actions and progress rather than explanations and raised concerns over the statistical viability of the recent Residents survey. The Town Clerk responded that the document presented was purely a framework and that the reports mentioned would be referred to in the final draft, she further explained it was a deliberate decision to leave out the detail at this early stage, in order to focus attention on the direction of the framework at this current stage. She explained that the quota for the Resident's survey was robust and statistically viable with a very good response rate on which to draw meaningful conclusions.

1668.5 To receive a report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor.

Cllr A Biscoe summarised her report, adding that she also enjoyed attending Golowan Festival. Cllr Broad stated he spoke to Cornwall Cllr Donnithorne about the fence for Treskerby Park, that the work had been scheduled for the first week in August.

1668.6 To receive correspondence – Letter of support request (attached); Cornwall Council survey on Engagement from Cornwall Councillors (attached).

1668.6.1 The Town Clerk asked the Cllrs to respond to the three survey questions from Cornwall Council. Cllr Broad relayed his own positive experiences with his designated Cornwall Cllr. Cllr Morrison stated it is always positive and important for Cllrs to be in the room. Cllr Ellenbroek stated that the reports they sent were difficult to understand, and that there were ways of navigating GDPR that would ensure proper policies were met, whilst keeping Cllrs informed to help residents in need. Cllr Allen agreed, adding more communication from Cornwall Cllrs was needed. Cllr Cunningham suggested a case management system could be a way to navigate updated communication.

Cllr Mays stated it was highly valued when they attended meetings but more could be done to get information. Cllr Morrison agreed, stating that it was profoundly disappointing when they are absent, with concerns over the reflection this has on local government. Cllr Ellenbroek added that previously, all press

releases were communicated to the Town Council. The Town Clerk stated she would submit all the feedback on behalf of the Cllrs.

The absence of the Community Link Officer despite attempts to invite attendance or reports did not aid communication.

1668.6.2 The Town Clerk summarised the Destination Management Organisation (DMO) letter asking Cllrs for support. Cllr Allen asked for clarification regarding the current ownership and the Town Clerk provided it. Cllr Barnes raised his concern over giving money previously and Cllr Ellenbroek added that they needed to consider the benefits for the residents of Redruth, not just the businesses, and whether Council money would be permitted for that kind of use. The Town Clerk stated it was permissible as the benefits would be for all, not just businesses.

1668.6.3 RESOLVED by Majority to invite the DMO to talk to Cllrs about their plans [Proposed by Cllr Reeve; Seconded by Cllr Selwood] Cllrs Mays and Barnes were against.

1668.7 To receive reports from the divisional Cornwall Councillors.

No reports were received.

1668.8 To confirm the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting of the Council held on 18th May 2026 (Minutes attached).

1668.8.1 RESOLVED by Majority to confirm the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting on the Council held on 18th May 2026 [Proposed by Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded by Cllr Barnes] Cllrs Allen, H Biscoe and Jolly abstained.

1668.9 To Receive the Minutes as reports of the following committees and meetings, and to accept and approve the Recommendations and Resolutions contained within the Minutes of the:

1668.9.1 Planning Committee – 18th May 2026

1668.9.1.2 RESOLVED by Majority to confirm the Minutes of the Planning Committee held on the 18th May 2026 [Proposed by Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded by Cllr Selwood] Cllrs Jolly, Allen and Cunningham abstained.

1668.9.2 Asset Management Committee – 1st June 2026

- 1668.9.2.1 RESOLVED by Majority to confirm the Minutes of the Asset Management Committee held on 1st June 2026 [Proposed by Cllr Allen; Seconded by Cllr Reeve] Cllrs Morrison, Mays and Cunningham abstained.

1668.10 To receive the Draft Strategic Plan with emerging themes for comment to inform the final version.

- 1668.10.1 The Town Clerk explained the document was a framework only at this stage with the detail being added once the direction of the document was agreed. Cllrs Allen and Morrison requested more detail and planned actions which was noted for the next draft. The Community Liaison Manager asked if a co-design process could meet the requirements and Cllr Morrison stated he simply wanted to understand the document further.
- 1668.10.2 Cllr Reeve stated that a workshop to discuss these details would be helpful. Cllr Allen stated that the plan needed to paint more of a picture to help Cllrs be guided on their decision making. Cllrs Ellenbroek, Selwood, and Reeve all raised concerns over the previous external reports that had been written about the town and asked for them to be checked for any relevant data to feed in to the RTC Strategic Plan. The Community Liaison Manager stated that it would be useful to comb through that data and develop the next stage of the plan in conjunction. Cllr Cunningham asked for the plan to utilise mind maps and other ways of presenting the information in a more creatively accessible way. Cllr Selwood asked for the previous report to be circulated to Cllrs.

1665.11 To consider the Town Clerk's report.

Cllr Allen asked for the policies up for annual renewal to be sent to Cllrs at least a fortnight before the meeting for a thorough review.

1665.12 To receive the revised Grant Scheme guidance for approval.

- 1665.12.1 Cllr Allen raised her concerns over individuals not being able to apply, the length of time between decisions and delivering the grants, the deadline for project completion, the idea of offering less than asked for and how to keep it equitable, and to add an expectation for match funding within the document. The DTC/RFO answered clarified these points:

- Grants would only be given to organisations, but they would include a way of getting individuals to link with organisations to help them.
- The deadlines were pushed back in order to involve the Youth Council in decision making and their scheduled meetings.
- She would add an expectation for match funding within the document.
- The length of the project could be extended.

1665.12.2 Cllr Barnes asked for the form to fill out be simple and clear and the DTC/RFO stated that it would be simple, that the design of the document was in progress and the team would be happy to also offer assistance for people. She added that on the new website would be a list of other places people could apply to. She also reiterated that the new grants scheme would be heavily marketed going forwards.

1665.12.3 Cllr Morrison strongly advised to give the full amount rather than a lesser sum and Cllr Jolly suggested adding a box within the form for people to let us know if a partial payment would help. The DTC/RFO clarified the changes as suggested by the Cllrs.

1665.12.4 RESOLVED by Majority to accept the Grant Scheme guidance with the amendments stated by Cllrs [Proposed by Cllr Barnes; Seconded by Cllr H Biscoe] Cllr Allen was against.

1665.13 Youth Council update.

The Community Liaison Manager updated the Council on the previous Youth Council meeting.

1665.14 To receive brief verbal updates from Members as representatives on outside bodies.

1665.14.1 Cllr Allen attended her first Community Area Partnership meeting where there were a number of updates the Partnership were undertaking. She also stated she was unable to attend the Breton Twinning Association and updated on their successful recent trip with positive feedback.

1665.14.2 Cllr Reeve gave an update that the Real Del Monte Twinning Association's AGM was on the 6th of July.

1665.14.3 The Town Clerk stated that Cllr Cunningham had stepped down as a representative from the Geothermal Project.

1665.14.4 Cllr Ellenbroek updated Cllrs about the Safer Towns Partnership including the involvement with UKPAC and communication with Heartlands new National Trust Partnership and the Town Clerk stated they were interested in the Council's CCTV network.

1665.15 To consider and approve the schedule of payments.

1665.15.1 Cllr Barnes and Allen asked for clarification about some payments and the DTC/RFO clarified.

1665.15.2 RESOLVED by Majority to approve the schedule of payments [Proposed by Cllr Broad; Seconded by Cllr H Biscoe] Cllrs Allen and Morrison abstained.

1665.16 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.

- 1665.16.1 The Town Clerk updated the Cllrs since the last meeting, commenting that the switch off had already happened and that Cllr Selwood had withdrawn his seconding of the motion. Cllr Mays asked Cllrs to support the motion, citing various surveys and research he had undertaken regarding public safety during light switch-offs. He also stated that Cornwall Council was cutting the lights with no change to the overall costs. Cllr Allen stated that Cornwall Council had already made their decision, and Cllr Mays stated that other Councils felt similarly to him.
- 1665.16.2 RESOLVED by Majority to support the motion and to write to Cornwall Council to discuss the lack of consultation regarding the light switch-off [Proposed by Cllr Mays; Seconded by Cllr Broad] 6 votes for, 6 votes against, with Cllr A Biscoe casting the deciding vote.
- 1665.16.3 RESOLVED by Majority to extend the length of the meeting by 30 minutes [Proposed by Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded by Cllr H Biscoe] Cllrs Barnes and Mays were against.

PART II – PRIVATE SESSION

The Council is invited to pass the following resolution: That pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public excluded from the

Meeting for the following item of business, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted. Unanimously RESOLVED to go to Part II.

1668.17 To receive a brief verbal report on the Clocktower from the Town Clerk.

The report was noted.

1668.18 To consider a report from the Deputy Town Clerk/RFO on The Chambers.

1668.18.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to move the item to the next Finance Committee meeting, to bring back to Full Council after further investigation [Proposed by Cllr Barnes; Seconded by Cllr Allen].

Chair