



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

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Town Mayor: Cllr A Biscoe

Town Clerk: Ms C Caldwell

Minutes of a Meeting of the Redruth Town Council held at Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth
on Monday 28th July 2025

Present:

Cllr A Biscoe
Cllr P Broad
Cllr E Allen
Cllr S Barnes
Cllr H Biscoe
Cllr K Cunningham
Cllr B Ellenbroek
Cllr J Morrison
Cllr D Reeve
Cllr I Thomas

Chair
Vice Chair

In attendance:

Ms C Caldwell
Mrs H Bardle
Ms J Turner
Ms C Welsh
Ms R Pearce
Mrs J Pelham-Wales
Cllr S Harrison
Cllr R Tarrant

Town Clerk
Responsible Finance Officer/Deputy Town Clerk
Senior Library Officer
Strategic Projects Officer
Communications Manager
Administrator
Cornwall Council
Cornwall Council

6 members of the public were also in attendance

PART I – PUBLIC SESSION

1629.1 To receive apologies for absence

Apologies were received from Cllrs Jolly, Major and Tremayne.

1629.2 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.

1629.3 **Public participation session – to enable members of the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda**

Mr. Allison handed the Town Clerk a document summarising his thoughts and opinions regarding correspondence received under part 5 of the Agenda. The Town Clerk agreed that she would share this document with the Councillors and that they would send any comments through by end of the first week of August.

1629.4 **To receive a report from the Town Mayor**

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. She paid a special mention of the Treleigh School production of 'Oliver' which she said was outstanding. The report was noted.

1629.5 **To receive correspondence
Letter regards Food Security and Resilience Emergency**

This was noted.

1629.5.1 **Clean Air Response**

A discussion ensued regards the response from Cornwall Council. Cllr Ellenbroek raised concerns regards Trengweath and when open, the impact on air quality. Cllr Allen asked if the air pollution report figures should be better, due to there being better cars. Cllr Barnes went on to raise concerns about Southdowns and the traffic lights at Station Hill. He added that when Trewirgie School closes at 2pm on School days that there is even more congestion in the Falmouth Road area causing more air pollution. Cllr Thomas wanted to make it known that he thought there was very poor air quality at the lights at Penryn Street, he went on to say that in his opinion there is so much static traffic there that this adds to the issue. Cllr Cunningham raised the affordability issue of residents buying electric cars.

1629.5.2 **Unanimously RESOLVED for the Town Clerk to write back to Cornwall Council to raise the following points;**

- That a close eye is kept on the issue for this particular area, particularly given the planning application and the resultant traffic that will ensue.
- Council have asked why the figures have gone down, given that cars are better?
- The impact of increased car movements in the South Downs area of Redruth and at the traffic lights at Penryn Street, what have Cornwall Council done to improve that area?
- Finally, given that the area has multiple deprivation, there is less likely to be a high-volume uptake of electric vehicles due to the income levels.

[Proposed Cllr.Ellenbroek; Seconded Cllr.H Biscoe].

1629.6 **To receive reports from the divisional Cornwall Councillors**

Reports from Cornwall Cllrs. Harrison and Donnithorne were circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Tarrant gave a verbal update.

- He thanked Cllr Barnes for his service and all the work he had done as a Cornwall Councillor for Redruth North.
- He spoke at the West Planning Committee Meeting in favour of the land behind the Coach House development.
- He had attended a site meeting regards the West Planning Committee.

Cllr H Biscoe asked if Cllrs from Redruth Town Council could speak at these meetings and was informed he had to go through Planning. Cllr Barnes asked Cllr Tarrant to ask when Standing Orders at Cornwall Council were changed and who had changed them. He also asked how much the Community Chest Fund was this year, Cllr Tarrant said it had been halved to £1,400 approximately. The Town Clerk asked Cllr Tarrant when the Community Chest would go live, he replied that he had asked the Community Link Officer and was waiting for her to get back to him.

- He reported he had met with Cllr Cunningham regarding the proposed E-Rickshaw Project for Redruth and that he had visited businesses in the town.

Cllr Harrison explained she had tabled a report and invited any questions. The Town Clerk asked for an update on the state of the roundabout near Tesco and said that the matter had been raised formally three times. She replied that she had asked for a face-to-face meeting with Jack Thomas, the Cornwall Council Highways Manager but she had not heard back from him and would chase this up. She will also be having a face-to-face meeting about this with Cllr Tarrant and she would be raising this subject again at their Full Council Meeting.

Cllr Ellenbroek asked if the question had been raised about Berryman's and was Jack Thomas aware of it and secondly what agreement has been made for the traffic improvement re: Southdowns/Clinton Road Junction, she had been told work would start in May and that it still had not begun, she went on to say that traffic improvements needed to happen to help both Trewirgie and Redruth Schools. Lastly, she asked if correspondence had been received re; 114 Albany Road/Harbour Housing. Cllr Harrison said she would look into these matters. The Town Clerk said that the last item would come before the next Planning Committee on 11th August.

Cllr Broad stated that there was pollution from Biffa Waste on the Cardrew Industrial Estate. Cllr Harrison said that she had passed this to Cllr Donnithorne to deal with.

Cllr Thomas raised the issue regarding the junction at the top of Falmouth Road/bottom of Southgate, where there was no safe crossing. He asked that this be looked at.

There was a brief discussion about Treskerby play park re: consultation. The Town Clerk said this would be followed up by Cllr Donnithorne.

The Town Clerk asked if there was a new Members Highways Scheme at Cornwall Council yet, to effectively deliver things, for example a 'pedestrian crossing' and to ask the Community Link Officer if there was a Highways budget being reinstated. Cllr Tarrant replied that he would ask the Community Link Officer, and let the Town Clerk know.

1629.7 **To confirm the Minutes of the Monthly meeting of the Council held on 30th June 2025**

1629.7.1 **RESOLVED** by Majority to confirm the minutes of the monthly meeting of the Council held on 30th June 2025.

[Proposed Cllr Allen; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe] Cllrs Broad and Morrison abstained as they had not been present at the meeting.

1629.8 **To receive the minutes as reports of the following Committees and meetings, and to accept and approve Recommendations and Resolutions contained within the Minutes of the:**

Planning Committee – 7th July 2025

1629.8.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Planning Committee meeting held on 7th July 2025 are received, and that the Recommendations and Resolutions are accepted and approved. [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Broad].

Finance Committee – 14th July 2025

1629.8.2 RESOLVED by Majority that the minutes of the Finance Committee meeting held on 14th July 2025 are received, and that the Recommendations and Resolutions are accepted and approved. [Proposed Cllr Broad; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe].

Staffing Committee – 14th July 2025

1629.8.3 Unanimously RESOLVED that the minutes of the Staffing Committee meeting held on 14th July 2025 are received, and that the Recommendations and Resolutions are accepted and approved. [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Allen]

1629.9 **To consider a Motion ‘Request to Cornwall Council to Implement High Street Rental Auctions’ from Cllrs E Allen, R.Jolly and J Morrison**

“Background:

Redruth town centre has faced ongoing challenges with vacant commercial properties, many of which are held by private landlords at high rents, contributing to business closures and reduced footfall. This situation hampers the vitality and economic growth of our high street and negatively impacts the local community.

Motion

That Redruth Town Council formally requests Cornwall Council to explore and implement High Street Rental Auctions as a strategic tool to reduce long-term commercial property vacancies and encourage affordable, fair rental opportunities for local independent businesses.

Rationale

- ***High Street Rental Auctions have been successfully trialled or adopted in other UK towns and cities as a way to bring empty commercial properties back into productive use.***
- ***By incentivising landlords to offer properties at competitive rents through an auction system, HSRAs help curb the negative impact of inflated rents and speculative property holding.***
- ***This approach supports small and independent businesses by increasing access to affordable premises, which is critical for the economic revitalisation of Redruth’s high street.***
- ***Empowering local authorities with such tools promotes community-led regeneration and helps create a vibrant, sustainable local economy.***

Action

Redruth Town Council calls on Cornwall Council to:

- ***Investigate the feasibility of introducing High Street Rental Auctions within Cornwall, with Redruth as a pilot location.***
- ***Engage with landlords, local businesses, and community stakeholders to develop a fair and transparent HSRA framework.***
- ***Report back to Redruth Town Council with proposals and a timeline for implementation.***

Cllr Allen verbally explained the motion which had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Morrison added that this would be a 'test' to see if this motion would work. Cllr Reeve asked if other Councils had done this anywhere before. Cllr Allen replied yes but only in a few places and that it had not been undertaken by Cornwall Council before. Cllr Ellenbroek suggested that as well as writing to Cornwall Council that Cllr Donnithorne should also be copied in.

Cllr Cunningham then spoke about Superdrug closing and the Town Clerk replied that she had spoken to MP Perran Moon about this and that there were 860 stores closing nationally. Cllr Reeve said that she had got some more information and that only 2 stores had closed so far. Cllr Reeve went on to say that the impact of the Pharmacy closing at Superdrug would be felt across the town.

1629.9.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to support the motion 'Request to Cornwall Council to Implement High Street Rental Auctions' from Cllrs E Allen, R. Jolly and J Morrison. The Town Clerk will formally write to Cornwall Council, and also write to the Portfolio Holder and Cllr Donnithorne.

1629.10 To consider the Town Clerk's report.

Cllr Thomas – In relation to Trefusis Park, he asked for reassurance that the surface of the football pitch had been properly assessed as part of the calculations. He noted that if it were to deteriorate within two years, the liability for the Council could be significant. He raised similar concerns about the zipwire, stressing that while obvious issues had been addressed, little had been done to safeguard against longer-term risks.

Cllr Thomas also mentioned the cleaning and repainting of the War Memorial. He reported that the Friends of Victoria and Trefusis Park had obtained quotes which were considerably higher than those in the devolution figures. The Clerk explained that the Council had been told the War Memorial was out of scope. She acknowledged that the figures could be an underestimate but felt it would still be worth asking, she also pointed out that the Devolution pot at Cornwall Council is not extensive and that the ask had to be reasonable.

He further raised concerns about vandalism to the bandstand, which had damaged the wrought ironwork and left sharp edges.

Cllr Allen – She asked about St Rumon's Garden and why it had not been included in the TRIP application. The Clerk advised that the Council does not own the gardens, only leases them, and that it would not have been possible to demonstrate planning permission within the timescale in order to meet the application requirements. The Strategic Projects Officer further advised that we will be looking for alternative opportunities to pursue the ideas for St Rumon's gardens including biodiversity.

Cllr Allen also questioned why the Council had not seen the final bid, whilst recognising that the initial timescales were very tight. She also sought clarification on the involvement of The Ladder, who had presented ideas for the TRIP bid. She also noted that the final bid included items that had not previously been discussed.

The Clerk stated that when the TRIP opportunity was announced, all Councillors were invited to bring forward suggestions which would be explored. She then invited the Strategic Projects Officer to respond. The Strategic Projects Officer and Clerk had met with The Ladder fairly late in the process following a request from The Ladder for a meeting and had been asked if they could include their ideas within the wider Council bid. Some of the suggestions were not viable within the timescales and one was for a Cultural Strategy which it was felt that ownership of such proposals should rest independently, and that the cultural consortium would have been better placed to lead. To have included them would have required substantial additional work, including

procurement, site visits, detailed specifications, and delivery planning. Given the short timeframe, with the project required to start in September and be completed by December, this was not considered deliverable. The Strategic Projects Officer further stated that the Ladder had been emailed and offered continued support.

The final bid included additional items that it was felt could be useful for the town and were within scope.

Items for decision were considered, and the following was agreed.

- 1629.10.1 Unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr Ellenbroek would be the representative for Safer Redruth Partnership [Proposed Cllr Thomas; Seconded Cllr Allen].
- 1629.10.2 Unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr H Biscoe would be the representative for the Police Liaison Group [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Allen]
- 1629.10.3 Unanimously RESOLVED that Cllr A Biscoe would be the representative for the Mining Villages Group Proposed [Cllr Broad; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]

At the July Full Council meeting there was discussion about anti-social behaviour at benches in Shoots Row.

- 1629.10.4 RESOLVED by Majority to remove the benches and for the Asset Management Committee to agree a new location for them in the town [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Allen], Cllr Cunningham abstained.

The Town Clerk had also asked in the Committee Papers for three policies to be reviewed at this meeting, these being Equality and Diversity Policy, Social Media Policy and Safeguarding Policy by the Members.

Equality and Diversity Policy

Cllr Allen said in her opinion, that as a Council too many meetings were happening during the day and that the Council needed to be more inclusive for Councillors to attend these meetings. The Town Mayor said that we needed to be inclusive for all and consider staff commitments as well as Councillors and external people, and that it has to be as fair as possible for everyone to attend. Cllr Broad agreed and said that as he worked shifts he was not always able to attend meetings, he went on to say that Members can always send points in to the Town Clerk for the meetings and that sometimes it is just not possible to attend all the meetings.

Equality and Diversity Policy

- 1629.10.5 RESOLVED by Majority to adopt the policy [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr A Biscoe], Cllr Cunningham abstained.

Social Media Policy

- 1629.10.6 RESOLVED by Majority to adopt the policy. [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Ellenbroek], Cllr Cunningham abstained.

Safeguarding Policy

- 1629.10.7 RESOLVED by Majority to adopt the policy [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Barnes], Cllr Cunningham abstained.

1629.11 **Youth Council Update**

The Communications Manager gave a verbal report of the latest Youth Council meeting on 9th July 2025, and other activities since that date.

- A new member was appointed at the Youth Council meeting on 9th July. The Youth Councillors agreed to assist Redruth Rotary Club to collect ring pulls and will set up a collection point.
- Youth Councillors attended the United Nations Article 12 celebration day and were the only Youth Council represented other than Cornwall Council YC itself.
- The Youth Council has resolved to
 - support the implementation of a ‘well-being vending machine’ which will sell fidget toys and similar products.
 - Create a manifesto for Redruth Youth Council (the first town Youth Council to do so)
 - speak at the Town Meeting
 - help organise the Youth Festival on 30th August, for young people in Redruth.

There was a discussion about whether the Youth Festival was a replacement for the Family Fun Day traditionally held in Victoria Park at the end of the summer. Cllr Thomas expressed the view that the Fun Day would be missed this year, although St Rumon’s Club will hold its own Family Fun Day on 24th August. There will be a second Youth Festival in 2026, but consideration will be given to holding a separate Fun Day in Victoria Park next year.

1629.12 To receive brief verbal updates from Members as representatives on outside bodies.

Cllr Barnes stated that there would be a meeting on Wednesday 30th July 2025 at Redruth Community Centre.

Cllr Allen reported that the French twinning association were looking for new members. They are also doing fundraising and are putting on various events.

1629.13 To consider and approve the schedule of payments

A report had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Allen asked the RFO/Deputy Town Clerk as to whether the Town Council were using local suppliers for office supplies and consumables. She replied that local suppliers are used wherever possible. The rest of the report was noted.

1629.13.1 RESOLVED by Majority to approve the schedule of payments [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr Ellenbroek]. Cllr. Cunningham abstained.

PART 11 – PRIVATE SESSION - Exclusion of the Press and Public

1629.14.1 RESOLVED by Majority that pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the Meeting for the following item of business, by reason of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted [Proposed Cllr Thomas; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]. Cllr Reeve was absent for the vote.

1629.15 To receive a verbal update on the Clocktower

The Town Clerk gave Members a verbal update on the Redruth Clocktower.

1629.16 To consider and approve signing of the CCTV contract

The Town Clerk gave members a verbal update on the CCTV contract. The contract was approved.