

REDRUTH TOWN COUNCIL



CONSEL AN DRE RESRUDH

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

Tel No: 01209-210038 e-mail: admin@redruth-tc.gov.uk

Town Mayor: Cllr A Biscoe

Town Clerk: Ms C Caldwell

Minutes of a Meeting of the Finance Committee held at Redruth Civic Centre, Alma Place, Redruth on Monday 14th July 2025

Present: Cllr S Barnes (Chair)
Cllr E Allen
Cllr A Biscoe
Cllr H Biscoe
Cllr P Broad
Cllr J Morrison
Cllr D Reeve
Cllr I Thomas
Cllr W Tremayne

In attendance: Ms C Caldwell	Town Clerk
Mrs H Bardle	Responsible Finance Officer
Ms C Welsh	Strategic Projects Officer
Ms M Martin	Business Liaison Manager
Miss K O'Dell	Administrator
Cllr R Jolly	
Mr B Kelly	CRASH
Ms C Taylor	Redruth Clothes Bank
Mr J Hale	Redruth Cricket Club
Mrs M Tremayne	Gwealan Tops
Ms S Sullivan	Totally Locally
Mr J Faragher	Truro Nourish Hub
Ms D Mitchell	RJ Working

PART I – PUBLIC SESSION

1627.1 **To receive apologies for absence**

None were received.

1627.2 **Members to declare any disclosable pecuniary interests or non-registerable interests (including details thereof) in respect of any item(s) on this Agenda**

Cllrs Barnes and Tremayne both declared an interest and signed the register accordingly.

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

Mr Kelly introduced himself as an official representing CRASH, a group that supports anyone who has had a cardiac problem with both physical and emotional support. To keep the group operational, they need a number of qualified first aid members at each session. They have asked Redruth Town Council for a grant to help with covering the cost of running a course.

Mrs Tremayne had attended the meeting to ask for a grant to help maintain the play equipment at Gwealan Tops adventure playground. She stated that it is the only adventure playground in Cornwall, and it provides a free playing space for over 8000 children with all play being led by children with adult supervision.

Ms Taylor spoke about the Redruth Clothes Bank, a new community group set up as there was no such facility in Redruth. It has been a big success with over 100 attendees per session. They have applied for a grant to part fund the Free Child Christmas Picnic Lunch planned for Saturday 6th December 2025. This would be held alongside Redruth Town Council's Christmas grotto and would provide an additional free activity to children waiting to see Santa.

Mr Hale introduced himself as a committee member of Redruth Cricket Club. He explained that the club used as much green energy as it could and one of these methods was solar panels. They have applied for a grant to purchase a second solar battery to store electricity for consumption in the evening as a full stocked battery could save up to £200 per month. Cllr H Biscoe asked if the solar panels are angled to get the maximum amount of sunlight. Mr Hale replied that they can be angled and tilted in order to do so.

Ms Mitchell introduced herself as the CEO of RJ Working. They have applied for a grant to enable a partnership working with Redruth Youth Council and the local schools, providing fun, interactive workshops and promoting specific events such as the youth festival. They would go into schools and actively promote the aspiration to join the Redruth Youth Council. Cllr Morrison asked how many sessions would be provided and Ms Mitchell said a specific number had not been decided it would depend on how many were required. Cllr Allen asked what ages of staff would be involved and Ms Mitchell responded that the majority of her staff are between 18 and 25.

Ms Sullivan spoke on behalf of Totally Locally. They have applied for a grant to put up a map on an area of wall adjacent to the clock tower. Existing signage would be lowered in order to put the map up. The grant would cover the cost of getting the map printed. The design was completed for free and Redruth Town Council's facilities team has agreed to do the installation free of charge.

Mr Faragher was representing Truro Nourish Hub. He explained that although the name said Truro, it was a misnomer as they have worked in several Cornish towns including Bodmin and Hayle. They have applied for a grant to support the delivery of a new community engagement project which would combine three already successful projects: Grow (a community garden), Sizzle (cookery) and Create (Podcasts). The project would be aimed at young people and workshops would be held monthly with free food. They would collaborate with existing groups and projects already in Redruth. Cllr Barnes asked where workshops would be held, and Mr Faragher replied that they would be looking into possible venues if their grant application was successful. He added that the Langman Room would be suitable as all they need is a safe venue with electricity. He would approach local church halls and sports clubs. Cllr Broad mentioned

that there is a community room available at the local Tesco store. Cllr Thomas said they should speak to the Redruth Youth Café as that would be an excellent opportunity.

Cllr Barnes thanked all the grant applicants for their time.

Ms Martin, Mr Kelly, Mrs Tremayne, Ms Taylor, Mr Hale, Ms Mitchell, Ms Sullivan and Mr Faragher all left the meeting at this point.

1627.4 To confirm the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 7th April 2025

1627.4.1 RESOLVED by Majority to accept the Minutes of the Meeting of the Finance Committee held on 7th April 2025 as a true and accurate record of proceedings [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr A Biscoe] Cllrs Allen, Broad, Morrison, Tremayne and Reeve abstained as they had not been present at the previous meeting.

1627.5 To review the Management Report for the quarter ended 30th June 2025

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The RFO said she would be happy to send out any further information as required as it was a long document. She answered a question from Cllr Allen on staffing costs.

1627.5.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to note the report [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]

1627.6 To receive the report from the Responsible Finance Officer (RFO) for the period ended 30th June 2025

The report was circulated prior to the meeting. The RFO drew attention to point 2.4 and the proposal to cease security at meetings to save money. The security team were brought in to aid with the need to comply with social distancing due to the COVID-19 pandemic but now would no longer be necessary. Cllr Allen asked how anyone arriving late to a meeting would gain access and the Town Clerk assured Cllrs that would not be a problem. Cllr Tremayne asked if staff safety would be compromised especially in the winter months when it would be dark outside. The Town Clerk responded that all staff left meetings together and walked to the car park as a group so there were no concerns.

1627.6.1 Unanimously RESOLVED to cease having security present at evening meetings going forward and to install a bell on the front Library door for late arrivals [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Tremayne]

The RFO asked Cllrs to consider a proposal regarding mobile phones for staff and councillors. At the present time, seven members of staff either do not have a work phone provided or they have one insufficient for their work requirements. Several councillors have also requested a work phone. The RFO said we are under budget for mobile phones and asked Cllrs to decide whether to approve mobiles for staff, councillors who have requested them or all councillors. Cllr Barnes queried why the Town Council would pay for councillors to have a phone. Cllr Thomas said in his opinion that it would not be necessary for councillors to have mobile phones and that they should go through the office main line if they do not want to use their personal numbers and had concerns that it could affect the precept. Cllr Allen said she did not want her personal number made public, due to the fact this represented a serious GDPR risk as well as potential impact on work/life balance. The Town Clerk stated that in terms of contact ability for parishioners, it is important that a number is shown on the Council's website. Cllr Tremayne asked if he would be

able to access emails on the mobile as currently, he can only access them through the tablet when he has wi-fi and that is sometimes difficult for him. The Town Clerk replied that they would have email access. The Town Clerk added that we currently have a website where there are no contact details for some councillors and that needs to be addressed. The RFO stated that if we have the 7 staff mobiles and 8 available for councillors then we would be within the budget.

- 1627.6.2 **RESOLVED** by Majority to provide work phones for 7 staff members and any councillors who request one [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe] Cllr Thomas abstained.

1627.7 **To receive the final Internal Audit report for 2024/25**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- 1627.7.1 Unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the report [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]

1627.8 **To receive the Councillors' internal audit report for quarter 4 2024/25**

The report was circulated prior to the meeting.

- 1627.8.1 Unanimously **RESOLVED** to note the report [Proposed Cllr Barnes; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]

1627.9 **To agree the timetable and rota for the Councillors' internal audit for the year ended 31st March 2026**

The RFO asked for 8 councillors to volunteer to complete the internal audit for each quarter.

Cllrs Reeve and Allen volunteered for the quarter ending June 2025.

Cllrs A Biscoe and Broad volunteered for the quarter ending September 2025

Cllrs Tremayne and Morrison volunteered for the quarter ending December 2025

Cllrs Barnes and H Biscoe volunteered for the quarter ending March 2026

1627.10 **To consider a request to utilise an Earmarked Reserve to meet the costs of the Residents' Survey**

The RFO requested that two existing Earmarked Reserves (EMR) are used to pay the costs of the survey, including new software and a more powerful laptop to run it, printing and mailout, administration time and other expenses. Cllr Allen asked if the software cost would be included in next year's budget in order for us to access the data. The Town Clerk confirmed it would be and that some other councils had already been in contact with us about the survey and that there could be scope for consultancy.

- 1627.10.1 Unanimously **RESOLVED** to use the two existing EMR to cover the costs of the Residents' Survey [Proposed Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]

1627.11 **To consider the Grant applications made in the period to 30th June 2025**

The Grant Applications were dealt with in accordance with the attached Annex A

Chair

Redruth Town Council
Grant Application Summary
Meeting Date: 14th July 2025

Budget 2025-2026: £16,000		Allocated to date: nil		Balance available: £16,000	
No	Applicant	Purpose	Amount Applied for	Decision	Previous Awards
1.	CRASH	12 members of the group need to renew their one-day Level 3 Award in Emergency First Aid at Work (RQF) qualification.	£480	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded Cllr H Biscoe]	£180 in 2024 for defibrillator pads
2.	Gwealan Tops	To introduce new pieces of equipment and enhance the existing structures in order to extend the play, fun and stimulating experiences for young people in Redruth	£500	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr Broad; Seconded Cllr Morrison]	Nil
3.	National Literacy Trust	Following the success of Redruth Reads 2024 we seek funding for this programme in summer 2025. We role-modelled how to share stories with little ones, demonstrating simple play activities linked to effective speech and language development. We gifted a total of 250 high quality books so that families could continue the important work there.	£500	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Thomas]	£500 in 2024
4.	Redruth Clothes Bank	The application is to part-fund the Free Child Christmas Picnic Lunch planned for Saturday 6 th December 2025 at the Community Centre. This will go alongside the RTC Santa's grotto and provide an additional free activity.	£340	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr A Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Broad]	Nil
5.	Redruth Cricket Club	Redruth CC are currently in the process of installing and commissioning solar panels. We want to install a solar battery to store this electricity for consumption in the evening. All money will be re-invested back into the cricket club.	£500	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Allen]	Yes, January 2021, - £500 and July 2024 - £500

6.	RJ Working	Young members of the RJ Working team are proposing a partnership with Redruth's Youth Council: i) To promote understanding of the work of the Youth Council in Redruth's schools and the wider community, ii) To promote the aspiration of joining the Youth Council among Redruth's children and young people, and iii) Using Restorative approaches to support Youth Councillors consulting and representing wider groups of Redruth's children and young people.	£1800	RESOLVED by Majority not to support the grant request and to ask the Town Clerk to discuss this application with RJ Working in further detail [Proposed Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded Cllr Allen] Cllr Thomas abstained.	Nil
7.	True Butterflies	The True Butterflies Foundation is a registered charity that supports survivors of domestic abuse and their children. We would like to offer more children in Redruth support within their schools. We have an emotional support program called Little Wings, which is available to provide for children age 3 to 10, in mainstream school who are affected by domestic abuse.	£500	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr Allen; Seconded Cllr A Biscoe]	Nil
8.	Totally Locally	To cover the printing costs of an enlarged Totally Locally map which will showcase over 100 independent businesses in the town centre and be erected on the wall on the side of Market Strand.	£468	RESOLVED by Majority to grant the amount requested in full [Proposed Cllr Allen; Seconded Cllr Morrison] Cllrs H Biscoe and Thomas abstained.	Nil
9.	Truro Nourish Hub	To support the delivery of a new community engagement project designed to foster inclusion, connection, and opportunity for the residents of Redruth parish. The project will focus on creating a series of accessible workshops, events, and support sessions aimed at young people, families, and individuals who may be experiencing social isolation, unemployment, or other barriers to participation in community life	£350	Unanimously RESOLVED to grant the amount requested in full on the production of an appropriate delivery timescale and list of prospective collaborative partners [Proposed Cllr Reeve; Seconded Cllr Allen]	Nil