



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 13th April 2026

Present:

Cllr A Biscoe
Cllr P Broad
Cllr E Allen
Cllr S Barnes
Cllr H Biscoe
Cllr K Cunningham
Cllr R Jolly
Cllr A Mays
Cllr J Morrison
Cllr D Reeve
Cllr M Sellwood
Cllr I Thomas
Cllr W Tremayne

Chair

In attendance:

Mrs C Williams	Town Clerk
Mrs H Bardle	Responsible Finance Officer (RFO)/Deputy Town Clerk(DTC)
Mrs J Cockerham-Harris	Minute Taker
Mr G Coombs	Facilities Manager
Ms L Akerman	Community Liaison Officer
Mr J Molloy	Asset Manager

There were 10 members of the public 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. Cllr Allen and Redruth Town Council declared they were audio recording the meeting.

- 1659.1 To receive apologies for absence**
Apologies were received from Cllr Ellenbroek.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'AB'.

- 1659.2 Public participation session – to enable members of the public to put questions to the Council relating to any items on the agenda.**
- 1659.2.1 Ms F. Morrison asked the Cllrs to explain the current situation on the agenda and the Town Clerk clarified that they received a letter from Cornwall Council, along with every other town and parish council about their new opt in/opt out initiative to use Glyphosate as a weedkiller across the county. She also clarified the decisions that needed to be made.
- 1659.2.2 Mr P. Deakin asked to clarify why the discussion of The Chambers was in Part II of the meeting at the exclusion of the public. The Town Clerk answered that the discussion would include sensitive information and they were following the GDPR guidelines, though this concern was taken on board and a summary would be brought to the next Full Council meeting.
- 1659.2.3 Ms J. Louise stated her concern about the use of Glyphosate weedkiller on the local ecological systems. She cited her experience as a gardener and urged the Cllrs to consider less harmful alternatives, as well as reconsider the need for manicured green spaces. Cllr Selwood clarified the difference between an insecticide and a herbicide, and Cllr Cunningham stated she had researched scientific studies into the impact of Glyphosate that anyone could contact her about.
- 1659.2.4 Ms S. Clasper, from the Climate Action Group, urged Cllrs to opt out of the agreement, stating her concerns over the chemical and the impact on all walks of life. She asked the Council to be forward thinking and consider alternatives.
- 1659.2.5 Mr D. Webb cited his education in environmental studies, relaying his concerns over the harmful effects of using Glyphosate, and the proposed health risks, with an added concern to the drain benefits provided by some weeds.
- 1659.2.6 Mr A. Rogers spoke of his personal history and asked the Council why there had been unlawful interference with a recent social media post by Cllr Mays. The Town Clerk answered that there was no unlawful interference and that she had been quite within her rights as Town Clerk to speak with any Cllr on the matter of Civility and Respect and the Code of Conduct in relation to social media posts that had caused offence and led to an unprecedented number of written and verbal complaints having been received. The Clerk further stated that when Cllr Mays came in to discuss the matter, he was aware of the issue and wrote an apology of his own free will and had thanked the Council on how well the matter had been dealt with by the Council. The post had been removed by Cllr Mays voluntarily.
- 1659.2.7 Cllr Cunningham read out a letter from a member of the public asking the Cllrs to not allow Glyphosate to be used in Redruth. They asked the Council to look at the substance's COSHH document and the concern this raised to all walks of life.
- 1659.2.8 Cllr Jolly readout a statement from Resilient Orchards CIC asking the Cllrs to opt out of the initiative, stating their own recent efforts for their Redruth Orchards Project and the damage this initiative could do.
- 1659.2.9 The Town Clerk read out two letters. The first was from a local resident, concerned about the use of Glyphosate and the effect it would have on the flowers she grew outside her window, as well as on her own health problems.



The second was also from another member of Resilient Orchards CIC, offering information on the health risks and ecological risks from using Glyphosate in the environment.

1659.3 To consider urgent correspondence relating to Cornwall Council's proposed use of Glyphosate in areas of Redruth.

Cllr Allen stated that she believed there was insufficient time to make an informed decision. Cllr Barnes then proposed to write back to Cornwall Council, stating that they should stick to the former method, not using Glyphosate, and expect them to maintain the level of service as per their previous responsibility. Cllr Cunningham stated that she understood there were viable alternatives and they needed to organise and plan costs with these in mind. Cllr Tremayne stated Cornwall Council had an obligation to keep the Highways clear and Cllr H Biscoe recalled a previous subcontractor for weedkilling. Cllr Reeve clarified that the green areas specified in the map (sent by Cornwall Council) were not sprayed and the red areas were serviced by Biffa. She also stated the Climate Action Plan was clear and the Council could not go back on that.

Cllr Selwood stated the reasoning for reintroducing Glyphosate as stated in their report, was because standards as they were, were failing. The weedkiller would be used in concentrated doses in small, designated areas. Cllr Thomas stated he was opposed to using toxic pesticides and they had the precept and the public purse to consider for any alternatives. Cllr Broad stated that it was a balance between cost of living and biodiversity.

Cllr A Biscoe proposed the Council create a community petition, to get 5000 signatures which would then trigger a Cornwall Council debate about the issue, and to discharge responsibility for weed management safely on their own land rather than putting this responsibility on the Town and Parish Councils. The Town Clerk stated that the petition would ensure all voices in our community are heard and that we can send our petition to all Town and Parish Councils across Cornwall.

Cllr Thomas added that the motion should include the fact Cornwall Council own the land in question. The Facilities Manager added that he had an estimate of costings to provide this service with no insecticides or pesticides and stated that the offer from Cornwall Council was woefully insufficient to cover the potential costs and health and safety implications.

1659.3.2 Unanimously RESOLVED to Support the motion of creating and circulating a community petition to extend the deadline for decision, and state Cornwall Council's responsibility to maintain positive ecological impact on the environment by not using Glyphosate on the areas specified by Cornwall Council's provided maps [Proposed by Cllr Thomas; Seconded by Cllr H Biscoe].

PART II – PRIVATE SESSION – Exclusion of the Press and Public

The Council is invited to pass the following resolution: - That pursuant to the provisions of the Public Bodies (Admissions to the 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 by Cllr Barnes; Seconded by Cllr Reeve].

1659.4 To receive a presentation by CPE Ltd on The Chambers Feasibility Report, a TRIP funded piece of work.



The Asset Manager presented to the Cllrs the Chambers Feasibility Report.

1659.5 For Council to debate and make a decision on which option to pursue for The Chambers, based on the Options Appraisal presented.

RESOLVED by Majority to pursue option D with a site visit [Proposed by Cllr H Biscoe; Seconded by Reeve] 8 vote for, 3 votes against, Cllrs Cunningham and Selwood abstained.

Chair

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