

FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday 8th December 2025 at 7.00pm held in the Council Chamber, Municipal Buildings, The Moor, Falmouth. TR11 3QA

Present: Councillors A J Jewell (Town Mayor), T M Pearce (Deputy Mayor), G P Andrewartha, S R Carmichael, D E Clegg CC, D V Evans BEM CC, L E Lowes, D A Konik, A D Munden, J C Robinson, A L Rowe CC, D W Saunby CC, H M Stephens, J A R Stowell, and J A Walkden.

In Attendance: A M Williams (Town Clerk)
D C Shankland (Communications Officer)
Councillor L Magowan (Cornwall Council, Arwenack ED)
P Fitzpatrick (Falmouth Fairtrade)
P & D Wickes (CEO, & Director, Cornwall Marine Network)
S Good (Community Project Manager, Devon & Cornwall Neighbourhood Watch)
W Wong (Communications Officer, Citizens Advice Cornwall)
A Bruce (Stop the Chop Campaign)

C6125 APOLOGIES

An apology was received and approved from Councillor Holbrook (family matters).

C6126 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

None.

C6127 MINUTES

It was proposed by Councillor Carmichael seconded by Councillor Konik and

RESOLVED that the minutes of the Meeting held on 15th September 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

C6128 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on over 60 engagements with civic, town events, and meetings attended. Including High Sheriffs event, Anniversary of the Battle of Britain, Oyster Festival, St Nazaire Twinning, Remembrance events, and cruise ships. He recognised the efforts of Stop the Chop campaign in their attempts to prevent the street tree removal at Trelawney Road. He updated on his charity – and fund raising for Pendennis Leisure new swimming pool – the Mayoral Variety Show would be on 13th December 2025 and his Mayoral Civic Ball on 7th February 2026. The report was duly noted.

C6129 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT

The Deputy Mayor reported on civic, town events, and meetings attended. Including St Nazaire Twinning, he thanked the Falmouth Twinning Association for their efforts. Remembrance events, Cornwall College Graduation ceremony, Band of Brothers Homecoming, and Fairtrade Falmouth. He congratulated the Mayor on his civic service, his time in office so far, and particularly his charity fund raising. He recognized the work of the Town Team and the many volunteers for the enjoyable and successful festive weekend and Christmas lights switch on. He thanked Councillor Magowan and Stop the Chop Campaign in trying and prevent

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the removal of highway street trees in Trelawney Road. He hoped Cornwall Council would reinstate Cornwall Housing sites local litter bin removals.

C6130 DEVON AND CORNWALL NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH

The Community Project Manager advised that the programme was funded by the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for designated Safer Towns, and working with existing neighbourhood watch schemes, to grow that network. Addressing perceptions, understanding communities, and building neighbour cohesion. It was a free membership organisation with online signposting to schemes or supporting establishing new schemes, covering insurance, and providing access to funds. Additionally, there was the community safety charter aimed at businesses that worked well with the existing DISC reporting system, and the youth section that looked at local community safety projects.

C6131 CITIZENS ADVICE CORNWALL

The Communications Officer thanked the Council for the annual grant award and engagement from Councillor Stowell, he invited all councillors to attend the Citizens Advice operation. He updated on the local charity status, its work including case studies. As well as detailing the numbers of people assisted, 65% of whom had long term health conditions. The top debt issue for Falmouth residents was council tax arrears. The public were often unaware of the availability of support for council tax payments. Cornwall Council provided relief of up to 75% for low-income earners, some local authorities provided 100%. He felt the use of bailiffs for such arrears was inappropriate and debt advice was an alternative and requested councillors support the formal motion by Councillor Stowell concerning this (C6143).

C6132 CORNWALL MARINE NETWORK

The Chief Executive Officer updated on the work of the Network over 20 years, a private not for profit company, that had seen the creation of over 5000 marine sector jobs and supported 805 marine businesses, 90% of the sector was in membership. Creating £1.2billion GDP to Cornwall. The Network had secured £42million in funding bids. 10,000 marine employees upskilled, and 2,000 new apprenticeships. He presented updates from Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Maritime, and also the local member of Parliament. He responded to questions.

C6133 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

None received.

C6134 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT

No report.

C6135 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT

No report. It was noted that a new Falmouth Fire Station Manager had been appointed and would attend the next meeting of the Council.

C6136 COMMUNITY AREA PANEL

The update and Highway Scheme was duly noted. Councillor Howes reported on the request by Falmouth Afoot regarding better regulation of the Traffic Regulation Order in the High Street.

It was proposed by Councillor Stephens, seconded by Councillor Howes and

RESOLVED that the following schemes be identified as priorities for the Council for consideration by the Community Area Panel:

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- Highway safety measures near St Francis School (previous crossing removal) and addressing drainage at Mongleath Road;
- Vehicle activated speed signs to be acquired for the Falmouth and Penryn network area;
- Safety improvements to cycle lanes at Ponsharden/Dracaena Terrace;
- Drainage improvements to the A39 at Visick's Corner to remove standing water on the highway;
- Additional on, and off, street residents parking at Accacia Road.

Further it was proposed by Councillor Howes, seconded by Councillor Jewell and

RESOLVED that

- (i) Cornwall Council and the Police be requested to provide greater resourcing to the enforcement of the traffic restrictions in the High Street; and
- (ii) The Planning and Licensing Committee be requested to review and comment upon the proposal to reverse the traffic flow in the High Street.

C6137 LARGE LOCAL COUNCILS COMMITTEE – CORNWALL ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

The minutes of the meeting on 16th October 2025 was duly noted.

C6138 FALMOUTH FAIRTRADE

The Fairtrade Falmouth representative reported upon local Fairtrade activity including events, local statistics, and universities engagement. She thanked Councillors Pearce and Walkden for their engagement. She hoped to get better engagement with local businesses and had spoken to the hospitality sector regarding their procurement practice. The report was noted.

C6139 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

Boslowick

Councillor Clegg reported that the fire at the former Boslowick Inn would not hinder the approved redevelopment as it was still structurally sound. She was working with residents to try and prevent the disposal of public open spaces by the developer at Goldenbanks and Swan's Reach. There had been issues with the reinstatement of the footpath at Swanpool and signage at the Golf Club. Consultation regarding traffic improvements at Bickland Water Road would shortly be undertaken. Nature friendly improvements were schedule at Boslowick as part of the Green Corridor. She updated on Trelawney Road tree removals.

Trescobeas and Budock

Councillor Saunby reported local housing issues he had assisted with. He also addressed erroneous rumours regarding the reduction of wards at Falmouth Hospital – patient movements were due to planned heating system repairs. He updated on litter picks at Trescobeas and The Beacon following Cornwall Housing bin removals. He would inquire of Cornwall Council the cost of Trelawney Road tree removals.

Penwerris

Councillor Rowe advised that Cornwall Council had not been transparent regarding Trelawney Road tree removals, the process for which he considered to have been

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flawed. He was concerned at the cost of this, in the context of public bin removals and community safety resourcing. As well as the requirement on police resourcing – he would raise this with the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, alongside Councillor Magowan, and Councillor Evans the Council’s OPCC Advocate.

Arwenack

Councillor Magowan reported on the Trelawney Tree removals and commended Stop the Chop Campaign for their efforts in trying to prevent the removals and to make Cornwall Council accountable for their reasoning and evidence for removals. He was concerned at precedent and the future treatment for street trees and the duty to consult. He updated on the recent public meeting by the Cornwall Council strategic director. Other matters: he was pleased that Cornwall Council would progress the matter of Public Space Protection Order for beach fires. He updated on the recent South West Water consultation on their planned works, that included sites in the ownership of the Town Council and as part of Devo4 transfers. The pop-up concession at Queen Mary Gardens was being extended by Cornwall Council into a third year which he was opposed to given local objections.

It was proposed by Councillor Stowell, seconded by Councillor Saunby and

RESOLVED that Standing Order 3(e) be temporarily suspended to allow a representative of Stop the Chop Campaign to address the meeting regarding the Trelawney Road tree removals and the protest.

Stop the Chop thanked the Council and Councillor Magowan for support of the campaign, they updated the Council on the removals that day, as well as what they considered to have been the failings by Cornwall Council, which they hoped would be challenged.

C6140 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 29th September 2025 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Carmichael and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 29th September 2025 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 20th October 2025 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Carmichael and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 20th October 2025 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 10th November 2025 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Carmichael and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 10th November 2025 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 1st December 2025 was presented by Councillor Jewell, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Carmichael and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 1st December 2025 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 20th October 2025 was presented by Councillor Pearce, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce, seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 20th October 2025 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 1st December 2025 was presented by Councillor Pearce, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Pearce, seconded by Councillor Robinson and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 1st December 2025 be approved.

The Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee Report dated 12th November 2025 was presented by Councillor Konik, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Konik, seconded by Councillor Stowell and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 12th November 2025 be approved.

The Cultural Services and Leisure Committee Part I Report dated 12th November 2025 was presented by Councillor Robinson, Chair of the Committee.

It was proposed by Councillor Robinson, seconded by Councillor Stephens and

RESOLVED that the Report of the Committee dated 12th November 2025 be approved.

C6141 FALMOUTH BEACHES MANAGEMENT GROUP

Councillor Robinson presented the notes of the meeting of the Group held on 24th September 2025 that was duly noted.

C6142 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR STOWELL (1) – TRANSPORT CHAMPION

It was proposed by Councillor Stowell seconded by Councillor Rowe and

RESOLVED that the Council creates a Community Transport Councillor Champion role and that Councillor Stowell be appointed

C6143 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR STOWELL (2) – COUNCIL TAX ARREARS AND THE USE OF BAILIFFS

It was proposed by Councillor Stowell and seconded by Councillor Konik and

RESOLVED that Cornwall Council be requested to cease the use of bailiffs in cases of collection of council tax arrears as it was unethical, causing mounting debt issues and distress for vulnerable payers, and counterproductive in recovery of debts pushing residents into debt spirals, and to instead explore different means of recovery.

C6144 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT

The Town Clerk presented the Town Management report and responded to questions on his report which was duly noted and forms part of these minutes.

C6145 TOWN CLERK'S REPORT – PART I

It was proposed by Councillor Carmichael, seconded by Councillor Stowell and

RESOLVED that the report of the Town Clerk be noted and that the Council objects to the extension of the catering concession in Queen Mary Gardens by Cornwall Council, as it was inappropriate to extend further the concession that had been objected to and those objections not addressed.

C6146 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

It was proposed by Councillor Jewell, seconded by Councillor Pearce and

RESOLVED that in view of the confidential nature of contractual matters and personal information it is advisable in the public interest that the press and public, be excluded from the meeting.

There was a brief adjournment for a comfort break.



Town Management Report to Falmouth Town Council 08/12/25

SAFE & SECURE

The DISC website, as part of Falmouth Safe and Secure, has seen positive engagement between businesses over the last 12 months.

Over the last 30 days there have been 420 user logins to the website, highlighting that members are actively engaging with DISC and accessing the information shared and provided regularly. There are currently 146 active members throughout the town.

Over the last 12 months, there have also been 146 police reports sent directly to the police, supporting police and leading to follow-up investigation where necessary.

Currently, there are a total of 76 known subjects and 105 ID-Sought (individuals linked to an incident who are currently not-identified or known) currently logged on the DISC website.

Overall, there have been 70 intelligence reports logged to help identify individuals and move them from ID-sought to the Known Subject category.

BOLLARD MARKET STREET

More and more businesses are requesting that the bollard is lowered during the winter months and particularly during wet weather days for various businesses within Market Street & Church Street. I wanted to highlight this to make Cllrs aware.

CHURCH STREET CAR PARK

Cornwall Council is undertaking work in the car park on the seawall during December. It is important to note that the car park is still operational, it is just a section at the front where they will be working.

TRAGO MILLS

This is obviously a real concern and as I have already mentioned publicly it is the staff first and foremost we all need to be mindful of as well as the impact to the town. As you will likely know it is going through consultation at the moment.

WATER MAIN EMERGENCY

You may well be aware that on the day of the lights switch-on that there was a major water main that burst in Arwenack Street. This was a coordinated effort to ensure everything went

smoothly on the evening for the parades but also getting the road closed quickly for safety and then water back on to businesses and residents.

FALMOUTH BID MANAGER

Over recent weeks, Falmouth BID liaised extensively with local businesses following the publication of new rateable values. The BID alongside Richard formally raised concerns with Jayne Kirkham and gathered feedback from shopkeepers, cafés, pubs and landlords across the town.

A consistent picture emerged: many properties experienced sharp increases in rateable value, in some cases doubling or more, pushing businesses out of Small Business Rate Relief and into full rates for the first time. Several traders reported moving from paying no business rates to facing monthly bills of hundreds and in some cases thousands of pounds. Particular concern has been raised about Killigrew Street, the Moor and Church Street, alongside strong evidence that hospitality and very small independent businesses are being disproportionately affected.

Falmouth BID also raised the issue publicly in an interview with BBC Radio Cornwall, highlighting the potential implications for Falmouth if rising costs prove unsustainable for independent traders. The core message communicated was that while government relief measures exist, they primarily phase in increases rather than prevent them, meaning many businesses still face unaffordable costs.

A media alert was subsequently issued to local outlets and Business Cornwall, drawing attention to the risks to employment, footfall and the character of the town centre if closures occur. In parallel, Falmouth BID has encouraged businesses to check and, where appropriate, formally challenge their new valuations with the Valuation Office Agency, sharing guidance to support a coordinated response where valuations appear inaccurate or unrealistic.

M&S FOOD

Great to see there is interest for M&S to possibly return in some form in the future. It is too early to pin down any detail on this at the moment, but we will be working hard to get more information in due course.