

## FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Minutes of a meeting of the Council held on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> March 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, K S Holbrook, L E Howes, 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)
S Palmer	(Youth Engagement Officer)
S Penna	(Grounds Manager)
Councillor L Magowan	(Cornwall Council, Arwenack ED)
P Fitzpatrick & J Grafton	(Falmouth Fairtrade)
Rev G Davis	(Mayor's Chaplain)
C Ford	(Project Manager, South West Water)
P Grayson & I Barnes	(Goldenbank & Swans Reach Residents Association)
J Pascoe	(Chair, Falmouth Fisherman's Management Association)

### C6154 APOLOGIES

None received.

### C6155 INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Councillors Holbrook, Pearce, and Rowe declared a non-disclosable interest in Minute C6171 as they were members of the Cornwall Pension Fund and left the meeting during the consideration thereof. Councillor Clegg declared a non-disclosable interest in Minute C6171 as she sat on the Cornwall Pension Committee and left the meeting during the consideration thereof.

### C6156 MINUTES

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

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

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Special Meetings held on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026, and 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 be confirmed as a correct record of the proceedings and signed by the Chair.

The attendance of Councillor Robinson at those meetings was noted.

### C6157 MAYOR'S REPORT

The Mayor reported on a busy period of mayoral activity including civic, town events, and meetings attended. civic engagements. This included meeting the Sports Minister to make the case for local swimming provision. The Mayoral Ball

CLASSIFICATION: DRAFT – NOT YET RATIFIED BY COUNCIL COMMITTEE

and other fund raising had seen £10,000 raised for this endeavour. He had visited the Town Manager and wished him well for a quick recovery to full health. The St Nazaire memorial event had been well supported. The report was duly noted.

He also presented a plaque to Grounds Manager, Simon Penna recognising his excellent service to the Council.

#### **C6158 DEPUTY MAYOR'S REPORT**

The Deputy Mayor reported on civic attendances and meetings. Including the important St Nazaire Memorial event, and the meeting with the Sports Minister. The report was duly noted.

#### **C6159 PUBLIC QUESTIONS**

None received.

#### **C6160 COMMUNITY POLICE REPORT**

No report.

#### **C6161 COMMUNITY SAFETY AND FIRE REPORT**

No report.

#### **C6162 SOUTH WEST WATER – FALMOUTH INFRASTRUCTURE WORKS**

The Project Manager for South West Water updated on ongoing and proposed infrastructure works for Falmouth, a £30m investment over five years. A strategy document was being developed. The main stay of the works was surface water separation to reduce capacity strain on the sewerage system, over 80 surface water separation options were being considered. The antiquated sewerage system was unable to cope with current population demands. He updated on works at Church Hill, Penryn and at Queen Mary Gardens (Gyllyngvase Car Park), Falmouth, as well as additional works for 9 overflows. Which would reduce spillages. The Gyllyngvase Works would complete at the end of March 2026 (with some over run due to adverse weather). There were four categories of works for Falmouth: large ingress of brown water; surface water separation; storage; operational improvements. He responded to questions and advised that two schemes would impact Town Council sites: Dracaena Fields underground storage (to the north east of the skatepark and carpark), they would work with the Town Council regarding resurfacing treatments, and Kimberley Park additional surface retention or an engineering solution which would be further consulted upon. They were also working with the Environment Agency regarding improvements to the system at Prince of Wales Pier. He responded to additional queries regarding local works and that local plan and design aspirations featured into the telemetry model up to 2050.

#### **C6163 GOLDENBANK AND SWANS REACH RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The representatives of the Residents Association thanked the Town Council for supporting them in acquiring public open space areas including children's play, which had now formally transferred to the Town Council. They advised of process and their disappointment that Cornwall Council had not reacted to exercise its rights to buy for £1, nor advised locally that they had not done so, when the developer's commitment had come to an end. The developer had sought via third party to dispose of the land at auction. Residents created the Association and had to spend £24,000 to acquire the sites, although some spaces had been lost to public ownership. Residents had committed to support future maintenance works. They

responded to questions and Councillor Clegg thanked them for their efforts in securing the sites.

#### **C6164 YOUTH COUNCIL**

The Youth Council Officer introduced herself to the Council and updated on the Youth Council Pilot. There was an engagement event at Falmouth School that some Councillors were supporting. It was hoped to recruit a diverse cohort of youth councillors, who would be appointed via a Panel. Dracaena Centre were engaged and additional volunteer support was being sought. Commencing in April 2026 monthly meetings would be run for one year, the youth council would set its own structure and decide matters for discussion, with meetings themed around seasons. A regular reporting slot would be on Full Council agenda.

#### **C6165 FALMOUTH FAIRTRADE**

The Fairtrade Falmouth representative reported upon local Fairtrade activity including events, some of which had been affected by recent storms, local statistics, and universities engagement. Including World Fairtrade Day in May 2026, Big Green Week in June 2026, and Fairtrade Fortnight in September 2026. She thanked the Council and Falmouth BID for its support. The report was noted.

#### **C6166 COMMUNITY AREA PANEL**

The Panel notes and reports from 2nd December 2025, 9th December 2025, and 13th January 2026, including Cornwall Council's Priority Plan 2026-2030 were duly noted.

#### **C6167 FALMOUTH GREEN CORRIDOR FORUM**

The minutes of the meeting on 21st January 2026 were duly noted.

#### **C6168 CORNWALL COUNCILLORS' REPORTS**

##### **Boslowick**

Councillor Clegg reported on the Cornwall Council proposals to reduce street lighting and the objection to that from the Violence Against Women and Girls Group. She noted the Falmouth BID facilitated objection from local business, particularly for the night time economy. Further she updated on the Bickland Water Road highway improvement scheme which would now see a 30mph limit in part. St Francis School would see a new manned road crossing. She also highlighted the Caring for Our Coast event at Princess Pavilion.

##### **Penwerris**

Councillor Rowe advised that he continued to try to hold Cornwall Council to account regarding Trelawney Road tree removals. He was supporting two households facing eviction. With Councillors Konik and Pearce he was lobbying for a return of litter bins to the Old Hill area given growing issues of litter. He had met with Cornwall Housing and the Tenants Association, contractor repairs to housing stock were progressing well and a backlog being tackled. Fire safety works undertaken and the Old Hill Flats now surveyed. He had personally been assisting with storm damage clearance works. Trees at Trecarne had been removed and were being replaced. He updated on Cornwall Council budget setting, which saw a reduction in services, and he felt mitigated for poor service delivery. He was disappointed that the transformation project would see further job losses, and contractors were not being held to the living wage requirement. He felt the Town Council precept compared favourably as there was tangible benefits from that for residents. In response to questions he updated further on the costs associated with

Trelawney Tree removal and on the highway improvement scheme at Dracaena Avenue.

### **Trescobeas and Budock**

Councillor Saunby also commented on the Trelawney Tree removal costs and had queried the retention of some trees at Trecarne. He had objected to the de-zoning proposals for hackney carriages and hoped Cornwall Council would not progress that. Cornwall Housing would look to sell on vacant housing stock units that would be in excess of £50,000 to refurbish. He updated on how he had spent his community chest funds.

### **Arwenack**

Councillor Magowan reported on Cornwall Council budget setting, both a challenging debate and year ahead. He had opposed the withdrawal of the living wage requirement on contractors. He reported on Road Safety Strategy and changes to the Off-Street Parking Places Order, which would impact Gyllyngvase Car Park, he did not support those recommendations. He noted that the Town Council wished to review the planning application for Falmouth Docks and advised that Cornwall Council were considering the highway impact of additional traffic movements. He would consider the officer recommendation when it was available. He hoped there would be additional review of Trelawney Trees process and was looking at how to affect that. He updated on bus contract changes. He had met with South West Water with the MP to assess the impact of their local works.

## **C6169 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 15<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> December 2025 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 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 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2026 be approved.

The Planning and Licensing Committee Report dated 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 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 23<sup>rd</sup> February 2026 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved.

The Finance and General Purposes Committee Part I Report dated 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 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 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2026 be approved.

The Cultural Services and Leisure Committee Part I Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved.

The Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee Report dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 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 14<sup>th</sup> January 2026 be approved.

**C6170 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR STOWELL – OYSTER FISHING, FALMOUTH ESTUARY**

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

**RESOLVED** that Standing Orders be temporarily suspended to allow the Chair of Falmouth Fishermen Management Committee to address the Council.

The Chair of the Fisherman Association advised on the historic method of working boats and that status was important to enable grants and assistance to train another regeneration to maintain the environmentally sound and important heritage practice.

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

**RESOLVED** that the support the application by Falmouth Oyster Fisheries for UNESCO intangible cultural heritage status for sail and oar dredging.

**C6171 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR HOWES – CORNWALL PENSION FUND**

The Town Mayor advised that the Chair of the Cornwall Pension Fund had offered to discuss investment practices with Councillor Howes and that the Council had previously received a presentation from the Fund in this matter.

The Town Clerk advised that the Council had made its formal employer response to the pension consultation and there remained the Council's employer's obligation to its employees regarding ensuring the effectiveness of the fund and its operation.

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

**RESOLVED** that the Cornwall Pension Fund be requested to cease investments with those companies mentioned in the attachment to these minutes, that it does not invest in any part of the arms trade from direct investment in companies that manufacture arms or components of arms, nor in organisations that finance arms or components and arms, nor weaponised information technologies. And that the Fund drafts and consults upon an external investment policy.

**C6172 MOTION BY COUNCILLOR WALKDEN – SMARTPHONE FREE CHILDHOOD**

It was proposed by Councillor Walkden, seconded by Councillor Evans and

**RESOLVED** that the Council supports the Smartphone Free Childhood and initiates and facilitates a meeting with local school headteachers, or their representatives, about limiting or prohibiting smartphone use in all Falmouth and Penryn Community Area Partnership schools, both secondary schools and their feeder schools.

**C6173 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS 2026/27**

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

**RESOLVED** that the attached Schedule of Meetings be approved for 2026/27.

It was noted that there would be a separation of evenings for the meetings of the Cultural Services and Leisure Committee, and the Grounds, Facilities and Environmental Action Committee. And that all meetings (where possible) commence at 6pm.

There was now a brief comfort break (8.45pm to 8.55pm).

**C6174 TOWN MAYOR AND DEPUTY MAYOR ELECT 2026/27**

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

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Jewell become Town Mayor Elect 2026/27.

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

**RESOLVED** that Councillor Pearce become Deputy Mayor Elect 2026/27.

#### **C6175 COUNCIL COMMITTEES**

It was proposed by Councillor Rowe, seconded by Councillor Andrewartha and

**RESOLVED** that the status quo be retained in regard to Committee seats for the 2026/27 municipal year, except that Councillor Rowe replaces Councillor Evans on the Planning and Licensing Committee.

A motion proposed by Councillor Howes, seconded by Councillor Holbrook, that the Staffing Committee composition be increased to eight seats was lost.

#### **C6176 COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND VICE-CHAIRS**

It was proposed by Councillor Clegg, seconded by Councillor Rowe and

**RESOLVED** that the status quo be retained in regard to Committee Chair and Vice-Chair appointments for the 2026/27 municipal year, except that Councillor Carmichael be appointed to Chair the Planning and Licensing Committee and Councillor Jewell appointed to Vice-Chair of the Planning and Licensing Committee.

#### **C6177 REPRESENTATIVES TO OUTSIDE BODIES AND COUNCILLOR CHAMPION ROLES**

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

**RESOLVED** that the

- I. status quo be retained in respect of representatives to outside bodies for the 2026/27 municipal year, and
- II. status quo be retained in respect of Councillor Champion roles for the 2026/27 municipal year, except that the Schools and Universities Champion role be split: Councillor Stephens to be Schools Champion, and Councillor Pearce to be Universities Champion.

#### **C6178 STANDING ORDERS AND FINANCIAL REGULATIONS**

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

**RESOLVED** that the

- I. standing order be approved for 2026/27 municipal year as per the attached;
- II. It was noted that Financial Regulations were biennial and not due for reconsideration until 2027/2028.

The Responsible Financial Officer was requested to confirm that social impact was a material consideration regarding procurement considerations.

**C6179 TOWN MANAGEMENT REPORT**

The Town Management Report was duly noted. The Town Mayor formally acknowledged and thanked the efforts of the Falmouth Business Improvement Manager in assisting the Council in the absence of the Town Manager.

**C6180 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC**

It was proposed by Councillor Evans, seconded by Councillor Robinson 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.