



FALMOUTH TOWN COUNCIL

Agenda Special Council Meeting

Subtitle	Special Council Meeting
Date	11/05/2026
Time	19:00 -
Location	Council Chamber
Chair	Alan Jewell
Attendees	G. Andrewartha, S Carmichael, D Clegg CC, D Evans BEM, K Holbrook, L Howes, D Konik, A Munden, T Pearce, J Robinson, A Rowe CC, D Saunby CC, H Stephens, J Stowell, and J Walkden.

Explanation You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of Falmouth Town Council to be held in the Council Chamber on Monday 11th May 2026 at 19:00 hours, or at the cessation of the Planning and Licensing Committee if later, for the purpose of transacting the following business.

The meeting will observe the requirements of the Council's commitment to the Civility and Respect Pledge. That is to treat councillors, employees, members of the public, representatives of partner organisations and volunteers with civility and respect in their roles. Behaviour breaching that commitment will not be tolerated.

Yours sincerely

Town Clerk

- 1 Apologies**
To receive and approve apologies for absence.
- 2 Interests & Dispensations**
To receive declarations of interest in respect of items on the agenda. Councillors are reminded to declare any dispensations granted.
- 3 Motion by Councillor Evans - No Confidence in South West Water**
This Council notes with grave concern the systemic failure of South West Water to manage the sewage system in Cornwall. Despite record bills and government intervention, raw sewage continues to impact our environment and public health. Therefore, this Council resolves:
 1. To formally declare a Vote of No Confidence in South West Water.
 2. To write to both the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and the Chief Executive of Ofwat (with copies to The Leader of Cornwall Council; and Jayne Kirkham MP) as per the attached. (1-2).



Falmouth Town Council

Attachment for Motion by Councillor Evans

Formal Vote of No Confidence in South West Water (SWW) and Petition for Special Administration.

To the Secretary of State, and CEO of Ofwat.

At a meeting of the Falmouth Town Council on 11 May resolved a Vote of No Confidence in the management of South West Water (SWW). We are no longer requesting "improvements" or "consultations." South West Water has failed for more than a decade to show its capability and willingness to manage our water and sewage system. We are formally petitioning the Government and Ofwat to remove SWW from the management of the Cornish sewage and water systems, and transfer the ownership and management of our sewage and water system to a publicly-owned organisation, run as a public service.

The Council's decision is based on a systemic and catastrophic failure in the following three areas:

- 1. Failure of Infrastructure and Public Health**
Despite Cornwall's residents paying the highest water bills in the country, our coastline and rivers have become conduits for raw sewage. In 2025 and early 2026, we have witnessed unprecedented spill durations that have closed our beaches, impacted our tourism economy, and posed a direct threat to public health. The current management has proven incapable of maintaining a sewage system fit for the 21st century.
- 2. Financial Mismanagement and Breach of Public Trust**
While our constituents face further bill increases this April, SWW continues to prioritise shareholder dividends and executive bonuses over essential capital investment. The "investment plans" touted by the company have repeatedly failed to yield results on the ground, leading to a total breakdown of trust between the utility provider and the Cornish people.
- 3. Inadequacy of Governance**
It is the view of these Councils that SWW's leadership has lost the confidence of the Cornish communities and its "social license" to operate. The repeated fines and enforcement cases from Ofwat have acted as a "cost of doing business" rather than a deterrent. We believe the company is now structurally incapable of delivering the environmental protections required by law.

Our Formal Demand:

We call upon the Government to intervene and make this situation stop at once, using powers such as those granted by the Water (Special Measures) Act to remove the offending company from operating in Cornwall. We demand that South West Water be placed into Special Administration, stripping the current management of their mandate. We call upon the Government to transition Cornish sewage and water assets into a publicly-owned organisation, run as a public service, answerable to elected representatives of Cornish voters, that will prioritise the Cornish environment and its people over private profit.

Cornish rivers and seas are the lifeblood of our economy and our identity. We will no longer stand by while they are managed into decline. We await your urgent response regarding the steps you will take to revoke SWW's licence in the Duchy.



Town Clerk



FALMOUTH
the spirit of the sea

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