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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 16 SEPTEMBER 2025 at 7.15pm in the Town Hall

- PRESENT** Cllrs Gilbert (Mayor), Conway (Deputy Mayor), Anston-Race, Bailey, Bullen, Green, Gordon, Harris, Heaton, Hogan, Lankston, O'Brien, Soanes, Tremain and Young
In attendance: Cornwall Cllr Dennis
Christopher Drake (Town Clerk)
X 7 public
- 2509/30 Apologies for absence**
No apologies for absence were received
- 2509/31 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest
- 2509/32 Allotment Competition**
The Mayor presented awards to the winners of the Allotment Competition
KENSEY - Winner: Mr Colin Williams Highly Commended: Ms Jackie Smith
DUTSON - Winner: Mr Stanley Smith Highly Commended: Mrs J Hatt
GRAMMERS PARK- Winner: Mrs Kath Dymond Highly Commended: Ms Lisa Sheppard
OVERALL WINNER: Mr Stanley Smith
- 2509/33 Public Representation Session**
There were no representations made
- 2509/34 To confirm and sign the Minutes of the last meeting, previously circulated**
It was **resolved** to confirm and sign the minutes previously circulated;
(i) Minutes of the Meeting of Council held on Tuesday 15 July 2025 at 7.00pm
- 2509/35 To receive and adopt the minutes of committees and sub-committees, previously circulated**
It was **resolved** to receive and adopt the minutes of the following committees and sub committees:
(i) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 24 July 2025 at 7.00pm
(ii) Estates and Properties held on Monday 4 August 2024 at 10.00am
(iii) Library, Arts, Business and Information held on Tuesday 2 September 2025 at 7.00pm
(iv) Finance and General Purposes held on Wednesday 3 September 2025 at 7.00pm
(v) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 4 September 2025 at 7.00pm
- 2509/36 Reports from Cornwall Councillors**
Cornwall Cllr Dennis advised that the local MIU was now re-open and negotiations on its future role will begin soon and this will include public consultation. Cllr Dennis thanked Cllrs Conway and Heaton for their support on the matter. He went on to advise that a meeting was taking place with the Police and Crime Commissioner and would include

discussion around the opening of a front desk in Launceston and the use of the local custody suite. Cllr Dennis concluded by saying that a review of parking tariffs was being undertaken and made mention of a potential temporary closure of the Town Council's multi storey car park

Cllr Gordon asked for updates to be provided regarding repair works at Race Hill. **Cllr Dennis** advised he was pursuing the matter and that legal matters were being discussed.

Cllr O'Brien raised the issue of Devon and Cornwall Police not advertising the rank of officers when providing responses on the television news, and questioned whether the responses were being provided from civilians rather than ranking officers

Cllr Soanes spoke about the Adaptive Vehicle Parking Scheme and how enforcement officers were no longer provided the details of adaptations and therefore had to view a specific vehicle to see any adaption and that no consultation had been undertaken in this regard. Cllr Soanes requested details of who had been involved in the decision making process. **Cllr Dennis** asked for Cllr Soanes to email the details to him

Cllr Young enquired as to why mention had been made in Cllr Dennis' report regarding the potential temporary closure of the Town Council's multi storey car park as no decision had been made regarding the site and it should not be included within any discussion relating to Cornwall Council's parking sites. **Cllr Dennis** stated that the multi storey car park had been mentioned in open forum at a previous meeting

Cllr Bailey spoke about the Police and Crime Commissioner previously mentioning the moving of Launceston Police station and Cllr Bailey proposed the current site could be sold and a new building being erected at the Link Road as a suitable location.

2509/37

Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr Heaton provided an update from the Patient Participation Group (PPG), including details of the change in contract to the online form system, some issues regarding dispensary governance, that the GP's service saw an increase in numbers during the closure of the MIU, that a number of new consultations were being undertaken and that the Devon and Cornwall Integrated Care Boards were to merge. Cllr Heaton raised the issue of vehicles driving the wrong way in Castle Street and also reminded all attendees of the forthcoming Borderland Festival event on Saturday 20 September

Cllr Harris advised of the forthcoming meeting of the town CCTV committee on Monday 22 September

Cllr O'Brien gave an update from the recent CAP meeting and advised that emergency planning was discussed, along with transport including Connect Launceston and health matters

Cllr Conway spoke in regards to Connect Launceston and stated that it needed to be recognised as part of the South West Transport Plan. He also spoke about the meeting regarding Launceston MIU and said that good assurances had been received and that all parties were working together. Cllr Conway also spoke about the successful VJ Day celebration event held in conjunction with the Royal British Legion

Cllr Tremain spoke about the South East Cornwall Museum Forum and that a new development officer was in post and work was being undertaken on updates to policies and the collections works.

Cllr Bailey advised that an issue with the AI health service system had been raised to her by a local resident

Cllr Soanes stated that messages regarding the Flu Vaccination service would be being sent shortly

Cllr Green spoke about the Treggy 7 event and thanked organisers for making it the biggest event to date with 450 entrants

2509/38

Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor provided an update on the Mayoral Engagements

2509/39

Report from the Town Clerk

Members considered Report 19/25 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the update of the library hub building be noted
- ii) the update regarding Lawrence House be noted
- iii) the details regarding the proposed grounds compound project be noted and that a review of the Council's Ear Marked Reserves be considered to see if funding can be used from these, subject to the proviso that the Council waits to see if any funding is available as part of the potential flood relief works at Upper Chapel
- iv) the details of the proposals for the skate park site be noted
- v) the update regarding the installation of play equipment at Priory Park be noted
- vi) the progress for works on site at the Town Hall be noted
- vii) the details of the funding available for repair works to Southgate Arch be noted and the Council awaits further updates regarding additional grant funding from Historic England
- viii) the update regarding the deed of easement for the ongoing drainage issues at Grammars Park be noted
- ix) the in principle purchase of the leasehold for the property at St Leonards Lodge be agreed
- x) the update regarding training attended by the Town Clerk be noted
- xi) the details of the recent insurance review be noted
- xii) the update regarding the Council's priority projects be noted and updated so as to remove the now completed skatepark project and replace it with the works to Southgate Arch

A recorded vote was requested on item iii of the above

For

Cllr Tremain
Cllr Lankston
Cllr Heaton
Cllr Anston-Race
Cllr O'Brien
Cllr Gordon
Cllr Young
Cllr Conway
Cllr Gilbert

Against

Cllr Green
Cllr Soanes
Cllr Hogan
Cllr Harris
Cllr Bailey
Cllr Bullen

Abstain

The item was carried

2509/40

Wedding Venue Licence Transfer Proposal Launceston Guildhall

Members considered Report 20/25 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** to agree the licence transfer to the Town Council

2509/41

Emergency Plan

Members considered Report 21/25 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** to note the report

2509/42 Library, Arts, Business and Information Representation on Staffing Committee

It was **resolved** that the Library, Arts, Business and Information Committee has representation on the Council's Staffing Committee, in line with other Council committee representation and that the Clerk to confirm if this action could be taken before the next Annual Meeting of the Council

2509/43 Progress and Information

Members considered Report 22/25 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** to;

- i) note the correspondence from Ben Maguire, MP
- ii) note the update regarding the agreed Council sites tour and staff meet and greet event

2509/44 Correspondence and Matters to Note

It was **resolved** to;

- i) note the venue usage

2509/45 Urgent Items

- i) The Mayor reminded all councillors of the Civic Service taking place at St Stephen's Church on Sunday 28 September, followed by light refreshments served at Kensey Vale Bowls Club
- ii) The ongoing issue of anti-social behaviour at the multi storey car park was noted
- iii) The Clerk advised that following professional advice, the Council were required to ensure that the car park stairwell doors remained open and unlocked at all times

2509/46 Exclusion of members of the press and public

It was resolved that under s1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 that the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the following item as it involved the likely disclosure of confidential information

2509/47 Multi Story Car Park

Members considered the report and presentation from PCA regarding the multi storey car park.

It was **resolved** that repair works be undertaken at the site as advised by PCA

***A recorded vote was requested ***

For

Cllr Tremain
Cllr Lankston
Cllr O'Brien
Cllr Hogan
Cllr Gordon
Cllr Young
Cllr Conway
Cllr Gilbert

Against

Cllr Heaton
Cllr Green
Cllr Anston-Race
Cllr Soanes
Cllr Harris
Cllr Bailey
Cllr Bullen

Abstain

Date of the next meeting of the Council

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 October 2025

The meeting ended at 9.28pm

Signed Date