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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 17 MARCH 2026 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

- PRESENT** Cllrs Gilbert (Mayor), Conway (Deputy Mayor), Anston-Race, Bullen, Gordon, Harris, Heaton, Hogan, Lankston, O'Brien, Soanes, Tremain and Young
In attendance: Cornwall Cllrs Dennis and Paynter
Christopher Drake (Town Clerk)
3 x public
- 2603/35 Apologies for absence**
Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs Bailey and Green
- 2603/36 Declarations of Interest**
There were no declarations of interest
- 2603/37 Public Representation Session**
There were no representations made
- 2603/38 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 17 February 2026 at 7.00pm
- 2603/39 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) Finance and General Purposes held on Wednesday 4 February 2026 at 7.00pm
(ii) Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 19 February 2026 at 7.00pm
(iii) Library, Arts, Business and information held on Tuesday 3 March 2026 at 7.00pm
(iv) Finance and General Purposes held on Wednesday 4 March 2026 at 7.00pm
- 2603/40 Reports from Cornwall Councillors**
Cornwall Cllr Dennis provided an update regarding works at Race Hill and advised that a timeline for the project had been agreed. In regards to the issue of moss on pavements making them hazardous, the matter had been raised with Biffa to undertake removal works. The footpath leading to Coronation Park was identified as forming part of a future replacement scheme subject to budget allocations. Cllr Dennis also advised that the Police and Crime commissioner had confirmed that the front desk at Launceston police station would not be re-opening due to budget limitations and also aiming to maintain current policing levels within current and future budget constraints. Cllr Dennis concluded by stating that Cllr Preece, Cabinet Member for Tourism, Localism and Planning would visit Community Area Partnership locations in the future.

Cornwall Cllr Paynter stated that Cornwall had been allocated £1.5 million as part of the Government's support package for heating oil users. He also advised that the Cabinet

were looking at proposals regarding strategic partnerships for areas that did not have an elected Mayor.

Cllr Young raised the issue of the footpath leading to Broad Park garages as there appeared to be no ownership of the site and it was in very poor condition

Cllr Conway raised concern about long term parking at Riverside and the area being used for camping. **Cllr Paynter** stated that the matter had been reported and vehicle users had been visited. Cllr Conway also raised his concerns regarding Cornwall being joined with any other region as part of any Strategic Partnership. Cllr Paynter confirmed that Cornwall Council were not seeking to tie Cornwall to any other region but were considering Strategic Partnership options

Cllr Tremain thanked Cllr Dennis for his update in regards to the future of a front desk at Launceston police station

Cllr Heaton thanked Cllr Dennis for his work on a range of projects affecting the town

2603/41

Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr O'Brien spoke about the Community Area Partnership and the works to improve the Plusha junctions and that he was pleased with the response and hoped that there would be future consultation on the scheme and works proposed

Cllr Heaton provided an update from the Patient Participation Group (PPG) meeting on 9 March and the challenges being faced by local pharmacies as there was no electronic prescription system currently in place, but lobbying for funding was ongoing. There had been an increase in call volumes to the local surgery and the Health Hub was working with veterans as well as seeing the site used by a number of different organisations

Cllr Tremain provided a written update on the recent Cornwall Council training session regarding changes to the planning framework (copy attached)

2603/42

Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor

The Mayor provided a verbal update on the Mayoral Engagements

2603/43

Report from the Town Clerk

Members considered Report 07/26 concerning the above (previously circulated)

It was **resolved** that;

- i) the update of the library hub building tender for the required works be noted
- ii) the update regarding Lawrence House be noted
- iii) the details regarding the grounds compound be noted
- iv) the update on works on site at the Town Hall be noted
- v) the details regarding repair works to Southgate Arch and Cllr Tremain's verbal update on the meeting held with the Project Manager be noted
- vi) the update regarding repair works to damage at the multi storey car park be noted

2603/44

Mayor and Deputy Mayor Elect 2026/27

Members considered Notices of Motion received for the above

- i) It was **resolved unanimously** that Cllr Nicola Gilbert be elected Mayor of Launceston for 2026/27
- ii) It was **resolved unanimously** that Cllr John Conway be elected Deputy Mayor of Launceston for 2026/27

2603/45

Council Policies

It was **resolved** to agree the following Council policies;

- i) Museum Procurement Policy
- ii) Grants Policy
- iii) Financial Regulations
- iv) Management and Safekeeping of Money Policy
- v) Statement of Internal Control
- vi) Investment Strategy
- vii) Operational and Financial Risk Assessment
- viii) IT Policy

2603/46 BT Public Payphone Removal Consultation

It was **resolved** to agree to the removal of the telephony mechanism within the boxes at Race Hill and Newport Hill and for the boxes to be sealed

2603/47 Correspondence and Matters to Note

It was **resolved** to;

- i) note the venue usage

2603/48 Urgent Items

There were no matters for consideration

2603/49 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

2603/50 Staffing Committee Minutes

It was **resolved** to agree the minutes of the Staffing Committee held on 9 March 2026

Date of the next meeting of the Council

The next Full Council meeting will be held on Tuesday 21 April 2026

The meeting ended at 8.00pm

Signed Date