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Launceston Town Council
The Town Hall
Launceston
Cornwall PL15 7AR

MINUTES OF THE FULL COUNCIL MEETING
held on TUESDAY 15 SEPTEMBER 2026 at 7.00pm in the Town Hall

PRESENT Cllrs Gilbert (Mayor), Conway (Deputy Mayor), Anston-Race, Bailey, Bullen, Gordon, Harris, Haynes, Heaton, Hogan, Lankston, O'Brien, Soanes, Tremain and Young
In attendance: Cornwall Cllr Dennis
Christopher Drake (Town Clerk)
10 x public

Prayers were read by the Mayor's Chaplain, Reverend Jess Lancaster

2609/32 Apologies for absence
Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Green

2607/33 Declarations of Interest
Cllr Soanes declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 – Sewerage Issues at Stourscombe
Cllrs O'Brien, Heaton and Soanes declared an interest in Agenda Item 14 – Tree Works
The Cllrs named left the meeting during the discussion of the items listed above and took no part in the debate or voting of the item/s

2607/34 Allotment Competition
The Mayor presented awards to the winners of the Allotment Competition
KENSEY - Winner: Mr and Mrs Basford Highly Commended: Mrs Kate Newberry
DUTSON - Winner: Mr Stanley Smith Highly Commended: Mrs Caroline Sochanik
GRAMMERS PARK- Winner: Mr Alan Knight Highly Commended: Mr Richard Guest
OVERALL WINNER: Mr Alan Knight

2607/35 Public Representation Session
Q1 – Representation was made concerning the ongoing issue of inadequate drainage, noxious odours and major drainage blockages in the Stourscombe area and how new houses planned for the area will exacerbate the current issues and should only be built with new separate drainage controls. Residents are concerned that the matter will cause health issues and have received a complete lack of support from South West Water throughout the time that the matters have been occurring. The Town Council are requested to write to the Chief Executive of South West Water and demand an improved sewerage system and also to write to the Chief Executive of Cornwall Council requesting and ongoing programme of drain clearance.

2607/36 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 the Council held on Tuesday 21 July 2026 at 7.00pm
(ii) Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on Tuesday 28 July 2026 at 7.53pm

2607/37 To receive the minutes of committees and sub-committees previously circulated:

(i) Draft Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 28 July 2026 at 7.00pm
(ii) Draft Estates and Properties held on Monday 3 August 2026 at 10.00am
(iii) Draft Planning and Economic Development held on Thursday 20 August 2026 at 7.00pm
(iv) Draft Library, Arts, Business and Information held on Tuesday 1 September 2026 at 7.00pm
(v) Draft Finance and General Purposes held on Wednesday 2 September 2026 at 7.00pm

2607/38 Change to Order of Business

It was **resolved** to move Agenda Item 11 - Sewage Issues at Stourscombe Estate to be the next order of business

2607/39 Sewage Issues at Stourscombe Estate

It was **resolved unanimously** that, based on the information provided by Stourscombe residents, the Town Council contacts South West Water and Cornwall Council and makes them aware of the concerns raised and requests that they undertake a full survey of the affected area and take such remedial action as may be necessary and that both organisations advise the Town Council of the outcome of said survey

2607/40 Reports from Cornwall Councillors

Cornwall Cllr Dennis spoke about the suspension of maternity services at Barnstaple and a review of ongoing staffing levels and that no date for re-opening the site had been given. Cllr Dennis also advised that the roadworks on the A30 would be in place until March 2027, that he had supported the Cornwall Council Climate Resilience and Adaption Bill as well as supporting the Home Choice motion, which shows local housing needs including waiting times and time limits. Cllr Dennis advised that he had no further update regarding repairs to Race Hill and that he had supported Stourscombe residents regarding the ongoing issues in the area

Cllr Bailey advised that the new layout at the Pannier Market car park was not workable and requested that this be reviewed

Cllr Soanes thanked Cllr Dennis for ensuring that work was undertaken on the weeds and moss on pavements in the town

Cllr Gilbert stated that the diversion due to the roadworks on the A30 was having a knock on effect in South Petherwin as it passed the local school

Cllr Anston-Race advised that the same issue was affecting Tregadillett

Cllr Tremain asked about the vacant CEO position at Cornwall Council. **Cllr Dennis** advised that an interim appointment had been made

Cllr Lankston re-iterated the issue of water run off from the pathway adjacent to Cleaverfield

2607/41 Reports and Questions from Town Councillors

Cllr Heaton provided an update from the Patient Participation Group (PPG) and gave an update on the Devon and Cornwall ICB's integrating in 2027 and the possibility of the PPG using the Town Hall as a conference venue.

Cllr Haynes provided an update on the Chamber of Commerce and said that following initial difficulties in establishing contact with the organisation a meeting had now been held and that the Chamber was working on a re-launch. Cllr Haynes also reminded cllrs of the surgery being held on Saturday 19 September at St Thomas

Cllr Bailey asked about cllr surgeries and Cllr Haynes provided details of what had been agreed. **Cllr Harris** stated that he supported the idea of surgeries but there were issues regarding suitable venues in South ward. **Cllrs Conway** and **Soanes** identified venues that may be suitable for South ward. **Cllr Young** thanked Cllr Haynes for his work in setting up the surgery. **Cllr Bullen** advised that she would seek to attend the forthcoming surgery.

Cllr Tremain advised that church coffee mornings were a good venue for cllrs to listen to residents and also asked about the Council's strategic plan. **The Clerk** provided an update regarding the strategic plan process.

Cllr Young advised that the advertisement for the Project Director role at Lawrence House would be going live next week

2607/42 **Report from the Town Mayor and Deputy Mayor**

The Mayor advised that she would provide a full update in October

2607/43 **Report from the Town Clerk**

Members considered Report 18/26 concerning the above (previously circulated)
It was **resolved** that;

i) the update regarding proposed drainage works at Grammars Park be noted and the Council agree a sum of £100,000 to permit access to and works to be undertaken at the site
ii) the Council's insurance renewal policy options be noted and it be agreed to undertake a new three year long term agreement and complete the Director Declaration as part of the annual insurance review
iii) membership of a Launceston Show working party to assist with the undertaking of the Council's attendance at the annual show be cllrs Lankston, Tremain, Conway and Gordon

2607/44 **Correspondence and Matters to Note**

It was **resolved** to;

i) note the venue usage

2607/45 **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

2607/56 **Tree Works**

Members considered quotations received for tree works at Windmill Park
It was **resolved** that South West Tree Care be awarded the contract for works and that funding for the works be taken from the General Reserves budget line

2609/47 **Urgent Items**

Cllr Lankston wished the carnival every success for its forthcoming event
Cllr Gilbert reminded all councillors that the Civic Service was being held on Sunday 4 October at 2.00pm at St Thomas Church

Date of the next meeting of the Council
The next Full Council meeting will be on Tuesday 22 October 2026

The meeting ended at 8.14pm
Signed ..... Date .....