

Members of the public and [Cornwall] Councillor Rob Parsonage were in the public gallery.

MINUTES of the Extraordinary meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Library and Community Hub, Fore Street, Torpoint.

**Present:** - Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) Chairman, Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. C E Goodman), Councillors Mrs. K Brownhill, S A Clark, G J Davis, Miss R A Evans BEM, Mrs. L Fellows, L Hogan, L E Keise, K J Moon, Mrs. J L Reeves, M G Spurling, C R Still and J Tivnan BEM. The Town Clerk & RFO (Clerk), the Town Council Support Officer / Assistant to the Town Clerk were also in attendance.

	<b>ACTION</b>
<p><b>18-26 Apologies for absence: -</b> Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors Mrs. S G Bickle and [Cornwall] Councillor Mrs. K Ewert.</p>	
<p><b>19-26 Declarations of Interest relating to matters on the agenda: -</b>  <b>a) To receive any declarations from Members of any registerable (5A of the Code of Conduct) and/or non-registerable (5B) interests in matters to be considered at this meeting.</b>            i) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Councillor G J Davis – (Agenda item 3a As Director of the Horson Park Community Sports Hub).            ii) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Deputy Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. C E Goodman) – (Agenda item 3a as a previous member of the Torpoint and Rame Active Community Network).            iii) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Councillor L Hogan - (Agenda item 3a as a relative to a Director of the Horson Park Community Sports Hub).            iv) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Councillor L E Keise - (Agenda item 3a as the current Chairman of Torpoint Athletic Football Club).            v) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Councillor K J Moon - (Agenda item 3a as he has taken part in discussions with members of the Save Torpoint Sports Hall Group).            vi) An NRI (Non-Registerable Interest) was declared by: - Councillor C R Still – (Agenda item 3a as a previous member of the Torpoint and Rame Active Community Network).  <b>b) The Town Clerk to receive written requests for dispensations prior to the start of the meeting for consideration.</b>            The Town Clerk summarised dispensations received and the process for granting dispensations with the prepared statement as follows:            "I have received 5 applications for dispensation; one Councillor already has a dispensation in place.            Councillor Davis, Councillor Hogan, Councillor Keise, Councillor Moon and Councillor Still.</p>	

As Town Clerk I have reviewed all the applications as received and am content to award dispensations to all four Councillors, who have submitted an application. A copy of the dispensation will be kept with the Register of Councillors' Interests.

Councillor Davis' is for today's meeting only and he has indicated that he does wish to participate in any voting.

Already in place Councillor Goodman's has indicated that she does wish to participate in any voting.

Councillor Hogan's is for today's and subsequent meetings and he has indicated that he does wish to participate in any voting.

Councillor Keise's is for today's meeting only and he has indicated that he does wish to participate in any voting.

Councillor Moon's is for today's and subsequent meetings and he has indicated that he does wish to participate in any voting.

Councillor Still's is for today's meeting and he has indicated that he does wish to participate in any voting."

**20-26 Mayor's Announcement / Meeting Introduction**

Torpoint Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) opened the meeting with an update on Torpoint Community College's 3G Pitch Project.

"Welcome to tonight's Extra-ordinary meeting of Torpoint Town Council. Over the past month, the Town Council has been in detailed discussions with Cornwall FA, the Football Foundation and Torpoint Community College regarding the future of the 3G pitch project. It is important for everyone here to understand that the only considered viable way to deliver a 3G pitch on the College site is for it to operate alongside the Sports Hall, which provides the necessary changing and toilet facilities.

Tonight's meeting is to consider the operating models the Council may be able to put forward to the College. These options would form the basis of a proposal for the College and the Council to jointly consider, with the aim of enabling the existing tender to be accepted. The key date is 19<sup>th</sup> June, when the current tender expires. After that point, a full re-tendering process would be required, with additional costs and delays.

The College has agreed to keep discussions open only if the Council brings forward options that they can evaluate. However, I must be clear: the College's position has not changed. They have significant financial challenges ahead, driven by a falling roll and the wider demographic pressures in Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula. They have stated that their priority must be the curriculum, their pupils, and their staff, and that a 3G pitch is not essential to those priorities.

The College has said they are willing to receive proposals from the Council on how the 3G pitch could be operated with the Sports Hall and how the risks could be managed in a way that the 3G pitch does not place additional burden on the school. This is the purpose of our discussion this evening.

The College has not invited the Council to make any other proposal regarding the operation of the Sports Hall on its own, whether by the Council or by a community organisation. They have

also not shared any information about how they intend to reopen the Sports Hall themselves or by any other organisation. We have offered support if they require it, but no information has been provided to us at this stage.

The College has permitted the Football Foundation to share the terms of the grant and the business case for the 3G pitch with the Council, but only on a strictly confidential, need to know basis. We must respect that request. In order for Councillors to debate the options properly and to understand the terms and the risks, the next part of this meeting must be held in confidential session, excluding the press and public.

We will, of course, publish the outcome of this evening's meeting as soon as the confidential discussion has concluded. I want to reassure everyone that nothing in the documents we have seen for the 3G pitch presents any significant issue, provided the operating assumptions are correct and facility has a good management structure in place. The issue before us is whether the Council is to continue with the 3G pitch at Torpoint Community College and if and how it can identify an operating model that removes or minimises risk to the College.

We have discussed partnership options with the College, the College has also suggested that a competitive process should be considered. These are matters we must now explore in detail."

**21-26 Following the Extra-ordinary Council meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2026, regarding Torpoint Community College's 3G Pitch Project.**

a) To consider: an update following discussions held and any next steps for the project.

It is **resolved** that Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 the public and press will leave the meeting for any confidential discussions, to discuss this agenda item.

On conclusion of the confidential discussions, it was **resolved** to readmit the public and press to the meeting and publish the outcome of the discussions.

It is **resolved** for Torpoint Town Council to: -

1. Continue working with Torpoint Community College on the 3G Pitch Project and to form a suitable proposal.
2. Progress external support for business, operational, management and legal advice for the 3G Pitch Project and to commit, up to £12,000 from funds raised plus funds held in allocated reserves.
3. Waive Council's Financial Regulations to procure this support quickly, due to the tight timescales and the specialist nature of the work.
4. Delegate authority to Councillor Mrs. J M Martin, Councillor G J Davis and the Town Clerk & RFO to form a proposal with the College for the delivery of the 3G Pitch and a management plan for the combined Sports Hall and 3G Pitch.
5. Summons members' to attend a further Extraordinary Council Meeting, at which a full briefing will be provided, with the public invited to attend.
6. Clarify that this Council, as a legal entity, would work in partnership with Torpoint Community College and would not competitively tender for the management of the 3G Pitch or the Sports Hall, should the opportunity arise.

Meeting closed at 8:47pm ..... Town Mayor