



## TORPOINT TOWN COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish (Town) meeting of Torpoint held on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 7.00pm in the Council Committee Room, 4, York Road, Torpoint.

**PRESENT:** - Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin - Chairman), plus fourteen Town Councillors, several members of the public plus the Town Clerk and Town Council Support Officer / Assistant to the Town Clerk. The Town Clerk took the minutes of the proceedings on behalf of the town.

### **1. Minutes of the last Parish meeting.**

It was resolved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2025 are received and were signed by the Town Mayor (Chairman).

### **2. Matters arising from the minutes.**

None.

### **3. Report from the Town Mayor covering the activities of the Town Council.**

The Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) was delighted to welcome everyone to the Parish (Town) meeting and explained the Annual Parish Meeting is a meeting for all the local government electors of the Parish. It is not a meeting of the Town Council however it is chaired by the Town Mayor. As it is a statutory meeting, it is a requirement for the meeting to have minutes to record the event and thanked Milly Southworth (Town Clerk to Torpoint Town Council) who had agreed to capture the minutes for the meeting.

One of the first priorities for this Council in this new civic year will be to oversee the installation of the new CCTV at Harvey Street flats. With funding secured and the quote for the work accepted we can now complete on this project which has been brought to fruition as a result of collaborative working with residents, local Police, Cornwall Housing and the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner.

Following last week's extra-ordinary meeting of this Council which discussed the opportunity afforded to the Council by the Community College to develop a proposal to further the 3G Pitch Project, a way forward was agreed. Torpoint Community College has since said that they are prepared to continue working with us and this Council remains committed to the project and to the re-opening of the Sports Hall for the benefit of the school and the community in a way that satisfies the College's objectives.

The Town Team Project Board, working on behalf of this Council, are currently putting a one-page document together covering proposals for a jetty. Outline planning permission is in place for the old Police Station site and Cornwall Council have had interest from a couple of groups who would like to move the development forward. Conversations are continuing but with the current economic position and the demand for delivery in Plymouth, this is taking longer than we would have liked to come to fruition. The good news though is that developers recognise the opportunity and continue to come forward to work with this Council to deliver our vision. Initial surveys have also been completed towards the demolition of the existing library building and the initial design for the site. We also await the outcome of a Strategic Community Infrastructure Levy bid for £380,000 submitted to Cornwall Council to enable the public square of the re-designed Lower Fore Street development.

This Council continues to maintain the play parks at Cambridge Field, Borough Farm, Chestnut Close and Thanckes Park. Also Rendel, Sparrow and Benodet Parks together with the Skate Park. Following the tender award for a new Skate Park we look forward to continue working with the Torpoint Ramps Forum to develop plans and support the fundraising towards hopefully commencing works at the site in 2027.

Our partnership with the Lawn Tennis Association continues with plans to increase engagement with the schools and community groups. We have 2 Tennis Activators delivering sessions on our behalf at our beautiful Tennis Courts and two sports wheelchairs are available on our accessible court 1. Recognising the work of the Torpoint Diverse Advisory Panel, which consists of Councillors and local residents living with a disability, this Council strives for inclusivity in all of its activities and to work in accordance the best practice document.

This Council will support Carbeile Juniors and the Nursery and Infant Schools with their proposed amalgamation and will work with them where necessary to ensure sustainable education provision in Torpoint. This Council will also engage in discussions and pursue appropriate options for use of the Albion Road school building to retain it for the benefit of the community.

Following the adoption of the Torpoint Arts and Culture Strategy this Council is committed to collaborating with the Torpoint Artists Collective in delivering the action plan and vision. We also await the outcome of our Expression of Interest to the UK Town of Culture Competition.

This Council will continue to manage its budget effectively ensuring that income is maximised, expenditure is controlled and the precept is fair, being cautious not to over stretch resident's council tax bills or retain excessive reserves. We will continue to lobby Cornwall Council and our Cornwall Councillors for fair treatment for this end of the County and for those issues that concern residents and fall under County control, i.e. Street lighting, car parks and cemeteries.

The Torpoint Library and Community Hub is a continuing success. Our staff and the volunteers organise, arrange and deliver great activities, services and support to all members of our community. We continue to support them, the street market organisation, the Town Partnership and all community groups who run events in the Town attracting visitors and engaging residents.

In May 2025 Torpoint Town Council resolved to re-adopt the General Power of Competence. We continue to meet the criteria required and this enables this Council to pursue opportunities and projects, and act beyond those powers usually associated with a Town or Parish Council.

#### **4. Electors Questions.**

##### **Questions received in advance:**

1. Dog fouling. This has been an ongoing issue for a very long time.

**ANSWER:** *Dog fouling is a continued problem in the town and is usually worse during the Winter months, however, there has been an increase in owners not picking up/or fly tipping dog poo bags, during the Spring and Summer months. The Town Council continues to provide enforcement in the town and will include a reminder about dog fouling in the next Council newsletter. A reminder to residents' to report issues to Cornwall Council, via their 'report it page':*

*<https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/environment/animal-welfare-and-enforcement/report-dog-owner/>. Cornwall Council has introduced a Dog Fouling Public Spaces Protection Order that covers all of Cornwall <https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/media/cizj3a5v/pspo-dog-fouling-25-10-23.pdf>*

2. Parking. This has also been an ongoing issue for a very long time. It is becoming the 'norm' for cars to be parked on pavements, over lowered kerbs, and very close to junctions making it very difficult/impossible to see vehicles turning into/out of junctions. It is only a matter of time until there is a serious incident.

**ANSWER:** *Parking on pavements and very close to junctions also continues to be an issue in the town and will be included in the next Council newsletter.*

3. Overgrown hedges. Hedges on properties are being left to grow over public pavements causing people, to either walk in the road or on grass verges. This is a particular problem for the disabled are for parents with prams.

**ANSWER:** *Similarly, overgrown hedges continue to be an issue in the town. Discussed and agreed to consider putting a Motion, which will include both parking problems and overgrown hedges, to ask Cornwall Council and the Town Council to review whether any further action is needed.*

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4. My concern is about the unregulated Torpoint pub watch scheme,

There are lots of concerns by myself and many residents of Torpoint on how it is managed by local landlords,

Could the council please explain the protocol for this scheme.

The evidence proves the following.

- \* The scheme is not run fairly, some people get banned from 1 pub and not others.
- \*Lack of communication from the pub watch group to persons who are banned.
- \* Data protection breach of person's who have been banned.
- \* Consequences on landlords who allow underage drinking and drug taking.
- \* Security staff who have physically abused customers and caused injuries.

This is just the tip of the iceberg, it has been an ongoing problem which seems to be getting worse and not better. We would appreciate a clear explanation on how this is acceptable behaviour from professional businesses.

**ANSWER:** *Pubwatch could be seen as the licensed trade's equivalent of Neighbourhood Watch. The main difference is that a Pubwatch scheme is able to set its own objectives and tackling the specific and unique problems faced by the pub on-trade. The basic principle of Pubwatch is that its licensee members will agree to work together to improve the safety of their premises, for the benefit of their staff and customers. Initiatives will be introduced to try and combat the criminal activity and anti-social behaviour that can often be associated, but not exclusively, with the misuse of alcohol or drugs. Invariably therefore the work of a Pubwatch scheme will be to set standards of acceptable behaviour and act against the small number of individuals who cause problems for the pub trade. This will often result in Pubwatch members agreeing to jointly ban problem individuals who are violent, damage property, use or deal drugs or act in an anti-social manner.*

*Pubwatch has always been a voluntary activity, engaged in by operators of licensed premises primarily for their own benefit. As a voluntary body they avoid some of the Human Rights and Freedom of Information Act obligations faced by the police and other public bodies. Public bodies such as the police should not be involved in the management of a scheme, decision making or the banning processes which could possibly put the Pubwatch at risk of legal challenge. All Pubwatch groups can seek advice and guidance from the National Pubwatch, the National Scheme has local representatives who are available for member venues seek advice from.*

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With respect to the legal/business consultant being brought on board for the 3G project.

5. Have discussions been had with the school about the level of assistance required in order to get them to change their minds?
6. In other words what would persuade the school to get back on board with the project?
7. And lastly, has the legal/business consultant been employed in anticipation of the current tender expiring and what would they be able to bring to the council/project considering the hard position the school have set.

**ANSWER TO ALL THREE QUESTIONS:** The College has outlined the level of management responsibility and liability they would require from the Council (or any organisation) for the 3G pitch project to proceed. These requirements are not unusual in joint-use arrangements across the country between Councils, Schools, and delivery partners.

The Town Council's initial assessment is that it has the operational and financial capacity to support the project and to help the school secure a long-term provider for the new facility. However, the Council does not have the specialist skills to develop a full operating model, legal structure, and risk-management framework on its own. For this reason, professional support has been commissioned. Approximately half the budget covers the organisational and management expertise needed to prepare a proposal capable of being considered by both parties. The remainder of the budget includes provides financial capacity for the council's legal costs associated with drafting any formal agreements.

This expenditure is expected to be required whether or not the June deadline is met, that is the target. Should the current tender expire, the Council has already engaged with the funders and the College and is confident that a viable route forward could still be agreed that allows the 3G pitch project to be delivered. If the 3G pitch project does not proceed, and the Council is asked by the College, to support the management arrangements required for the Sports Hall to reopen, the consultancy work already commissioned should provide the underpinning principles needed for the Council to take on that role.

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**Questions posited at the meeting:**

8. Did the Town Council come in, on, over or under budget for the financial year 2025/26?
9. As there has been an overspend, how will the council prevent this from happening again?
10. Can you confirm the overspend of this year will not be passed onto the public next year?

**ANSWER TO ALL THREE QUESTIONS:**

*The Clerk explained there has been an overspend on the Council's planned budget of income against expenditure, amounting to approximately £55k, details of which are included in the March 2026 Council meeting minutes (minute number 212-25). The Town Mayor made reference to the Council's Annual budget statement (included in the February 2026 council newsletter) for this financial year, highlighting the council scrutinises the monthly Budget Variance at every Full Council meeting. Furthermore, an internal audit is undertaken of the council's Annual Accounts and subsequently externally audited, which are published on the council's website.*

11. Has the Council identified the preferred consultant to support the work on the 3G Pitch and if so, has the consultant started work on the project?
12. Will the consultant provide the infrastructure for the project to continue on the site?

**ANSWER TO ALL TWO QUESTIONS:**

*Councillor Davis confirmed the consultant had been appointed, the firm having been recommended, SJ S&LC Sports and Leisure Consultants. The Chairman indicated the consultant has 'cleared his work commitments' in order to undertake the work on this project as a priority.*

13. Is the Council looking to enter into a competitive tender process to operate the 3G Pitch and Sports Hall facility?

*Councillor Davis clarified that originally the College (Torpoint Community College) was looking to the Town Council to enter into the tender process, however, this council has indicated it will only enter a partnership agreement.*

14. 'The community group' has confidentially shared documentation with the Town Council, as requested, can you confirm if it was shared with the council, why is it not being considered and why is the College not looking to partner with 'The community group'?

*The 'community group' documentation was confidentially shared following the Extra ordinary meeting of the Council and the Council has not met again since, the College has said that it does not wish to work with the community group at this stage.*

15. Do you believe that spending money on a consultant is going to make a difference?

*Yes, the College has agreed to enter into further discussion with the Council, Cornwall FA and the Football Foundation. This is a £700k project for our community and therefore the expenditure is considered an opportunity to reverse the decision of the College.*

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16. Why are developments not happening in the town?

17. Are Cornwall Council caveats blocking development?

**ANSWER TO ALL TWO QUESTIONS:**

*Councillor Davis explained the Council has enabled Lower Fore Street to come to market, with the studies undertaken this has mitigated the risk to developers. Unfortunately, the land [for sale] has not had the interest that was first anticipated. Geographically the predicted development in Plymouth, overshadows the need to develop in Torpoint, at this time. Councillor Moon identified the [Cornwall Council] Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is a blocker to development in the town. Discussion ensued regarding the CIL levy and Councillor Moon summarised there needs to be a shift change/lobby to MP and Cornwall Councillors, to review the CIL payable.*

18. Why would developers look to build houses in Torpoint, as it has not got a bigger supermarket?

*Councillor Davis and the Chairman explained the land that was ear marked for housing includes a supermarket on the development as residential housing cannot be built in close proximity to Thanckes Tank oil depot.*

19. Is there a mechanism to reduce or challenge payment of the CIL to encourage development?

*This question prompted an opportunity to 'come up with' an action, which could challenge Cornwall Council's CIL charging schedule.*

20. A statement was made which highlighted a residents' concerns about the lack of development in the town, young people leaving the town for work, the recent poor state of the Ferries, which impacts on the economic activity of the town, which prompted discussion.

*The Chairman explained the Council has established a good working relationship with the new management of the Ferries and does contact them regularly, and they are sympathetic. Also, [Cornwall] Councillor R Parsonage sits on the Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry Joint Committee and can*

*be contacted to represent residents' concerns. The monthly ferry stats are reviewed at every Council meeting.*

Councillor Davis explained that the views of the public [here this evening] need to be captured and therefore Motions, which can be voted all by everyone, should be presented at agenda item 5.

21. Have any of the bigger supermarkets been approached to come to Torpoint?

*The Chairman explained the Council is not the landowner, this is down to Cornwall Council.*

Whilst the Motions were being drafted, in order to be voted on, discussion continued in the meeting. Reference to the declining roll at all the schools was made and it was said, that all schools should ideally be coming together quickly to work with the Local Authority effectively. A question should be asked of Torpoint Community College, to improve its transparency, asking it to involve the town community earlier in decisions that affect secondary education and shared facilities in the town.

## **5. Any Motions from Electors.**

### **Motion 1**

This Annual Parish Meeting expresses its concern about vehicles parking on pavements in areas without double yellow lines, causing obstruction, danger to pedestrians and preventing emergency service access. This meeting requests that Cornwall Council, as the local highway authority, strengthens enforcement activity in Torpoint, including targeted patrols and clearer public guidance on pavement obstruction offences. This meeting further asks that our Member of Parliament raises the issue with the Department for Transport, seeking progress on the long-awaited national pavement-parking reforms, so that enforcement powers are clearer, more consistent, and more effective.

It is **resolved** to approve this motion.

### **Motion 2**

This meeting requests that Cornwall Council, as the highway authority, strengthens its approach to identifying and addressing hedge encroachment, including timely notices to landowners and clearer public communication about responsibilities under the Highways Act about overgrown hedges and vegetation obstructing pavements and footways in the parish parcels of land.

It is **resolved** to approve this motion.

### **Motion 3**

This Annual Parish Meeting recognises the importance of accessible, quality sports facilities for the residents' of Torpoint and the wider Rame Peninsula, and notes the continued community concern regarding the closure of the Sports Hall and the risk the 3G pitch project may not come. This meeting requests that **Torpoint Community College** and **Torpoint Town Council** work together constructively and in good faith to:

- identify a viable route to reopening the Sports Hall for community use, and
- progress the 3G pitch project to a deliverable proposal that benefits students, local clubs, and the wider community.

It is **resolved** to approve this motion.

**Motion 4**

This Annual Parish Meeting supports a positive, shared vision for Torpoint and recognises the opportunity to make the town more attractive for residents’, visitors’ and investment. This meeting asks **Torpoint Town Council, Cornwall Council, and partners** to work with the community to:

- improve connectivity and services, including the Ferries,
- encourage high-quality development and identify any blockers, including the impact of CIL costs and
- promote practical steps that enhance Torpoint’s appeal and long-term prospects.
- explore how enhanced SEN provision could be developed in the town as part of this process, ensuring that local children benefit from high-quality, inclusive support close to home.

This meeting further supports expanding opportunities for residents’ to help shape this shared vision. The Town Mayor is asked to progress the conversation and call a further Town Meeting.

It is **resolved** to approve this motion.

**Motion 5**

This Annual Parish Meeting would like to see the current Torpoint Nursery and Infant School building is maintained and kept in community use, once it is vacated and no longer needed by the school; the Town Council is asked to explore and lead on options for future use, where appropriate.

It is **resolved** to approve this motion.

**6. Date of Next Meeting.**

Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> May 2027.

Town Meeting closed at 8.43pm.....Town Mayor (Chairman)