

Fr Michael Brown led prayers before the meeting. [Cornwall] Councillor R Parsonage was in the public gallery, along with members of the public.

A question had been forwarded to the Clerk in advance of the meeting, the member of the public was in the gallery, a summary of the question asked is "what measures are in place to reduce the risk of wildfires or accidental fires occurring at Thanckes Park?"

MINUTES of the meeting of Torpoint Town Council held on Thursday 20th August 2026 at 7.00pm in the Committee Room, 4 York Road, Torpoint.

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

	ACTION
87-26 Apologies for absence: - Apologies for absence were submitted on behalf of Councillors G J Davis, Mrs. L Fellows, K J Moon and Mrs. J L Reeves also [Cornwall] Councillor Mrs. K Ewert.	
88-26 Declarations of Interest relating to matters on the agenda: - 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. None. b) The Town Clerk to receive written requests for dispensations prior to the start of the meeting for consideration. None.	
89-26 Planning Applications: - a) None.	
90-26 Cornwall Council Reports: - Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) thanked [Cornwall] Councillor Mrs. K Ewert for her written report. Councillor R Parsonage gave a verbal report. Tamar Crossings action group walk across the Tamar Bridge went ahead. Councillor Parsonage is looking at the debt write off, which has been proposed by MP's. Regarding the Torpoint Ferry availability Councillor Parsonage has spoken to the Chief Officer regarding the issues; in terms of the portaloos he will be raising this with his colleagues at Plymouth City Council, as well as at county, and will be asking about upgrading the existing portaloos. Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) asked Councillor Parsonage whether there had been a response regarding installing access to drinking water, Councillor Parsonage will follow this up. Friends of Thanckes Park had a trip to Truro, as winners of a Cornwall Civic Award, it was an incredible event, the Chairman of Cornwall Council intends to continue this in the future. The water butt is full at Horson cemetery. Councillor Parsonage is awaiting a response from 'planning', regarding the Kings Arms enforcement. Councillor J Tivnan BEM put a question to Councillor Parsonage, which was answered accordingly. An update on Newquay airport was given.	

Councillor Parsonage had held a meeting with Cornwall Council earlier today, regarding housing in the town, this was primarily to discuss the Northern Fringe and Lower Fore Street, "some movement is being seen". A brief to the Town Council and residents will be drafted and agreed and, as soon as complete, will be shared by Councillor Parsonage. He added, "there are commercial discussions ongoing and it would not be appropriate to discuss these at this stage." Councillor Mrs. K Brownhill suggested to Councillor Parsonage that perhaps he could send an acknowledgement email to those who correspond with him, or set up a 'holding email reply', as residents' have reported that they have not received a reply to email correspondence sent to him. Councillor Miss R A Evans BEM referred to Councillor Ewert's report which indicated the date for the decision making on the Cornwall Highways Scheme had been pushed back another month. Councillor Evans asked Councillor Parsonage about a comment which she had seen posted on social media by Councillor K J Moon, referring to the parking issues at St. James Church saying that "there will soon be changes, as agreed by Cornwall Council this month", giving full details of the parking scheme, adding "this has been chosen as an excellent example of how small targeted changes can make a huge difference to a community." Councillor Evans asked when is the parking scheme likely to happen? Councillor Parsonage responded giving details of the two initiatives put forward for Torpoint, explaining the Community Highways Scheme is a three year scheme. This parking scheme has used a model design from Bodmin. In response to a follow up question, Councillor Parsonage clarified that "Councillor Moon had been acting on my behalf." (Councillor Parsonage left the public gallery at this point.)	
91-26 Police Activity Report Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) thanked the Police for providing the statistics, the new version is very much welcomed, however, asked whether it would be preferable to only include the last four months. A new Neighbourhood Beat Manager has been appointed PC Levi Voysey, his start date is awaited.	
92-26 Minutes of the previous meetings: - a) It is resolved the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday 16th July 2026 as circulated, are adopted. b) It is resolved the minutes of the Extraordinary meeting held on Thursday 13th August 2026 as circulated, are adopted. The Clerk explained that planning application number PA26/04843 is being re-issued by [Cornwall] Planning and will be included on the agenda for the Finance and Operations committee meeting, due to a change in the proposal title, nothing else has changed on the planning application.	
93-26 Matters arising from the minutes: - a) To update: Horson Cemetery water supply – installation of water butt: - Pursuant to minute number 66-26 (g) the Clerk explained the local resident is continuing to liaise with Cormac on this matter and has asked for signs to let visitors to the cemetery know about the water butt, a response is awaited. b) To update: Question to Torpoint Ferry staff regarding whether the 6.15am Ferry service running Monday to Friday is an official Ferry start time: - Pursuant to minute number 81-26, the answer to Councillor Davis' question had been circulated. Councillor Tivnan reminded members' about his question he continually asks, and it is resolved to forward the question to the Ferry staff. [Councillor Tivnan emailed the question to the Clerk to record in the minutes.] This question remains unanswered regarding the Tamar Bridge: <i>"My question that has remained unanswered from my time on the Tamar Crossings Committee and here, some 2 years since remains as follows: A major strengthening and widening project for the Tamar Bridge took place between 1999 and 2001 at a cost of</i>	Clerk

approximately £35 million. This essential engineering work upgraded the 1962 suspension bridge from three to five lanes and prevented the imposition of a severe 17-tonne weight restriction. This was an EU Directive supported by the Government at the time. This was paid for by the Tamar Crossings joint owners namely Cornwall Council and Plymouth City Council by reserves allocated for the refurbishment/replacement of the Torpoint Ferries projected into the late 2030's and also by a Government loan. So the question remains "How many bridges within the UK required this work to be completed to meet the EU Directive and how were other remedial costs met by local authorities or were they centrally funded by Government partially or fully?"

c) To update: Cornwall Council No Cold Calling Zone launched at Chapeldown Road, question to explain the criteria for this road being selected: -

Pursuant to minute number 84-26 (b), the No Cold Calling Zone has been launched in Chapeldown Road, members' agreed that should there be an opportunity for Torpoint to be a 'No Cold Calling Town', then this would be very much welcomed. Clarification has been sought regarding the Torpoint and Rame Peninsula Lions collecting at Christmas.

d) To confirm action: Complete the online consultation 'Future of Sixth Form Provision – Torpoint Community College': -

Pursuant to minute number 84-26 (d), this has been actioned.

e) To update: request to Cornwall Council re turning street lighting back on, Goad Avenue and Trevithick Avenue: -

Pursuant to minute number 75-26 (a), the Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) was pleased to confirm that the Senior Management Team at Cornwall Council had had a rethink and the street lights will now remain on, dimmed, in Goad Avenue and Trevithick Avenue, every night, between the hours of midnight and 5.00am.

94-26 Mayor's communications: -

Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) gave her Mayor's Communications.

Last month I had the pleasure of being invited to officially open the Lions Fete which was held at the 200 Club on Saturday 18th July. The annual Lions Fete is a bit of an institution in Torpoint and it was great to see it so well supported on what was an absolutely glorious day.

On Wednesday 22nd July the Town Clerk and I attended St. James Church for the Institution, Induction and Installation of the Reverend Stephen Guffick as Rector of the Rame and River Churches which covers Torpoint and the Rame Peninsula Torpoint. It was lovely to have the opportunity to officially welcome Steve to Torpoint.

On Friday 24th July I was delighted to officially launch the Cornwall Summer Reading Challenge at the Torpoint Library and Community Hub along with the Deputy Mayor, the Ice Queen and Spider-Hero. It was very well supported and the number of children signed up to and participating in the challenge has exceeded expectations.

On Saturday 25th July my Mum accompanied me to the Torpoint Lady Singers Concert at St. James Church. A very enjoyable evening raising money for the Blood Bikes.

The Deputy Mayor attended the launch of new No Cold Calling Zone on 28th July. This is a joint initiative between Cornwall Council Trading Standards and Devon and Cornwall Police and this Council is pursuing the roll out to other parts of the Town.

Andy and I were delighted to visit Mr and Mrs. Jones of Roeselare Avenue on the occasion of their Platinum, 70 years, Wedding Anniversary on 4th August. We spent a lovely time with them and were pleased to be able to congratulate them both on such an achievement.

The following day Councillors were invited to HMS Raleigh to see the Sea Cadets Summer School in operation. Cadets from all over the South West attend the school learning a range of skills to equip them for a future either within or outside of the Military. Well done to all those involved.

On the morning of Saturday 8th August the Torpoint and District Garden and Craft Show was held at Bénodet Park. I was invited to judge some entries alongside the Deputy Mayor, Paul and Chris Roper, Chef Debbie Thorpe and our Operations Manager Phil Griffiths. Although numbers were low the quality of entries was commendable and I'm sure numbers will increase for future events.

That same afternoon was Torpoint's first Mini-Fest, raising money for my Charities and the 2nd Torpoint Scouts. A big thank you to the entertainers, the community volunteers who worked so hard and the public who attended. It was a great afternoon and evening creating a fantastic vibe in a lovely location and it raised a staggering £1,200.

At the end of last month I was delighted to visit The Coppola School of Performing Arts and receive a donation of £100 for my Mayor's Charity fund. This was money raised from a raffle held at their end of term Awards Evening and this along with a share from the Mini-Fest proceeds brings my Mayor's Charity Fund total to £1,137 so far. The next fundraising event is a Fun Games Night on Saturday 5th September and a Halloween Dance on Saturday 31st October both being held here at the Council Chambers. I hope to see as many of you as possible supporting these events.

Finally I'd like to congratulate the Torpoint Sea Cadets on the evening of ceremony and displays they put on for their biennial inspection and also congratulations to the Friends of Thanckes Park on their Cornwall Civic Award.

Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) explained that following meetings held last week, a decision to temporarily close the library and community hub this week had been taken. It was **resolved** that pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to meetings) Act 1960 the public and press leave the meeting due to the strictly confidential discussions on this matter.

95-26 To note the approved Monthly Payroll Payments for July 2026:

Date	Payee(s)	Amount (£)
31 July '26	16 x employees (including Mayor Allowance)	20,183.39
31 July '26	HMRC (to include NI, PAYE TAX etc.)	6,355.19
31 July '26	Cornwall LGPS	5,878.29
TOTAL		32,416.87

It is **resolved** to agree the approved monthly payroll payments for July 2026.

96-26 Question of which notice has been given or notice of motion

None.

97-26 Torpoint Ferry Statistics:

Town Mayor (Councillor Mrs. J M Martin) thanked the Torpoint Ferry staff for the statistics and noted the number of lost crossings, when there is only one ferry operating.

a) To note: Correspondence between Town Mayor and Ferry Manager "Reduced Torpoint Ferry Service & Impact to Travellers".

The correspondence prompted discussion and it is agreed to invite the Chief Officer and Ferry Manager at Tamar Crossings to a meeting with members', in advance of the September council meeting, with the opportunity to submit questions to them in advance.

Clerk

98-26 Financial Information:

It is **resolved** that the revised July 2026 Budget Variance is received and adopted.

99-26 Accounts for Payment: -

Contact Name	Invoice Number	Total	VAT	NET	Description
Cornish Tea & Coffee	SL119271	134.35	0.00	134.35	Cafe Supplies Library
Lynne Clarke	Eye Test Contribution	50.00	0.00	50.00	Eye Test Contribution
TOTAL		184.35	0.00	184.35	

100-26 Correspondence:

a) To note: Town and Parish Council Survey into local Van Dwellers – Cornwall Council: - Noted.

b) To note: Government's Local Power Plan, delivered by the Department for Energy Security and Net Zero in partnership with Great British Energy – From the Office of Anna Gelderd MP: Noted.

c) To note: Local Council Training: Changes to Planning Committees and protocols, Policy update 23 September 2026 – Cornwall Council: - Noted.

d) To note: CALC News Bulletin 21/07/26 and 04/08/26 – CALC: - Noted.

e) To note: Property Management Services – Laskowski & Co Introduction: - Noted.

f) To note: WSR (Whole Society Resilience) Conference 2026 – Cornwall Council: - Noted. The Operations Manager will be attending.

g) To note: Local Council Training: Housing viability update – Cornwall Council: - Noted.

h) To note: Planning News for Local Councils and Agents – Summer 2026: - Noted.

i) To note: Update for members: CALC meeting with Cornwall Council Cabinet – CALC: - Noted.

j) To note: Protect housing from grass wildfire – send to Anna Gelderd MP/Cllr K Ewert – B Miller: - Noted.

k) To consider: Request to complete NALC NP (Neighbourhood Plan) Survey by 25/09/26 – CALC: -

Clerk is directed to complete the survey on behalf of the council.

Clerk

Following a question put by Councillor J Tivnan BEM, in relation to the town's existing Neighbourhood Development Plan, the Clerk is directed to seek clarification from Councillor R Parsonage regarding the meeting he had spoken about and attended today, regarding the

Clerk

Northern Fringe and Lower Fore Street housing in the town (see minute number 90-26). l) To note: 'Look Up Look Out' Electrical safety campaign – J Knight, Founder Look Up Look Out National Safety Campaign: - Noted. m) To note: Free NHS funding guide for Cornwall residents – CareHomeGuide.uk: - Noted, can be included on the website. n) To note: Forest for Cornwall (F4C) funding opportunities – Cornwall Council: - Noted. o) To note: Hosepipe Ban Town and Parish Council Bulletin – Cornwall Council: - Noted. p) To note: Correspondence from Stephen Rickhards, Huggins Marine and Ideal Homes SW regarding CIL Levy and subsequent responses from Cornwall Council, Infrastructure Team at Cornwall Council: - Noted. q) To note: Employer Newsletter – Cornwall Pension Fund: - Noted. r) To note: Safer Cornwall Have Your Say Survey 2026 found here on the Let's Talk Cornwall website and available until 31st August – Cornwall Council: - Noted. s) To consider: Notification relating to a property asset: Land at 5 Borough Park, Torpoint – Cornwall Council: - Following consideration, it is resolved to direct the Clerk to formally respond indicating the town council does not have any interest in the land at 5 Borough Park, Torpoint. t) To consider: Correspondence regarding grass cutting on Marine Drive – R Wilkey (Antony resident): - Clerk to correspond, advising details of the Cornwall Council 'report it' page, also details of the Cornwall Councillors.	Clerk Clerk
101-26 Reports: a) To receive: Torpoint Town Partnership (TTP) update. Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. C E Goodman) gave a summary of the recent meeting, held on Tuesday 18th August. A report from the Treasurer was given. Councillor Parsonage has made an offer of a donation to the TTP. The Family Dog Show is being re-arranged, date to be advised. Katie-Marie Martin has set up the Christmas social media pages for the town. A 'Christmas' banner will be purchased by the TTP. Torpoint Artists Collective (TAC) is running a Christmas craft activity at the back of 61 Fore Street, on the night of the Christmas lights switch on. Christmas swags for lamp posts was discussed and a way forward is planned. The diary dates were updated with additional events being planned. No Christmas tree festival this year at St. James Church, there is the possibility of it being run at Cornerstone Church. Katie-Marie Martin will plan the entertainment schedule for the Christmas lights switch on in Fore Street. TAC is interested to host a creative and cultural workshop with representatives from Cornwall Council, this is being planned in advance of the next TTP meeting. All councillors are invited to attend, from 6.30pm on Tuesday 22nd September, with the TTP meeting starting at 7.30pm, in the committee room. b) To receive: Town Team Project Board (TTPB) update. No further update, no meeting held. c) To receive: Reports from delegates to outside bodies. i) Torpoint Archives & Heritage Centre – July 2026: - Noted. Thank you to Torpoint Archives and Heritage Centre for the report. ii) Neighbourhood Priorities Statement – to consider next steps https://www.cornwall.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/neighbourhoodplanning/neighbourhood-priorities-statements-pilot/	All Clerk

Following discussion, this will be included on the next Development and Localism committee meeting agenda. iii) Deputy Mayor (Councillor Mrs. C E Goodman) explained the postponed Rame Peninsula Public Transport Users Group AGM is being rearranged, it is likely to be in the first week of September. iv) Councillor C R Still, on behalf of Friends of Thanckes Park, highlighted how delighted the group is to receive the Civic Award from the Chairman of Cornwall Council. There will be more promotion of the garden show next year, the recent quiz raised £500 and 'Micro Adventures' on Monday's at Thanckes Park, with Beat4autism is continuing. Also, Councillor Mrs. S Bickle has done amazingly well with watering the beds in the park!	
102-26 Date of next Meeting: Thursday 17th September 2026.	
Meeting closed at 9:11pm Town Mayor	