FINANCE & GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE

Callington Council Chambers

22nd September 2026 at 6:30pm

Minutes

PRESENT: CLLRS – BERESFORD-POWER (TBP), CAREY (PC), COAKLEY (MC), DOIDGE (BD), LONG (AL), READ (MR), SMITH (MS) (PORTREEVE AND MAYOR), TOLMAN (ST) & VALDEBOUZE (CHAIR).

OFFICERS ACTING TOWN CLERK (ATC), RESPONSIBLE FINANCE OFFICER (RFO), OPERATIONS MANAGER (OM)

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC 4

	Minutes	Action
1.	**APOLOGIES** Cllr Pound, Cllr Watson	
2.	**MINUTES** **Approval of the minutes of 28th July 2026.** **RESOLVED.** Proposed Cllr Smith, seconded Cllr Coakley to approve the minutes as an accurate record of the meeting. **VOTES IN FAVOUR 8, VOTES AGAINST 0, ABSTENTIONS 1 (TBP)**	
3.	**MATTERS ARISING** None	
4.	**DISCLOSURES OF INTEREST** **To receive any disclosure(s) of interest by a Councillor or an officer in matters to be considered at this meeting, in accordance with provisions of Sections 94 or 117 of the Local Government Act 1972 or the National Code of Local Government Conduct** Cllr Beresford-Power item 12	
5.	**DISPENSATIONS** None	
6.	**PUBLIC SESSION** ***A public session will be held during the meeting to allow members of the public to ask questions, this session shall not exceed 10 minutes. Members of the public can speak for up to 3 minutes although this can be extended with permission from the Chairperson.***	

	Questions must relate strictly to items on the published agenda and be submitted in writing at least 24 hours before the meeting. Questions should be sent to clerk@callington-tc.gov.uk ***The Chair reserves the right to group similar questions and to limit the time for responses where necessary.*** Mr Horan expressed his gratitude at the positive support received for the events held within the Pannier Market and confirmed that they would be in contact again to arrange further bookings. **NOTED**	
7.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – to receive any completed Statement of Works (budget pressure proposals) and to discuss the budget aspirations for this committee in 2027/2028.** The RFO explained that a working party is due to meet to discuss the solar panels and air conditioning, but at this stage no costs have been confirmed. From previous meetings it has been discussed and agreed to increase the staff absences budget and introduce a budget for the Civic Gala. These costs will be recommended from this committee to Full Council to formulate the forthcoming precept. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Tolman, seconded Cllr Coakley and unanimously agreed to the above from the RFO. In addition to the overall staffing increases which are currently estimated at a 3% rise but pending any changes to national insurance and pension rates (the Chancellor's budget). In summary the proposed increases specifically to this committee are as shown below. Staff absence £2500 Gala £2000 Without consideration for item 13 below.	
8.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION - Civic Regalia - To consider and agree expenditure for the updating and maintenance of the Civic Regalia, including updating the Deputy Portreeve's Chain of Office with the names of former Deputy Portreeves and purchasing clips to secure the Portreeve's Chain of Office.** A discussion took place regarding the current Civic Regalia. Cllrs noted that the existing Deputy Portreeve's chain/ribbon along with the Consort chain is showing signs of wear and is looking tired. Various replacement options have been considered, with significant differences in cost between them. Cllrs agreed that the least expensive option would not necessarily be the most suitable and that, should the Council decide to replace the regalia, it should be done to an appropriate standard. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Carey, seconded Cllr Beresford-Power and unanimously agreed that the Portreeve's chain could be secured in place using small magnets, at a cost of no more than £20.	

	The RFO confirmed that a reserve budget of £5,000 is currently held for Civic Regalia. Power to Act was granted to the Portreeve, Clerk and Chair of F&GP to source suitable replacement chains for the Deputy Portreeve and Consort. The RFO reminded Cllrs that once the allocated reserve has been spent, no further funds will remain available within this budget. Following on from that, subject to a suitable option being identified and the budget allowing, a lighter-weight chain or ribbon could also be purchased for the Portreeve to wear at more informal or social events as the main crest badge can be hooked on and off the Civic Regalia. The current chains will be revalued to establish their current market value and ensure that the appropriate insurance value is recorded.	
9.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – Town hall Christmas lights and decorations – to consider getting more decorations for the hall.** The Christmas decorations ideas were previously circulated with Cllrs. **RESOLVED** Proposed Beresford-Power, seconded Cllr Carey and unanimously agreed to go ahead and purchase the three garlands at £587.99 and extra baubles £19.18 for the main town hall to be funded from F&GP earmarked reserves.	
10.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – To consider the continuation of funding for the use of the Scout Hut by Devon and Cornwall Food Action Group.** Cllrs acknowledged the valuable support the initiative provides to a significant number of local residents and recognised the strong support it receives within the community. Although the Town Council is no longer involved in its administration, Cllrs agreed that they would continue to support the Devon and Cornwall Food Action Group. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Long, seconded Cllr Beresford-Power and unanimously agreed that funding for the hire of the Scout Hut would continue. This arrangement will be reviewed as and when required.	
11.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – To receive an update on the recent Town Council-led Silent Disco.** The Chair provided feedback on the event, noting that although it generated a small profit, it was agreed that similar community events should be placed on hold for the time being, with alternative fundraising ideas to be considered going forward. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Valdebouze, seconded Cllr Beresford-Power and unanimously agreed that a new-style event would be introduced, with any profits raised being allocated to a Portreeve's Charity Fund and distributed to local charities at the end of the year. The first event will be a themed quiz night. Power to Act was granted to the Clerk and Chair to organise the event.	

	RESOLVED Proposed Cllr Doidge, seconded Cllr Carey and unanimously agreed that the existing stock held within the Community Events Store could be used for all future community events.	
12.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – Community Events - due to the decrease in people attending the Film Shows and volunteer support, consideration should now be given as to how to move forward with family run events with the current budget remaining.** The Chair explained that there had been a slight overlap between the Town Council's Halloween Disco and an event being held by Callington Cricket Club on the same evening. Cllr Beresford-Power provided some background to the mix-up and reassured Cllrs that the fireworks would not be set off until 9.00pm, ensuring that they would not impact on the Halloween Disco. Cllr Coakley, Cllr Smith, Cllr Tolman and Cllr Valdebouze confirmed that they would be volunteering at the Halloween Disco. The discussion then moved on to community events, with Cllrs noting the incredibly low levels of public attendance and volunteer support for the monthly film shows. It was acknowledged that people's viewing habits have changed, with more modern ways of accessing films now available. However, Cllrs agreed that the Town Council should continue to provide community events, with a minimum of three events to be held each year. Suggestions included bouncy castle events, a magician alongside the Halloween Disco. It was noted that an annual budget of £2,000 is currently allocated for community events. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Beresford-Power, seconded Cllr Carey and unanimously agreed that a Community Events Working Group would be established to oversee the organisation and delivery of future community events. Once formed, Power to Act would be delegated to the Working Group to organise and run these events. It was also agreed that the existing Community Events (Film Shows) budget would be renamed to reflect its wider purpose, allowing the funds to be used for Halloween and a further two community events.	
13.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION - To consider the addition of the Bright Health & Safety service to the existing package, to provide improved electronic recording, monitoring, and management of health and safety documentation and processes.** The OM gave a brief background on the need for this bolt on in addition of the Bright Health & Safety service to the existing package. **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Long, seconded Cllr Beresford-Power and unanimously agreed to add the Bright Health & Safety service to the existing package, providing enhanced electronic recording, monitoring and management of health and safety documentation and processes. The cost for	

	the complete package, including the additional service, will be now be £170 per month.	
14.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – to reconsider the Town Council's subscription with Visit Tamar Valley.** **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Beresford-Power, seconded Cllr Pound and unanimously agreed that the Town Council would cancel its subscription to Visit Tamar Valley and would not renew the subscription going forward.	
15.	**FOR DISCUSSION/DECISION – to consider purchasing/renting a community Ecovend Reverse Vending Machine (RVM). Deferred from September 2025.** **RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Valdebouze, seconded Cllr Long and unanimously agreed that this item would be deferred until the October F&GP meeting, following a meeting with the company scheduled to take place in the coming weeks.	
Cllr Pound entered as the meeting was closed.	**RESOLVED** Proposed Cllr Long, seconded Cllr Read and unanimously resolved to suspend this meeting at 7:09pm due to the Full Council meeting starting at 7:15pm.	
	RESOLVED Proposed Cllr Long, seconded Cllr Valdebouze and unanimously agreed at 10:15pm to defer items 16 – 20 until the October F&GP meeting due to the time in which this meeting was to restart.	
16.	**FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION - To receive an update regarding the local Pubwatch scheme and consider any matters relating to the Town Council's involvement.**	
17.	**FOR DISCUSSION / DECISION - Mural competition update on murals and installation**	
18.	**FOR NOTING - Update on Biscombes Lane CCTV**	
19.	**FOR NOTING – Update on 56 Fore Street. To provide an update**	
20.	**OR NOTING – Update on Banking Hub**	
	Date of next meeting 27th October 2026	
	There being no further business the meeting was closed at 10:15pm	