



CAMELFORD Town Council

CAMELFORD ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Held in the Town Hall on Tuesday 5th May 2026 7.00pm

AGENDA

1. Introduction and Welcome by the Mayor, Cllr Steve Bond
Cllr Bond Welcomed everyone to the annual parish meeting and expressed he will be changing the agenda order by swapping items 6 and 7 around in order to end on the Honoured Citizen award.
2. To approve the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2025
Proposed Cllr Thomson, Seconded Cllr Rotchell 6 in favour 2 abs
3. Annual Report on Town Council Business, Cllr Steve Bond
Cllr Bond reported that his first year as Mayor had been a learning curve and highlighted progress on key projects, including approval of the Tesco planning application, town events, and the relocation of the library and council offices. He thanked a departing councillor Maggie Ginger for her service, welcomed Cllr Tina Callcut, and paid tribute to former Cllr Alan Burgis. He noted the success of inviting other town mayors to the winter festival and confirmed the return of major events this year, along with efforts to improve phone signal through town centre Wi-Fi.
4. Annual Report from CTC Committee Chairs, Cllr Shaw – Estates and Properties, Cllr Grigg – Finance & Staffing, Cllr Thomson – Events, Cllr Rotchell – Strategic
Cllr Shaw, Chair of Estates and Properties, thanked the grounds staff and volunteer gardeners for their efforts during a challenging year, including difficult weather conditions, storm damage to trees and issues with riverbank protection. He reported that new staff are due to start, all community gardens are allocated, a new gate and lock have been installed, and the orchard has been pruned. He also noted repairs to the Riverside Bridge, upcoming fencing repairs at the play area, grant applications to improve the play park, planned re-lining of Churchfield Car Park, and that the electric vehicle chargers are performing well.

Cllr Bond delivered a brief finance and staffing report on behalf of the Committee Chair, Cllr Emma Grigg, who was unable to attend. He reported that the Council

remains in a strong financial position, has progressed to stage two of a CIL grant application to improve the play equipment in Enfield Park and noted that one member of staff had left during the year with recruitment currently underway.

Cllr Thomson, Chair of Events, reported positively on the programme of events and looked forward to the year ahead. He highlighted the success of Four Days of Fun, including alpacas in the park, and thanked all volunteers involved in planning, refreshments and delivery. Thanks were also extended to Billy for the VE Day flag design and to the British Legion for their support. Camelford in Bloom and Friday Nights on the Bandstand will continue, with Bandstand events extended by two weeks to mid-September. Cllr Thomson thanked all involved in the Camelford Show and Carnival, noting the Council and OCM's success in the float entry, and praised the Winter Festival, recognising the efforts of behind-the-scenes volunteers including the lights committee, grounds crew, library, switch-on team, Father Christmas and entertainers. He also reported a successful start to the St Piran's Day Market, which will continue, and noted Easter events and the Golden Pebble Hunt, with further details available on the Council website.

Cllr Rotchell, Chair of Strategic and Economical Development, provided an update on the year's strategic matters, including the geothermal planning application at Tregath, and the Tesco development, which has been delayed due to ongoing discussions with South West Water. He confirmed that the Council has consistently supported the bypass, although funding was refused by the Secretary of State, and noted that work has since been undertaken by the MP and Cornwall Councillor to assess local views. Cllr Rotchell noted further work on parking in Camelford is required. He reported progress on public Wi-Fi for the Market Place, the annual review of the Strategic Plan with hoped-for business involvement, a recent submission to the Cornwall Council Highways Improvement Plan, and that housing development is expected to resume following the lifting of phosphate restrictions, with wastewater capacity remaining a key consideration.

5. To receive reports from organisations that have been in receipt of Town Council Grants: PCC Lanteglos Church, Camelford Leisure Centre, Camelford Christmas Lights, Camelford Top Town Café, Camelford Carnival Committee.

Lanteglos church representative unable to attend.

Camelford Leisure Centre reported that it received a £1,500 contribution towards a new swimming pool cover, part of a £12,000 project. The cover is important for heat retention and reducing evaporation and humidity and is expected to last at least ten years. The centre now has over 900 members and is in its 13th year of community ownership; while remaining sustainable, it is facing rising running costs and continues to explore new ways to increase revenue.

*Kasey Smeeth reported that, with support from the Town Council, Camelford Christmas Lights had purchased additional displays, including angels in the Narrows, a tree at St Thomas Church, a neon Christmas tree on the former Hawkins building, and moon and star displays on the Nepalese restaurant, with plans to further expand the display area this year. She thanked all volunteers, supporters and fundraisers for their continued help. Speaking on behalf of the Carnival Committee, she also noted that a Town Council grant enabled the purchase of new bunting for the Bandstand, with hopes to extend this towards the Darlington, and confirmed the **Carnival AGM will take place on 17 May at 7.30pm at the Conservative Club.***

A representative from Camelford Top Town Café thanked the Town Council for a £1,000 grant, which will be used to purchase musical and craft equipment, noted as being particularly beneficial for those living with dementia.

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest. Note: Those who have written in with prior notice that they would like to speak will be heard first.

Cllr Burnett reported that he has been in the role for almost a year, described it as a significant learning curve, and confirmed that he is happy to be contacted by residents.

Graham Adams commented that it was positive to hear about ongoing projects and investment in the town but urged councillors to bring the proposed relocation of the library and council offices back onto the agenda. He referred to previous meetings, discussions and a petition, raised concerns about the figures previously presented, and suggested that while the council offices could be relocated, the library should remain in its current location.

Anna Mindresue raised concerns about the proposed relocation, referring to the Neighbourhood Development Plan which highlights the importance of preserving the library and Town Hall building. She urged the Council to carry out a full public consultation, questioned the effectiveness of the online survey previously undertaken, and suggested that a public meeting and paper survey would provide a more comprehensive approach.

Jonathan Holt raised concerns regarding the presence of Himalayan balsam along the River Camel, noting a patch within the park and suggesting that the Council should encourage landowners to remove it. Anna Mindresue proposed the formation of a working group to manage the Himalayan balsam, and Councillor Shaw commented that this could potentially be incorporated into the Councillors' volunteer day.

6. Camelford Honoured Citizens awards

7. *Cllr Bond explained once every four-year term, the Council selects a small number of individuals who have made a significant contribution to the town to be recognised with the Honorary Citizen awards. Councillor Bond then presented awards to the following residents.*

Jackie Burnard- carnival

Thelma White- RBL

Jonathan Holt- Leisure centre

Kirsty Ferguson- Service to town council, and MS Society.

David Flanders- Souls Harbour, youth groups

David Elliot- Spar, supporting people in the Town

Marney Baker- Carnival

7. To invite the public to raise any matters of interest. Note: Those who have written in with prior notice that they would like to speak will be heard first.

Meeting closed at

19.36

The Parish Meeting is an opportunity for the parishioners on the Electoral Roll for Camelford to raise any matters of concern to them that relates to their local community. It would be helpful to have written notice of any matters to be raised but it is not essential.

Matters can be raised at the meeting without prior notice. For any queries, please contact the Deputy Town Clerk, Jordan Burnard – telephone 01840 212880 or email admin@camelford-tc.gov.uk.

Please note that the draft minutes of the last Annual Parish Meeting held on 29th April 2025 are available to view on the Camelford Town Council website.