

# Briefing Note

## Cornish Language

2 minute read

### 1.0 Background

In January 2026, the Cornish language was officially recognised under Part III of the European Charter for Regional or Minority Languages. This means that 'Kernewek' enjoys the same level of promotion as all the other Celtic languages recognised across the British Isles, including Welsh Manx and Gaelic. The recognition is the culmination of many years of work by Cornwall Council, MPs, community groups and cultural organisations to ensure the language plays a key role in life in Cornwall.

### 2.0 Proposal

That this parish council should incorporate the Cornish language into its published documents and communications. This does not mean the wholesale translation of pieces of text but rather the inclusion of Cornish words alongside the English.

### 3.0 Why use Cornish?

Use of the language is seen as more than just communication; it is a 'vessel' for history. Supporters argue that using Kernowek validates Cornwall's status as a distinct Celtic nation. It reinforces a sense of place and pride for residents. Inclusion in council business helps 'normalize' the language for the next generation of speakers.

### 4.0 What might be included?

At its simplest, greetings and sign-off in council emails, signatures and answering machines, headings/sub-headings in council documents (agendas, minutes), name badges, PowerPoint titles.

### 5.0 How might this be presented in the public domain?

If councillors agree to the inclusion of Cornish alongside the English version, our basic templates can be amended. Examples below in Appendix 1.

### 6.0 How accurate will the translations be?

'Kowethas an Yeth Kernewek: Cornish language in the community' have been advising on correct translations of our commonly used words, titles and descriptions. Their services are free to parish councils.

### 7.0 Where will this stop?

Councillors may wish to consider amending the use of bilingual reports (for example, agenda and minutes in the format included below) based on feedback from residents and their own experiences. Initially, a trial period of 6 months is proposed.

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Date: 23/3/26



Rol Negys	11 Mis Meurth 2026
Agenda	11 March 2026

Time: 7.30pm  
 Location: St Keyne Village Hall PL14 4RF  
 To Parish Councillors

- 013/2026 **Chair's Welcome & Housekeeping** / Dynnargh an Kaderyer ha Kempennans
- 014/2026 **Apologies** / Diharesow  
To receive apologies for non-attendance submitted by parish councillors.
- 015/2026 **Declarations of interest** / Diskleryansow mell  
Parish Councillors & Parish Clerk will be asked to make any declarations of interest or request dispensations in respect of items on this agenda.
- 016/2026 **Public Part** / Kevrennans poblek  
Members of the public are invited to attend (15 minutes)  
Report from Cornwall Council  
Presentation from Nicky...
- 17/2026 **Minutes of**  
Confirming minutes from...
- 018/2026 **Planning**  
A To agree the par...  
applications received by  
**PA26/00040**  
Proposal Outline planning permission with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for construction of three dwellings, two of which...

**Minutes of last meeting / Kovnotennow an kunteles diwettha**  
 Councillors will be asked to agree to accept the following minutes as a true and accurate record.  
**14 January 2026**

**Planning / Towlennans**  
 A To agree the parish council's response to Cornwall Council consultations on new planning applications received before the agenda was finalised.  
**PA26/00040**  
 Proposal Outline planning permission with some matters reserved (appearance, landscaping, layout and scale) for construction of three dwellings, two of which are self-build  
 Location Land North West Of Cross Parks Cross Parks St Keyne Liskeard