



**St Austell Town Council
Annual Report 2024/2025**

Message from the Mayor

Once again, the Town Council has had a good year and being Mayor has given me a real insight into what is involved in running a Town Council. It might look all smooth and serene, but underneath there are a lot of feet paddling to keep up with the day to day intricacies of government legislation, employing staff, running the Town Council's services and managing contractors.

The Town Council continues to be the accountable body for the town centre revitalisation activities, and a lot of time has been spent progressing the church piazza and Poundland banner projects funded by Cornwall Council and the Shared Prosperity Fund. Both projects should be delivered later in the year.



Mayor Julian Young, and his wife, Jenny Lingham, at St Austell Mayor Making Ceremony, June 2024



St Austell Mayor Making Ceremony, June 2024.

In between these projects, the Town Council has considered 117 planning applications and approved 30 grants for local organisations. The Town Council has also:

- Agreed additional funding for the town centre security guards, town centre planting schemes and Christmas lights;
- Provided free parking in Priory Car Park on the last four Saturdays in December for Christmas shopping and for the local election;
- Lobbied Cornwall Council about a change in bus routes which had adversely impacted on St Austell;
- Obtained a clean bill of health for health and safety, financial records and governance;
- Improved the planting at St Austell station and on a number of key roundabouts;
- Held a very successful Town Centre Fun day in August 2024 which it is hoped will be a blueprint for future events;
- Refurbished the Library help desk area;
- Replaced some grounds maintenance tools and machinery

The Town Council is continuing to invest in its assets and secured Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funding this year to refurbish Landrew Road Park and install a new accessible roundabout at The Meadows. The other parks and open spaces have also received some investment with new safety surfacing at Prince Charles Park and general parks and play equipment maintenance and repairs across all sites.

The Town Council agreed to freeze the car park charges in Priory Car Park for the 2025~26 financial year and still managed to set a very reasonable Council Tax increase. Part of the car park has been resurfaced, and a section of the white lines has been re-painted. Further lining works are scheduled to commence shortly. The EV charging points appear to be attracting more use which will hopefully mean more footfall in the town centre.

The Town Council continues to lease The House to Young People Cornwall and provide them with an annual grant to help them provide the much-needed guidance, support, academic assistance and sporting activities for young people across the town. Young People Cornwall do some fantastic work with young people in the town and it has been a pleasure to visit The House during my year as Mayor.

I hope that the public living in the town will recognise how much work has gone into the last year and how the Town Council continues to maintain and improve our town while maintaining a below average council tax and a very lean staffing team.

I would like to thank all of our partners and the people of St Austell for their help and support during my year as Mayor, with a special thank you to my deputy, Councillor Colin Hamilton, and the town council staff who have supported me throughout my period in office.

Julian Young
Mayor of St Austell

May 2025



St Austell Town Council Responsibilities

St Austell Town Council has the following responsibilities:

- Parks at Bethel, Chapel Fields, Chy Pons, Jubilee Meadow, Landrew Road, Linear Park, Lostwood Road, Manfield Way, Penmere Road, Polmarth Close, Poltair Park, Prince Charles, Sandy Bottom, The Meadows, Thornpark Road, Truro Road, Woodland Close & Woodland Road.
- The management of St Austell Library
- Priory Car Park and Tregonissey Lane End Car Park
- Public conveniences in Priory Car Park
- Allotments at Alexandra Road
- Maintenance of footpaths for Cornwall Council
- Weed spraying
- Grass cutting on roadside verges and roundabouts for Cornwall Council
- Flower beds
- Town centre CCTV
- The House Youth Centre

St Austell Town Council Contact Details

St Austell Town Council
The Stable Block
Pondhu House
Penwinnick Road
St Austell
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PL25 5DP

Telephone: 01726 829859

E-Mail: info@staustell-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.staustell-tc.gov.uk



Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has wide ranging responsibilities, including:

- Education
- Social Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Determining Planning Applications and Development Control
- Collection of Council Tax and Business Rates
- Benefits Administration
- Housing and homelessness
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Refuse collection, recycling and waste disposal
- Environmental Health
- Leisure
- Youth Services
- Crime and Disorder/Anti-Social Behaviour
- Cemeteries

Cornwall Council Contact Details

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County Hall
Treyew Road
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Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2024/2025 civic year Cornwall Council had three Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Double, Rowse and Pears. They were also Town Councillors.

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council has 20 Councillors (7 Councillors representing the Central and Gover Ward, 6 Councillors representing the Poltair and Mount Charles Ward, and 7 representing the Bethel and Holmbush Ward).

The Town and Parish Council elections took place on 1st of May 2025 which resulted in 15 Councillors retaining their seat and 5 new Councillors. A list of our current Councillors is on the back page of this report.

Each year, the Council elects one Councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs full Council meetings. The Council has adopted a code of conduct and is committed to proper standards and sound governance arrangements.

Meetings are currently held in Cornwall Council's Chi Austel Office in White River Place or at the Town Council's offices at The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell.

The full Council meets approximately every six weeks. In addition to the full Council meetings, the Council has four standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:

- Finance & General Purposes Committee
- Planning & Regeneration Committee
- Community Committee
- Climate & Environment Committee



There is a public participation session at each of the Council's official meetings to allow members of the public to make comments or raise issues about items on the agenda. From time to time, working groups are formed to address particular issues. A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Town Council's website at www.staustell-tc.gov.uk Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The council employs eleven full-time and twelve part-time members of staff who are based either at the Stable Block or St Austell Library. Key contacts are:

David Pooley – Town Clerk (Part-Time)

Sara Gwilliams – Deputy Town Clerk

Steve Skinner – Operations Manager

Kimberley Gay – Finance/Administrative Support Officer (Part-Time)

Terry Shaw – Library Manager

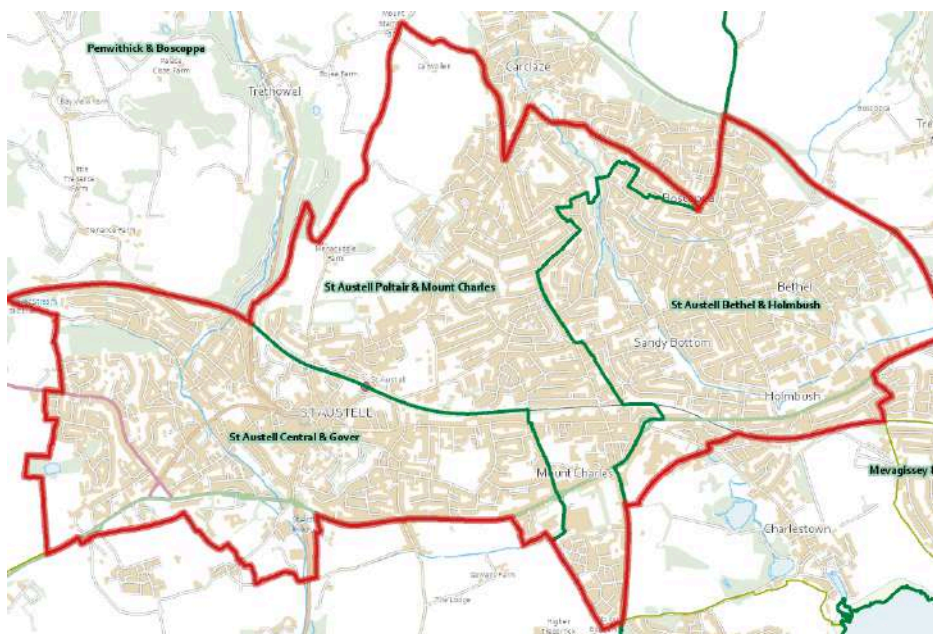
The Town Council serves the town of St Austell which has a population of approximately 22,000. The boundary of St Austell Parish is drawn very tightly around the urban area of St Austell and excludes much of the recent expansion of the town.



The Town Council has been very keen to enhance the parks and open spaces in St Austell and to improve local pride in the town. It also seeks to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed, and the appropriate infrastructure accompanies it. An important role of the Council is to represent and champion local residents and businesses to ensure that their views are taken into consideration by the larger organisations operating and investing in the area.

The Town Council is consulted on all planning and some licensing applications in its area and from time to time other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council seeks to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies to deliver good quality services and facilities to local residents.



Map displaying the St Austell Town Council Parish Wards

2024/2025 Activities

Service Devolution

St Austell Town Council is a strong advocate for service devolution and has taken on a broad range of services and assets from Cornwall Council including allotments, CCTV, parks and open spaces, Priory Car Park and the toilets, St Austell Library and The House Youth Centre.

The benefit of managing the services locally has been demonstrated through the high standard of maintenance in the parks and open spaces, regular grass cutting across the town during the summer months, a wide range of services at St Austell Library, an upgrade of play areas, improved floral displays, regular tree planting and tree maintenance.



Climate Change

The Town Council has declared a climate emergency and has a Climate and Environment Committee which meets to oversee environmental issues. It has arranged events at the library to raise awareness of climate issues and supports local groups such as Climate Action St Austell, who carry out regular litter picks and climate initiatives.

A Town Council Climate Action Plan has been developed and initiatives undertaken include tree planting, creation of wildflower and wildlife areas, rainwater harvesting, plant recycling, seed gathering and the growing of plants and trees.

St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District (BID) for St Austell is funded primarily by local business ratepayers in the town centre who determine their priorities for the BID area.

The Town Council is pleased to support and work closely with the BID which plays an important role in the town and organises events, and environmental and security initiatives in the town centre. The Town Council and the BID fund security personnel who patrol primarily the town centre but also other areas in St Austell which experience anti-social behaviour. Regular meetings are held with the police, Cornwall Council's ASB officers, security personnel and CCTV staff to ensure that intelligence is shared and appropriate supportive or enforcement action is taken.

St Austell Town Council is grateful to St Austell BID for their help in producing the Mayor's fun day in August 2024. This event saw people gather in the Town Centre for live music and free entertainment such as children's rides, face painting and animal encounters. The fun day was extremely well received and also raised £1,145 for The Mayor's charities; Cornwall Blood Bikes, Cornwall Air Ambulance, and Kernow Young Carers.



Annette Miller, St Austell BID, at the August 2024
Fun Day in Aylmer Square

CCTV

The CCTV system in St Austell town centre is owned and maintained by St Austell Town Council with monitoring arrangements shared with Newquay Town Council. The Town Council has 22 fixed CCTV cameras and one mobile CCTV camera which can be located at sites across the town temporarily as needed. In 2024/2025 these cameras have supported an average of 10 arrests a month, leading to convictions for anti-social behaviour, shop lifting and drug related offences. The monitoring of the CCTV cameras and local knowledge of the operators is highly valued by the local police.

Youth Services

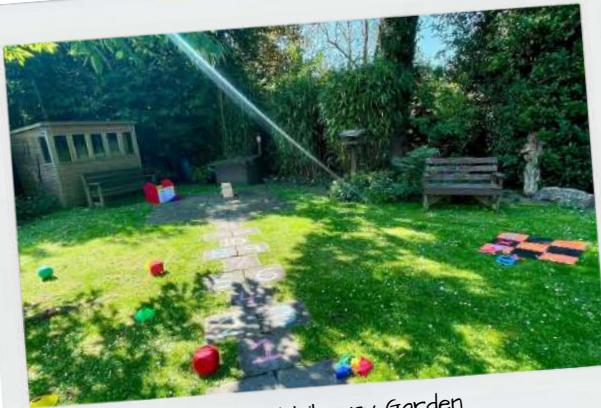
The Town Council has provided annual funding of £20,000 since 2017 to secure the future of The House youth project and enhance youth services in St Austell. Youth workers undertake outreach work on behalf of the Council when issues with young people arise. Young People Cornwall (YPC) provide a range of important health and well-being services, training, support, activities and guidance for young people as well as a regular youth clubs from The House.



Former Mayors meet at St Austell Library to mark 15 years since the creation of St Austell Town Council

Library

The Town Council leases St Austell Library from Cornwall Council. St Austell Library is one of the busiest libraries in Cornwall and under the Town Council's management continues to provide benefits way beyond the traditional functions of the library. The Town Council works closely with a voluntary support group known as SALSA. Community events such as activities for infants and young children, drop-in support days, and evening talks are just some of the events that have been held at the library.



St Austell Library Garden



St Austell Library Staff pose with the "Loan Shark" at an awareness event

Events

In January, the Town Council recruited a part-time Community Projects Officer and committed a budget for events. One of the first events of the year was an Easter Event, which saw over 200 children enter an Easter Egg Hunt in Poltair Park. An events schedule was approved for the year which included a school welly boot competition and after school games in various parks.

To support the Community Projects Officer's work on facilitating events across the town, the Town Council successfully completed a bid to Cornwall Council's Shared Prosperity Fund, which has enabled The Town Council to purchase a portable PA system, a variety of children's play equipment and giant garden games, and a small trailer to transport equipment to events.

The Community Projects Officer has heightened the Town Council's online presence by revamping the Facebook Page, setting up an Instagram Profile, and creating reels and graphics to be posted on both accounts. The Town Council has had positive feedback about how it is using social media and has plans to expand this in the future.



Environmental Initiatives and Parks and Open Spaces

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2024/2025 we:

- Planted 40 trees across the town's parks and open spaces.
- Used park waste to produce over 5 tonnes of mulch, which was then used on the flower beds in our parks and green spaces.
- Created wildlife corridors in Jubilee Meadow Open Space and Polmarth Close Open Space, helping to increase urban biodiversity.
- Took over the maintenance of the verges and installed a flower tower on the roundabout at Porthpean Road.
- Planted over 2,500 bulbs over winter, bringing the number of spring-flowering bulbs planted by our team since 2017 to over 38,000.
- Created 6 annual wildflower areas at Daniels Lane, Bethel Park, The Meadows, Penwinnick Road and Mount Charles roundabout



Paths mown into a 'wild area' at Polmarth Close open space.

Annual Accounts 2024/25

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2024/2025 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The Council's accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to BDO LLP, an external auditor, for final appraisal. These accounts are subject to audit.

REVENUE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025

2023/24		2024/25
£		£
	Income	
1067220	Precept Payments	1177920
245954	Car Park Income	265360
5767	Library Income	6079
2319	Public Convenience Income	2372
175456	Grants and Other Income	278293
136961	Transfers from Reserves	10998
1633677	Total Income	1741023
	Less Expenditure	
691635	Employee Expenses	731609
158501	Premises Related Expenses	168213
563460	Supplies and Services	439156
73414	Grants	75998
29989	Transport Related Expenses	61797
11652	Election Expenses	0
92002	Transfer to Reserves	225575
1620652	Total Expenditure	1702347
13025	Net Surplus/Deficit (-)	38675

BALANCE SHEET
AS AT 31 MARCH 2025

31 Mar 24	Account	31 Mar 25
	Assets	
784,017	Fixed Assets	856,606
	Current Assets	
48,132	Debtors and Prepayments	83,256
135,146	Bank and Cash	114,995
770,083	Short Term Investments	995,260
953,361	Total Current Assets	1,193,512
	Liabilities	
	Current Liabilities	
45,260	Creditors and Accruals	32,159
45,260	Total Current Liabilities	32,159
1,692,119	Net Assets	2,017,959
	Equity	
784,017	Capital Financing/Revaluation Reserves	856,606
528,449	Earmarked Reserves	743,025
379,653	General Reserve	418,328
1,692,119	Total Equity	2,017,959



June 2024



From left to right: Maggie Hamilton, Councillor Colin Hamilton, Councillor Jenny Lingham and Councillor Julian Young



Former Mayor Councillor Pearce JP, followed by the incoming Mayor Councillor Young, and Councillor Lingham



Incoming Mayor Julian Young speaks at his Mayor Making ceremony

Mayor Making Ceremony



Esther Baker sings at the Mayor Making Ceremony

June 2024



Mayor Julian Young and Deputy Mayor Colin Hamilton



Commemorative service for the 80th anniversary of D-Day

August 2024



Mayor Julian Young and Deputy Mayor Colin Hamilton with the fire brigade at the Mayor's Fun Day



Mayor Julian Young, Councillor Jenny Lingham, and Sheila Vanloo at the Mayor's Fun Day

November 2024



Officials line up outside Holy Trinity Church for the Remembrance Sunday Service.

Remembrance Sunday



Councillors, officials, and MP Noah Law line up on Remembrance Sunday

December 2024



Mayor Julian Young with St Austell Soroptimists at the St Austell Christmas Lights Switch On Event

Christmas Lights Switch On



Mayor Julian Young with Councillor Jenny Lingham



A brass band pose ready to play music at the Christmas Lights Switch On Event

May 2025



A lone trumpet plays during the commemorative service



Officials and the public gather for the commemorative VE Day service outside St Austell Library



Mayor Julian Young lays a wreath for 80 years since VE Day

VE Day



A member of library staff lays a wreath for 80 years since VE Day

Pictures from the Grounds Team



A wild area near The Meadows Open Space, as part of the Making Space 4 Nature campaign



Grass cutting season begins!



Flower beds on Mount Charles roundabout



Daffodils on Trinity Street



Giving the band stand in Truro Road Park a fresh lick of paint

St Austell Town Council

2025 - 2029 Councillors

	Brown, Malcolm Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07821 154590 CouncillorMalcolm.Brown@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Bull, Jackie Poltair & Mount Charles Ward 01726 74619 or 07800 732558 CouncillorJackie.Bull@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Clemo, Richard Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07711 477189 CouncillorRichard.Clemo@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Cohen, Anita Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07871 060969 CouncillorAnita.Cohen@staustell-tc.gov.uk
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	Lingham, Jenny Poltair & Mount Charles Ward 07967 386472 CouncillorJenny.Lingham@staustell-tc.gov.uk

	Marshall, Sean Central & Gover Ward 07918 683410 CouncillorSean.Marshall@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Pearce JP, Crystal Bethel & Holmbush Ward 07714 207597 CouncillorCrystal.Pearce@staustell-tc.gov.uk
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	Thompson, Mike Poltair & Mount Charles Ward 07505 952790 CouncillorMike.Thompson@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Whitehouse, Richard Poltair & Mount Charles Ward CouncillorRichard.Whitehouse@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Williams-Pears, Richard Poltair & Mount Charles Ward CouncillorRichard.Pears@staustell-tc.gov.uk
	Young, Julian Central & Gover Ward 07768 143438 CouncillorJulian.Young@staustell-tc.gov.uk

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