

# St Austell Town Council



## Climate and Environment Committee

**To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee**  
(Councillors: Cohen, Double, George, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Pears, Styles, Thompson and Young).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **Council Chamber, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DR (Cornwall Council Offices)** on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 6pm.**

  
David Pooley  
**Town Clerk**

19<sup>th</sup> October 2021

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### AGENDA

- 1. Apologies for absence**
- 2. Declarations of Interest**

(Purpose: To receive declarations of disclosable pecuniary and other non-registerable interests in respect of items on this agenda).

- 3. Dispensations**

(Purpose: To receive requests for dispensations under the Code of Conduct).

**4. Public participation (15 minutes maximum)**

The Chairman will invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be carried out at the meeting.

15 minutes will be allocated for public participation (this can be extended at the Chairman's discretion). Each person addressing the Council will be allocated a maximum of two minutes.

**5. Minutes of Meeting held on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2021**

**Pages  
1 to 4**

(Purpose: To agree that the minutes of the above meeting be signed as a correct record). (Attached).

**6. Matters to note**

(Purpose: A verbal update from the Town Clerk on the actions taken since the last meeting).

Note: No decision may be made under this agenda item.

**7. Climate Change Festival – 27<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the Climate Change Festival and consider a grant request towards the costs involved. (Verbal update). (Grant application to follow).

**8. Climate Emergency Work Plan**

**Pages  
5 to 18**

(Purpose: To receive an update on progress against the Climate Emergency Work Plan). (Plan attached).

**9. Priory Car Park – Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the provision of electric vehicle charging points in Priory Car Park). (Verbal update).

**10. Cornwall Council - E-Bike Trial**

(Purpose: To consider locations in St Austell and the surrounding area for E-Bike Stations). (Verbal update).

**11. Cornwall Council - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the Cornwall Council LCWIP). (Verbal update).

**12. Ocean Housing Plans for More Efficient Homes**

(Purpose: To receive an update on Ocean Housing's Plans for more efficient homes). (Verbal update).

**13. Dates of Meetings**

(Purpose: to confirm dates of forthcoming meetings).



**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 5<sup>th</sup> JULY 2021 at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Double, George, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Styles, Thompson and Young

**In attendance:** David Pooley (Town Clerk), Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

**CE/21/01) Election of Chair**

The Town Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Hamilton.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be elected Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2021/22 civic year.

**CE/21/02) Election of Vice-Chair**

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Lanxon.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Lanxon be elected Vice-Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2021/22 civic year.

**CE/21/03) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest and Pears.

**CE/21/04) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CE/21/05) Dispensations**

The Deputy Clerk advised that no requests for dispensations had been received.

**CE/21/06) Public Participation**

Mrs Earl welcomed Members of the newly formed Climate and Environment Committee and introduced herself as a member of Climate Action St Austell (CASA), a local action group who would like to work closer with the Town Council's Climate and Environment Committee.

**CE/21/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CE/21/08) Matters to note**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the updated Action Plan is due to be considered later on the agenda and a carbon accounting tool, suitable for Town and Parish

Councils has only recently been identified but due to a lack of resource, has not been progressed further. She added that an Operations Manager Forum has been set up and the Town Council's Operations Manager is a member of the group and a Climate Change information week was organised at the library before the pandemic. She advised that due to Covid19 and resource constraints the suggested schools' competition had not been organised.

### **CE/21/09) Terms of Reference**

The Clerk advised that his only suggestion for amendment of the previously approved Terms of Reference was the spending limit which, due to budget cuts, is now £5,000, reduced from £10,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be approved as drafted subject to the spending limit being amended to £5,000.

### **CE/21/10) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**

The Chair welcomed Dr Anthony Hereward to the meeting.

Dr Hereward provided an inspirational speech explaining the deteriorating state of the world's environment and the local impact of climate changes in terms of winter rainfall and summer heatwaves. He outlined the work of the Climate Action St Austell Group (CASA) which included:

- A website
- A Facebook page
- Regular articles for the Voice newspaper
- The planning of a repair shop to open after the pandemic
- Promotion of the 10 pledges

The Chair thanked Dr Hereward for his challenging and, at times, frightening speech and advised that he would be very happy to attend meetings of CASA and to support the group.

In response to questions, Dr Hereward explained the levels of carbon dioxide currently being experienced and identified communication as being the main thing that the Town Council could do in relation to the Climate Emergency. He also identified reducing meat consumption and flying as significant measures and suggested that the Town Council should consider how it was going to lead St Austell to bring carbon down to zero.

Members raised a number of matters including:

- School traffic;
- The STARR project and the lack of funding for the Linear Park proposals;
- The high quality of the CASA website;
- The work of the community network panel co-ordinating the various climate change groups in the area;
- The need for further training;
- The potential to use the library as a communication point;
- The need to raise the importance of environment issues with planning decisions.

The Chair thanked Dr Hereward for his interesting presentation.

### **CE/21/11) Climate Emergency Work Plan**

The Clerk explained each of the projects listed in the action plan in detail. Arising from discussions, Members raised the following issues:

- The need to lobby Cornwall Council to carrying out further retro-fitting of properties to reduce fuel poverty;
- Consideration of solar panels on Town Council assets;
- Exploration of composting at the Stable Block which could be distributed to community groups/allotment holders;
- Exploration of the cost benefit analysis of carbon accounting;
- The need to communicate better to the public the Town Council's environmental achievements;
- Consider the logistics of distributing re-cycling boxes from the library;
- Disappointment that the seagull sacks and re-cycling boxes are not re-cyclable

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Climate Emergency Work Plan as drafted subject to consideration of the above suggestions being incorporated into a future update.

### **CE/21/12) Priory Car Park – Electric Vehicle Charging Points**

The Clerk advised that there are very few electric vehicle charging points in St Austell and that the installation of charging points in Priory Car Park could bring people into the town centre who would not normally otherwise visit the town. He advised that he had spoken to Western Power recently about the electricity throughput in the car park and initial conversations suggest that the supply is sufficient to drive electrical charging points and now might be a good time to speak to potential suppliers about the costs involved. He added that Cornwall Council has obtained EU funding for fitting electric charging points in their car parks and that he would speak to the officer leading the project to see if Town and Parish Councils can tap into this funding.

During discussion, Members suggested that the installation of a 45 minute superfast charging point, 50kw and above, would probably be the most attractive to electric car users as opposed to the cheaper to install slower charging point solutions currently on the market.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should speak to potential suppliers about the installation of superfast electric charging points in Priory Car Park and report back to the Town Council as soon as possible.

### **CE/21/13) Dates of Meetings**

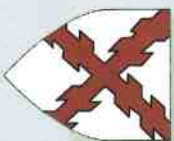
Members discussed the frequency of meetings of the Climate and Environment Committee and suggested that the meetings should be on a par with the other Committees. The Clerk stressed the lack of resource in the office which precluded the servicing of many more meetings and suggested a date of 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021 as the next meeting date on the proviso that if anything urgent came up in the meantime it could be considered by either full Council or the Community Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Climate and Environment Committee meeting date would be on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.



## St Austell Town Council



### Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2022

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract.	Yes
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Sept 2022	Library and Poltair Park electrical supplies to be negotiated with renewable energy companies when the market stabilises.	Priory Toilets/Town centre electrical points and street lights completed.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer /Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	April 2020/ongoing	10 new trees planted since June 2021. All trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. A number of trees have been brought on and some are still being brought on at the Town Council's nursery.	
Installation of a polytunnel to allow the re-cycling of plants and growing on of trees/shrubs and creation of a tree nursery.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	December 2020	-	October 2021. Polytunnel installation complete.
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete.
Replacement of internal lights in the Committee Room at the Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	November 2021	Electrician booked.	
Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021	Existing grant criteria reviewed to encourage climate emergency projects.	Complete
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	February 2021/ongoing	2 apprentices employed with effect from February 2021. Both apprentices are now Chapter 8 accredited.	Complete
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Spring 2021/ongoing	Due to a successful trial, the foam based weed solution will be used in Poltair Park, Truro Road Park and Priory Car Park in November 2021 and March 2022.	
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	March 2021	A391 scheme The Meadows Scheme Cemetery Park project	All projects complete and in maintenance phase. Community events held at Cemetery Park and The Meadows.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	March 2021	Signed off by Council 22.03.21	Complete
Develop Environmental Policy based on good practice identified by Cornwall Council.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	April 2021	Signed off by Council 12.04.21.	Complete
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	May 2022	Covid permitting, Poltair Park and The Meadows will be entered into the 2022 SW in Bloom Pride in Parks competition.	
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	Chapel Field and Lostwood Community Garden entered into this year's competition. Results awaited.  Covid permitting further community groups will be encouraged to enter the 2022 competition.  Bedding plants provided to the community groups to assist them in the competition.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2022	Poltair Park/Poltair Park café identified as a suitable trial site subject to the café being able to operate successfully. Current tenants vacated. Viability of Poltair Café and future being evaluated.	
Encourage the Town Heritage scheme to deliver a bottle refill facility at the church fountain	Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Sept 2021/ongoing	Contract let to Cormac. Works commenced.	
Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	Town Council grounds maintenance staff assisted the BID with the tidying up of the flower beds and accompanied the judges during their visit to the town. Gold Award achieved.	
			Resource will be allocated to assist the BID in July 2022.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	December 2021	No progress to date. Will review following Government announcement regarding Heat Pump Grant announcement.	
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	June 2022	Operations Manager in talks with Lottery Funders about the potential for a Bethel park improvement project. Awaiting more resource to progress.  Improved pedestrian access to the park approved by Cornwall Council to encourage more active lifestyles.	
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	June 2021	Revitalization Partnership to consider as part of the revitalisation works.	
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Due to the costs involved, re-cycled paper is procured on a small scale at the present time.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	-	Considered by Council – decision deferred.	
Explore ways to reduce paper production.	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	March 2022	A trial undertaken with the previous administration where 10 Councillors agreed not to receive paper copies of agendas.  Will explore with the new administration in the near year.	
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources as existing contracts end for the library	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	September 2022	Contract ends September 2022. Will review at that time.	
Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	-	Town Council street lights being replaced with LED's on a phased basis.	
Community Engagement	Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	Ongoing	Working closely with Climate Action St Austell (CASA). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Providing banking facilities until organisation are constituted</li> <li>• Donated tabards</li> </ul>	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer /Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Reduce "on time" for the town centre Christmas Lights to save energy and reduce light pollution.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	December 2021	St Austell BID Board to consider the lights being switched off between 2am and 7am.	
Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	Spring 2022	Orchard Car Park identified as a potential site to create formal composting bays.  Operational Logistics and permissions required to be re-visited winter 2021.	
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	December 2021	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project.  Will review resource implications in the next budget round.	
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	February 2022	Unlikely to be part of a Cornwall Council project. Private suppliers being explored.	



<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer / Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2022	Project deferred due to budget cuts, limited grant funding and lack of resource.	
In order to reduce the need for cash collection, explore the installation of a contactless payment system on at least one of the car park payment machines in Priory Car Park.	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	April 2022	Town Council approval obtained for the installation of two contactless payment systems at Priory Car Park.	October 2021
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2023	Priory Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Will review resource implications at next budget round.	
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	27.11.21	Cornwall Council organising a climate festival on 27.11.21. Town Councillors will be encouraged to attend the event to communicate the Town Council's environmental achievements and future projects. Town Council to organise a climate awareness week at the library early next year.	
		Spring 2022		

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at: Penwinnick Road, Daniels Lane, The Meadows and Trenowah Road.	
Installation of new wildflower areas	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Jubilee wildflower areas seeded at: Cosgarne Triangle, Bethel Park and Woodland Road.	
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Cycling opportunities postponed until the LCWIP work and e-bike pilot have been completed.	
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers and contractors are used.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer /Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Improvement of Multi Use Trails	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Working Group resurrected. Signage improved at Tremena Gardens, East Hill an Sandy Hill courtesy of Rotary Club in partnership with the Town Council.  Sustrans have improved some town centre signage.  Trails monitored and improvement works identified on a regular basis.	
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library.  Space being created to allow the distribution of re-cycling boxes from the library	2 x re-cycled benches purchased for Poltair Café.
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Parks and Open Spaces Strategy completed. Public reaction being monitored.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer / Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Provision of battery operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Spring 2022	Exploration of battery operated leaf blowers.	
Engagement with young people to encourage environmental issues	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Litter picks in Poltair Park and new litter bin purchased for the park on the recommendation of Young People Cornwall.	
Efficiency of operating the Town Council's Public conveniences at Priory Car Park	Operations Manager <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Ongoing	Local cleaning contractors appointed to reduce travel	June 2021
Environmental activities with regard to Town Council maintained public rights of way	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Increased cuts procured on Alexandra Road to Carlyon Road to encourage more walking. Small scale nature reserves created at Manfield Way and The Meadows.	August 2021 Summer 2021
Creation of Truro Road Park - Friends Group	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Interest shown.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer / Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Landrew Road community garden	Operations Manger <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Growing group of volunteers at the garden. Compost toilet created, covered area erected utilising re-claimed wood and regular composting at the site	
Planning & Regeneration Committee to look favourably on planning applications where it can be demonstrated that consideration has been given to the impact the proposal has on the environment and mitigating actions put in place.	Town Clerk <b>Planning &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	Ongoing	<b>Planning &amp; Regeneration Committee – 04.10.21</b> A lack of renewable energy/ electrical vehicle charging points for a proposed development of 24 apartments at High Cross Street identified as an issue and communicated back to Cornwall Council.	

