St Austell Town Council



To: All Members of St Austell Town Council

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the **Meeting** of **St Austell Town Council** to be held in **The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD** on **Monday 10**th **July 2023** at **6pm**.

David Pooley
Town Clerk

4th July 2023

Tel 01726 829859

e-mail: david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk

Website: www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

(Purpose: To accept apologies for non-attendance).

2. Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received.

(Purpose: To receive declarations of Members' interests and gifts or hospitality received).

3. Dispensations

(Purpose: To consider requests for dispensations).

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

4. Minutes of Meeting held on 10th May 2023

Pages 1 - 8

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

5. 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.

6. Mayor's announcements

(Purpose: To receive an update from the Mayor on her engagements and any other civic matters).

7. Public Participation

(Purpose: To invite members of the public to address the meeting in relation to the business to be carried out at the meeting).

8. Members' questions (10 minutes maximum)

A Member may ask the Mayor or the Clerk any question concerning the business of the Council, provided 3 clear days notice of the question has been given to the person to whom it is addressed. Every question shall be put and answered without discussion. A person to whom a question is put may decline to answer or undertake to provide a full answer within a timescale agreed with the Member. They may also agree to accept a question after the deadline.

9. Annual Report - 2022/23

Pages 9 to 22

(Purpose: To approve wording for the 2022/23 Annual Report). (Attached).

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

10. Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

(Purpose: To receive reports of any relevant information from Members appointed to outside bodies). (Report attached).

11. Cornwall Councillor update reports

Pages 23 to 24

(Purpose: To receive reports of any relevant information from local Cornwall Councillors).

12. Planning and Regeneration Committee

Pages 25 to 36

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee held on 15th May 2023 and 19th June 2023). (Attached).

13. Finance and General Purposes Committee

Pages 37 to 40

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on 26th June 2023). (Attached).

14. Community Committee

Pages 41 to 46

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Community Committee on 5th June 2023). (Attached).

15. Climate and Environment Committee

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Climate and Environment Committee on 3rd July 2023). (To follow)

16. Schedule of Payments

Pages 47 to 52

(Purpose: To receive a schedule of payments from 28th April 2023 to 30th June 2023) (Report attached).

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

17. Under Section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, it is proposed that, because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the business specified for the following item:

Item 18 is confidential because it contains commercially sensitive information.

18. St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project

(Purpose: To receive an update on the work of the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and confirm the appointment of a successful tenderer). (Verbal Report).

19. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose: To note dates of future Town Council

Meetings: 4th September and 16th October 2023).

This meeting has been advertised as a public meeting and as such could be filmed or recorded by broadcasters, the media or members of the public.

MINUTES of the ANNUAL MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 10th MAY 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6.05pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Clemo, Cohen, Double, Fox, French, George, Hamilton, Lanxon, Nott, Pearce, Pears, Stephens and Young.

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

C/23/01) Election of Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor Andrea Lanxon, invited nominations for Mayor for the 2023/24 civic year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Pearce be elected Mayor of St Austell for the 2023/24 civic year.

Councillor Pearce signed a declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Town Clerk and took the Chair.

C/23/02) Election of Deputy Mayor

The Mayor, Councillor Crystal Pearce, invited nominations for Deputy Mayor for the 2023/24 civic year.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Young be elected Deputy Mayor of St Austell for the 2023/24 civic year.

C/23/03) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest, Rowse, Styles and Thompson.

C/23/04) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

None.

C/23/05) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/23/06) Minutes of Meeting held on 20th March 2023

It was noted that on page 3, minute number C/22/138 before the name "Sampson" in the fifth paragraph the word "for" should be deleted and the word "Mr" inserted.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th March 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/23/07) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has received a "notice of no changes" from Cornwall Council following their consideration of the Community Governance Review deferred submissions.

C/23/08) Mayor's/Retiring Mayor's announcements

Councillor Lanxon as retiring Mayor referred to her engagements list and praised the youth choir at Carclaze Chapel, the success of the Cornwall Youth Choir at a recent competition and Pondhu School children for dancing the maypole at the coronation cream tea event at the library. She also referred to the excellent event that Woodland House had organised to celebrate the coronation.

Councillor Lanxon thanked everyone for their support and referred to the number of projects that the Town Council is pursuing and the Town Council's excellent finances. She advised that her Mayoral Charity, St John Ambulance will shortly receive just over £3,000 from the fund raising activities during the year and wished Councillors Pearce and Young a very successful year.

Councillor French thanked Councillor Lanxon for her excellent Mayoral year and referred to her incredible hard work and dedication to the local community and surrounding area. He also thanked her for attending events outside of the Town Council's area promoting St Austell where she could.

It was **RESOLVED** to thank Councillor Lanxon for her excellent Mayoral year.

C/23/09) Public Participation

The member of public present advised that she did not wish to speak.

C/23/10) Members' questions

There were no questions from Members.

C/23/11) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Running Club

It was **RESOLVED** to award £250 to St Austell Running Club for funding towards the cost of organising the Cornish Imerys Trail Marathon due to take place on Sunday 14th May 2023.

C/23/12) Internal Audit Report for year ending 31st March 2023

The Clerk referred Members to the report of the Internal Auditor and explained that as the Auditors' findings were relevant to the Annual Return which the Council had to submit for the 2022/23 financial year, the details were reported to the full Council for consideration prior to agreeing the Annual Governance Statement.

He explained that the Internal Auditor had found no issues and there were no recommendations.

It was **RESOLVED** that the report of the Internal Auditor be noted.

C/23/13) Annual Governance Statement

The Town Clerk introduced a report setting out the details of the Annual Return and Governance Statement which is required to be completed and sent to BDO LLP, the Council's External Auditors, by the 3rd July 2023.

The Clerk asked Members if any Member had an interest in BDO LLP and no interests were declared.

Members considered each of the questions in Section 1 of the Annual Governance Statement in detail before agreeing the following responses.

It was **RESOLVED** that the answer to each question should be as follows:

Question 1 Yes
Question 2 Yes
Question 3 Yes
Question 4 Yes
Question 5 Yes
Question 6 Yes
Question 7 Yes
Question 7 Yes
Question 8 Yes
Question 9 Yes

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1. the Mayor and the Clerk should be authorised to sign the Annual Governance Statement in the Annual Return on behalf of the Town Council;
- 2. The annual meetings of the trustees for Truro Road and Poltair Parks should be held prior to the next Council meeting in July.

C/23/14) Annual Return and Accounting Statements 2022/23

The Clerk advised that car park income had seen a slight increase on 2021/22, interest income had increased significantly due to the rise in interest rates and 2022/23 is the last year that a Council Tax Grant will be received. He clarified that the transfers from reserves related to the Masterplan grant received from Cornwall Council in 2021/22 that had been expended in 2022/23.

The Clerk advised that the payroll increase is due to the pay award, the employment of a Regeneration Officer and the two Grounds Maintenance Apprentices qualifying and being taken on as full time employees. The energy increases are in line with global increases in energy prices and insurance costs rose significantly during the 2022/23 financial year. He added that a recent tender exercise for the Town Council's insurances had resulted in a reduction in insurance premium for 2023/24. The Miscellaneous Expenses include expenditure on the town centre Masterplan which has been funded by the transfer from reserves. He clarified that the increase in expenditure under the transport heading related to the purchase of a ride-on mower and truck during the year.

The Clerk concluded that the outturn for the year is a £5,000 surplus and that the balance sheet shows a good ratio between assets and liabilities and a healthy liquidity.

Arising from a question, the Clerk clarified the reasons for the transfer from reserves.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

 Approve the detailed accounting statements and transfers to and from reserves as shown;

- ii. Approve the accounting statement in Section 2 of the Annual Return for 2022/23;
- iii. Authorise the Clerk and Mayor to sign the Accounting Statement on the Annual Return on behalf of the Town Council; and
- iv. Instruct the Town Clerk to advertise the electors' rights in accordance with the External Audit guidance.

C/23/15) Standing Committees

Members considered a previously circulated report setting out the latest terms of reference for the standing committees and a suggested committee membership for the 2023/24 civic year.

Councillor Brown suggested an additional bullet point to be added to the Planning and Regeneration Committee Terms of Reference as follows "to monitor the work of and liaise as necessary with the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership".

It was **RESOLVED** that:

- 1. The Terms of Reference of each committee as set out be approved subject to the additional bullet point in the Planning and Regeneration Terms of Reference as set out above.
- 2. The Committee Membership list as set out be approved subject to:
 - Councillor Clemo being deleted from the Community Committee and added to the Climate and Environment Committee.

C/23/16) Election of Representatives to outside bodies

It was **RESOLVED** that the following appointments to outside bodies be made for the 2023/24 civic year:

CALC - Larger Councils Liaison Group

Councillor Brown

Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

Councillor Hamilton

Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Flood Forum

Councillor Cohen

Cornwall Council Levelling Up Fund Working Group

Councillor French

Rural Services Network

Councillor Thompson

Rural Services Network - Young Person's Panel

Councillor Stephens

Rural Services Network - Older Person's Panel

Councillor Guest

Safer St Austell

Councillor French

St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF)

Councillor Brown

St Austell Carnival Committee

Councillor Cohen

St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce

Councillor Double

The House Steering Committee

Councillors Fox and Double

Townscape Heritage Scheme

Project complete. No representative required.

St Austell Revitalisation Partnership

Councillors George, Nott and the Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee

St Austell, Mevagissey, St Blazey, Fowey and Lostwithiel Community Area Partnership

Councillor Lanxon (Substitute Councillor Stephens)

It was noted that all Councillors are entitled to attend Community Area Partnership meetings.

C/23/17) Equal Opportunities Policy

Further to minute number F/22/59 the Town Council reviewed the Equal Opportunities Policy and suggested the following amendments:

Paragraph 3.2

First bullet point to be amended to read:

 Recognising and accepting that particular individuals or groups can be denied equality through direct or indirect discrimination either intentional or unintentional

Paragraph 6.1

Paragraph to read:

St Austell Town Council expects Councillors to treat each other with respect and will try to encourage a reasonable cross-section of local residents to put themselves forward to be Councillors. It will seek to make reasonable adjustments to allow all Councillors to take part in Council business.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Equal Opportunities Policy be approved subject to the above amendments and Councillor Bull amending any grammatical errors.

C/23/18) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 14th March 2023 to 27th April 2023 totalling £186,705.15 be approved.

C/23/19) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee meeting held on the 27th March 2023.

C/23/20) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee meeting held on the 3rd April 2023.

C/23/21) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting held on the 11th April 2023.

C/23/22) To consider excluding the press and public.

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C/23/23) Good Growth Fund

The Town Clerk outlined the funding agreement received, the risks to the Town Council as the Accountable Body and the progress so far with regard to the tender documentation and procurement process.

During discussion, Members agreed that subject to agreement by the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership the Town Council should proceed with the feasibility project.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

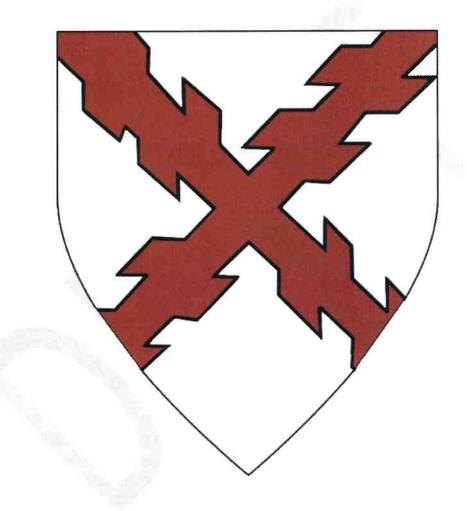
- 1. Authorise the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to sign the Good Growth feasibility study funding agreement on behalf of the Town Council and authorise the Town Clerk to proceed with a procurement process subject to the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership being supportive of the approach proposed to the funding and procurement of consultants for the feasibility study.
- 2. That in the event of a disagreement with the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and further discussions being necessary, the Mayor, Deputy Mayor and Councillor French be authorised to liaise with the partnership and the Town Clerk to seek a mutually agreeable way forward.
- 3. Authorise Councillors Brown and French to undertake an evaluation process of any tenders received with up to two members of the St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership, who are not Councillors and who do not have a prejudicial interest in the project.

C/23/24) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meeting is due to take place on the 10^{th} July 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.39pm.

St Austell Town Council



Annual Report 2022/23

Message from the Mayor

This past year as your Mayor and Town Council Chairman has been a huge privilege and honour. It has given me the opportunity to meet lots of organisations and interesting people. St Austell really has some wonderful people, businesses and community groups. It was a busy and productive year. Some of our achievements are listed below which I hope you find interesting.

We have declared a climate emergency and have a Climate and Environment Committee to take forward our climate change agenda. We have reviewed our grass cutting and wildflower planting to improve local biodiversity. In 2022/23 we held a climate awareness afternoon at the Library, supported the St Austell Garden Festival, created and refreshed several wildflower areas and planted 85 trees. We have a polytunnel and nursery area at our depot and are growing plants and trees and recycling plants to support our greening endeavours.

We worked closely with Cornwall Council to deliver a Town Heritage Scheme which attracted a grant of £980,000 from the Heritage Lottery Fund. This project has improved a number of town centre buildings and included some public realm works to improve the wall and fountain on the edge of Holy Trinity Church. The fountain will be operational from June 2023.

To compliment this we attracted £165,000 of funding from Cornwall Council to plan measures to revitalise the town centre. The Town Council co-ordinated this work and a partnership made up of representatives from councils, business and voluntary sectors guided the work. A masterplan was published in December 2022 which will hopefully put St Austell in a strong position to bid for Government funding to make major improvements to the town centre.

All towns and cities are suffering from anti-social behaviour and drink and drug related issues. We have continued to focus resource on measures aimed at reducing anti-social behaviour in the town centre and actively helped to attract grants and fund extra hours for the Security Personnel employed by the BID. We work very closely with the Police and other agencies and have maintained an excellent CCTV system and increased budgets for monitoring and maintenance of the camera systems. It is pleasing to note that as a result of the efforts locally St Austell has moved from the top of the league table for anti-social behaviour in Cornwall to fifth place. This does not mean that we can rest on our laurels. We will continue to lobby nationally and locally for more Police resource and for measures which will improve public safety in St Austell.

We continue to invest in our parks and open spaces. In 2022/23 we secured grant funding to upgrade Bethel Park, entered into a lease with Edible St Austell for land for a community garden at Landrew Road, repaired safety surfacing at The Meadows, Poltair Park and Sandy Hill Park and undertook repairs to play equipment in Poltair Park and Truro Road Parks.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my year as Mayor and have undertaken many community and civic events and enjoyed a whole range of birthdays, wedding anniversaries and community events. During these celebrations, it has been a real privilege to meet residents and to listen to and share life stories and experiences.

I hope that members of the public will recognise how much work has gone into the last year and how far the Town Council has grown 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 this busy year and record a special thank you to my deputy, Councillor Crystal Pearce, and the Council staff that supported me throughout my period in office.

Andrea Lanxon

Mayor of St Austell

2022/23

St Austell Town Council

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, Prince Charles, Sandy Bottom, The Meadows, Thornpark Road, Truro Road, Woodland Close and Woodland Road.
- The management of St Austell Library
- Priory and Tregonissey Lane End Car Parks
- Public conveniences, Priory Car Park
- Allotments at Alexandra Road
- Maintenance of footpaths
- Weed spraying
- Grass cutting on roadside verges and roundabouts for Cornwall Council
- Flower beds
- Town centre CCTV
- The House Youth Centre

Contact Details

St Austell Town Council
The Stable Block
Pondhu House
Penwinnick Road
St Austell
Cornwall 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 can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council County Hall Treyew Road Truro Cornwall TR1 3AY

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

E-mail: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2022/23 civic year Cornwall Council had three Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Double, Rowse and Pears.

St Austell Town Council has 20 Councillors (7 Councillors representing the Central and Gover Ward, 6 Councillors representing Poltair and Mount Charles Ward and 7 representing Bethel and Holmbush Ward). Town Council elections were held on the 6th May 2021, 9 councillors were reelected and 11 new councillors were appointed. A list of current Councillors is included later in this report.

Each year, the Council elects one councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs 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 Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell 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 and General Purposes Committee
- Planning & Regeneration Committee
- Community Committee
- Climate and 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 Council's website at www.staustell-tc.gov.uk. Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

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

David Pooley – Town Clerk 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.

Services and facilities provided within the town of St Austell are also enjoyed by people living in the surrounding villages and by the many tourists who visit the town each year.

The Town Council is very keen to improve local pride in St Austell and to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed and that 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 account 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 in relation to many of the other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council seeks to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.

INSERT PICTURES

2022/23 Activities

Service Devolution

The Town Council is a strong advocate for service devolution and has taken a broad range of services and assets from Cornwall Council including toilets, allotments, parks and open spaces, maintenance of highways grassed areas, car parks, the library and The House Youth Centre. The Town Council's visionary devolution project was praised by the late Secretary for State, James Brokenshire MP, and by Cornwall Council and others as an example of good practice.

The benefits of the local management of services are being demonstrated through better maintenance of parks, the library, public conveniences and play areas and improved floral displays, tree planting and grass cutting.

Climate Change

The Town Council has declared a climate emergency and has a Climate and Environment Committee to oversee environmental issues. It has arranged events at the Library and used the annual town centre garden festival to raise awareness of climate issues. An 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. Safe and natural treatments for weeds have been trialled and initiatives including e-bikes, cycling and walking trails and electric vehicle charging points are being explored with Cornwall Council.

Town Heritage Scheme

The Town Council worked closely with Cornwall Council and others to deliver a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas. The Heritage Lottery Fund provided a grant of £980,000 and this generated significantly more investment in valuable historic buildings. A number of buildings and in particular shopfronts have been improved and a number of public realm works have been completed.

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 a number of 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 antisocial 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.

CCTV

The CCTV system in St Austell is owned and maintained by the Town Council with monitoring arrangements shared with Newquay Town Council. In 2021/22 the Town Council acquired a redeployable or mobile CCTV camera which can be located at sites across the town temporarily as needed. In 2022/23 this camera supported a number of convictions for drug related offences. Recording equipment was upgraded in 2022/23 to ensure the effectiveness of the camera system.

Youth Services

The Town Council has provided annual funding of £20,000 to secure the future of The House youth project. A lease has been granted to Young People Cornwall (YPC) who have re-located their headquarters to the building. This has secured over 40 jobs in St Austell and created a centre of excellence for youth services in the town. Face to face services were restricted during the pandemic but are now fully functioning again. Youth workers undertake outreach work on behalf of the Council when issues with young people arise. YPC provide a range of important health and well-being services, training, support, activities and guidance for young people.

Library

The Town Council has negotiated a new lease for the St Austell Library, arranged community events and computer classes and increased footfall by over 12%. 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 a library. In 2022/23 the Town Council took on the management of the Home Library Service locally from Cornwall Council.

Environmental initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2022/23 we:

- Planted 85 trees some of which were donated to the Town Council;
- Trained two grounds maintenance apprentices, one of which was largely funded by the St Austell Bay Economic Forum;
- Secured funding for the improvement of Bethel Park;
- Entered into a lease with Edible St Austell to enable the creation of a community garden at Landrew Road;
- Lifted trees and carried out safety surface improvements to make Poltair Park safer;
- Undertaken safety surface repairs at The Meadows and Sandy Hill Park and extensive play equipment repairs at Truro Road and Poltair Parks;
- Improved the café at Poltair Park.

Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 24 small grants totalling £8,257 in 2022/23 which included 6 grants totalling £1,034 for community groups celebrating the Queen's platinum jubilee;
- Provided a number of larger grants including grants to Daisy Dukes (£3,000), St Austell BID for Christmas lights (£9,761), and St Austell BID for security personnel (£17,000);
- Attracted £165,000 grant funding from Cornwall Council and completed a master planning exercise for the town centre which included engagement events to boost the town centre footfall and gather public opinion;
- Agreed to freeze the car park charges at the Priory Car Park and improved the Tregonissey Lane End Car Park and enforcement arrangements on site;
- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with developers, arranged large-scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns or suggest improvements to major planning proposals and responded to 113 planning application consultations.



INSERT PICTURES



Annual Accounts 2022/23

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2022/23 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 2023

2021/22 £		2022/23 £
	Income	
795,350	Precept Payments	905,520
243,984	Car Park Income	260,407
30,200	Council Tax Grant	15,239
5,918	Library Income	6,935
279,571	Other Income	33,165
2,992	Public Convenience Charges	2,732
16,683	Transfers from Reserves	155,866
1,374,697	Total Income	1,379,864
	Less Operating Expenses	
514,891	Total Employee Expenses	628,992
204,931	Total Premises Expenses	187,337
274,021	Total Supplies and Services	397,007
30,199	Total Transport Related Expenses	74,912
339,706	Transfers to Reserves	86,520
1,363,748	Total Operating Expenses	1,374,768
10,948	Net Surplus (+)/ Deficit (-)	5,096

Balance Sheet As at 31 March 2023

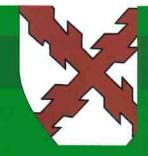
31 March 2022		31 March 2023
£		£
	Assets	
	Current Assets	
31,304	Debtors and Prepayments	29,243
195,009	Bank and Cash	116,806
822,552	Short Term Investments	835,390
1,048,865	Total Current Assets	981,439
486,091	Fixed Assets	559,407
44,580 44,580	Liabilities Current Liabilities Creditors and accruals Total Current Liabilities	41,404 41,40 4
1,490,376	Net Assets	1,499,442
	Equity	
96,892	Asset Revaluation Reserve	96,892
389,199	Capital Financing Reserve	462,515
642,753	Earmarked Reserves	573,408
361,532	General Reserve	366,627
1,490,376	Total Equity	1,499,442

Notes

- 1. Ceremonial assets have been valued by independent valuers using an insurance methodology as at 31st March 2010. It is not considered necessary to re-value all assets annually. Other fixed assets are included at cost.
- 2. Debtors and prepayments include an insurance premium and car park income in transit.
- 3. Accounts payable relate largely to contract and operational expenses paid by direct debit after the year end.

St Austell Town Council

Councillors





Brown, Malcolm Bethel & Holmbush Ward

CouncillorMalcolm.Brown@staustell-tc.gov.uk



Bull. Jackie

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Report to Town Council – Anne Double – July 2023

First of all I apologise for not being there in person. I had rearranged my diary because we had scheduled a day activity around the High Street Task Force who were due to come to St Austell on the 4th July. I therefore changed my diary so I could be in attendance, only to then have them cancel.

So I am now working in London and cannot be with you for the full council meeting.

I was delighted to see that the Town Revitalisation Partnership had agreed their sub group to help with the various projects that are in the pipeline. I am sure this group will work hard and provide the support etc that is needed to move these projects forward.

I would like to put on record my thanks to David, Sara and Bill for all their unstinting hard work in preparing bids etc. It is no mean feat.

I am getting regular updates with regards to the General Wolfe and I also believe that the TC and TRP will be updated where there is something so update you all on. At the moment, there isn't anything! Corserv Facilities are looking at what they can do in that location and this will be bought to the Town Council when appropriate.

I have had many reports about ASB in the old Clinton House site, these have been reported and are being dealt with regularly.

I am not sure I updated the council on my representations to the Planning Committee on the 100% affordable application that was bought forward by Ocean Housing on the edge of the parish with Treverbyn. This was passed and I am delighted that Treverbyn Parish will have these houses available for local people. It is what the area needs.

No further updates available yet with regards to Penwinnick Road, I believe they are still waiting on Natural England to confirm the issue over the bats.

I was sorry to not be able to attend the Garden Festival recently but I was attending the National Armed Forces Day – this was an amazing day and it was a privilege to be there and take part.

I have been helping residents with a number of local issues, such as speeding traffic, ASB in many guises, housing, and have been helping many businesses with a number of different issues.

Although I am currently unable to attend the Safer St Austell Partnership meetings I am kept up to date with these and I am pleased to hear that issues are being addressed. Thanks to all concerned. The Police have been very proactive and are in regular touch with me about their own concerns in and around the town.

It was a pleasure to attend a charity coffee morning held by the St Austell Friends of Cancer Research UK in Gover Valley recently. This small group raised a staggering amount of just over £500 to add to the already large total they have raised over the last year. I am always encouraged to hear of these small groups that work tirelessly and quietly behind the scenes.

As always this is a snap shot of what I get up to – please feel free to email any questions you may have.

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 15th MAY 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Fox, Hamilton, Lanxon, Stephens, and Thompson.

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

P/23/01) Election of Chair

David Pooley, Town Clerk, asked for nominations for Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Brown.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Brown be elected Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee for the 2023-24 civic year.

P/23/02) Election of Vice-Chair

Councillor Brown asked for nominations for Vice-Chair. A nomination was received for Councillor Bull.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bull be elected Vice-Chair of the Planning and Regeneration Committee for the 2023-24 civic year.

P/23/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors French, Pearce, Styles and Double.

P/23/04) Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.

P/23/05) Dispensations

None.

P/23/06) Minutes from the Meeting dated 11th April 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 11th April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Stephens arrived during the next item

P/23/07) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that notes received from Cornwall Council officers following the briefing for Members on highways matters held on the 17th April 2023 had been circulated electronically. It was agreed to discuss any highways matters arising at the next meeting of the Committee.

The Clerk advised that further to minute P/22/154, Councillor Rowse is likely to formally request that Planning Application Number: PA22/09153 is considered by Cornwall Council's Central Sub Planning Committee and suggested that a Town Council representative should be nominated to attend and speak against the application when it is considered by that Committee.

Councillor Brown advised that he would like to represent the Town Council at Cornwall Council's Central Sub Planning Committee meeting to speak against Planning Application number: PA22/09153.

It was **AGREED** that if required, Councillor Brown would attend Cornwall Council's Central Sub Planning Committee to speak against planning application number PA22/09153 and that it be made an approved duty.

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that Steve Double MP had written to Cornwall Council supporting the Town Council's views and that the Town Council is still awaiting a response to its letter from Cornwall Council's Planning Officer.

P/23/08) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

Councillor Brown advised that he would like to move Agenda Item 12 to the end of the agenda which was AGREED by the Committee.

P/23/09) Planning Applications

i. **PA22/09639:** 48 Morcom Close St Austell Cornwall PL25 3UG. New dwelling and associated works on residential infill land.

Members noted the amendments to the application but unanimously remained strongly opposed to the application. Concerns were expressed with regard to the proposed access arrangements and felt that Cornwall Council should consider enforcement action to reverse the works already started.

It was **RESOLVED** to strongly object to this application on the grounds of:

- Over development
- Over shadowing
- Inappropriate mass
- · Out of character with the area
- Some loss of privacy
- Concerns with regard to the access arrangements

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cornwall Council be asked to consider enforcement action to ensure that the site is returned to its original state.

ii. **PA23/00013:** 18 - 20 Woodland Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4QY. External extension to form 5 extra rooms for an existing successful House of Multiple Occupation.

The Clerk read out a statement from Councillor Double about possible over development of the site which some Members concurred with. Members acknowledged the need for one bedroom accommodation but expressed concern with regard to the lack of green space and no apparent access to the rear of the property for emergency vehicles.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to emergency vehicle access to the rear of the property being maintained.

iii. **PA23/02308:** 29 Tremayne Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4NE. Creation of a drop kerb at the front of the property and parking area.

It was **RESOLVED** to support this application.

iv. **PA23/02763:** Copper Beeches 52 Truro Road St Austell Cornwall. Alterations to the existing care home to provide five supported living accommodation units.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

v. **PA23/02837:** 23 Margaret Avenue St Austell Cornwall PL25 4SH. Detached single storey one bedroom annexe in the rear garden, widen drive entrance and form two car spaces, rear extension to bungalow.

During discussion, Members expressed concern with regard to the impact the proposed annexe may have on 21 Margaret Avenue and the need to ensure that if approved, the annexe is conditioned to ensure that it is only used in conjunction with the host building.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to the annexe being used in conjunction with the host building and that its erection has no adverse impact on 21 Margaret Avenue.

vi. **PA23/03365:** 29 Treverbyn Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4ES. Construction of ground floor level balcony/terrace to South East elevation, new porch to North West elevation and erection of a perimeter fence.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

vii. **PA23/03455:** Penhaligon House, H M Revenue & Customs Inspector Of Taxes St Austell Trinity Street St Austell Cornwall. Application for tree works within TPO area: Removal of all ash trees.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to the Forestry Officer agreeing that the trees need to be removed and suitable replacement planting being put in place.

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P/23/10) Premises Licence Applications

None.

P/23/11) Planning Decisions

It was **RESOLVED** that the report and decisions be noted.

P/23/12) Cornwall Council - Urgent Delegated Planning Decisions

The Clerk advised that there had been no urgent delegated planning decisions since the last meeting.

P/23/13) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership

The Town Clerk advised that there was little to add to the update that had been provided at the last Council meeting. He explained that the funding agreement for the feasibility work had now been signed and would be returned to Cornwall Council shortly. Tender documents were ready for publication. A Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership meeting is planned for the 23rd May 2023 and provided the partnership is supportive, the tender for the work will be published shortly after the meeting.

P/23/14) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings of the Planning and Regeneration Committee are Monday 19th June 2023 and Monday 17th July 2023.

P/23/15) Cornwall Council Public Spaces Protection Order (Alcohol Consumption in Designated Public Spaces): Proposed renewal of the current order for October 2023.

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council were consulting on the renewal of the county wide public space protection order (PSPO) prohibiting street drinking associated with anti-social behaviour. He explained that it was not illegal to consume alcohol in a public place. An offence is only committed if an individual refuses to comply with an authorised officer's request to stop drinking.

The PSPO allows Police and authorised officers to ask individuals to stop drinking and to confiscate their alcoholic drinks if they are deemed to be acting antisocially. It is an offence to fail to comply with a request to stop drinking or surrender alcohol including any opened or sealed containers in the area covered by the PSPO.

The current PSPO expires on the $1^{\rm st}$ October 2023 and Cornwall Council are seeking to renew it for a further three years. The views of the Council are invited, and a response required by the $26^{\rm th}$ May 2023.

Members expressed concern about the effectiveness of the PSPO and a perceived lack of Police resource to enforce it.

Persistent drinking and anti-social behaviour in a number of locations was highlighted. In particular the Holy Trinity Church grounds were mentioned. Although Members had reservations about the effectiveness of enforcement, they felt that it was better to have the PSPO than not to. Members felt that the list of streets incorporated into the PSPO for St Austell lacked clarity and might not cover all areas that are vulnerable to anti-social behaviour. If possible, Members felt that the PSPO should apply to all public spaces in the parish of St Austell rather than just the named streets.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Cornwall Council expressing the views of Members and complete the consultation form to reflect those views.

The meeting closed at 7.23pm.

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 19th JUNE 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown (Chair), Cohen, Fox, French, Hamilton, Pearce and Thompson.

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

P/23/16) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Bull, Lanxon and Styles.

P/23/17) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Thompson declared an interest in agenda item 8 (vii) Carlyon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan by virtue of being a Member of Carlyon Parish Council whilst the plan was being developed.

P/23/18) Dispensations

None.

P/23/19) Minutes from the Meeting dated 15th May 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 15th May 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

P/23/20) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that further to minute number **P/23/07** Cornwall Council's Central Sub Area Planning Committee had met on 3rd June 2023 and Planning Application Number: PA22/09153 (Aspen Drive) had been refused on the grounds of harm to the distinctive character of the area, loss of Grade 3A agricultural land and erosion of a green buffer. He added that Councillors Brown, Rowse and Mustoe had all spoken against the application. Councillor Brown advised that he would like to speak about this meeting later on the agenda.

Councillor Brown asked if Cornwall Council is taking enforcement action in relation to Planning Application PA22/09639 (48 Morcom Close, St Austell). The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has been asked to consider enforcement action, but a reply has not been received and agreed to chase the Case Officer.

P/23/21) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

P/23/22) Higher Trewhiddle

The Chair welcomed Mr Marshall to the meeting.

Mr Marshall referred Members to a plan for residential properties on the area previously set aside for commercial use. He acknowledged Members' disappointment that they had been unable to deliver retail on this site, but advised that an area, marked as plot 4 on the plan, has been earmarked for small scale commercial/retail use if a small food store or other retailer can be found. He confirmed that despite numerous attempts to obtain a contract with a suitable retailer, there is nothing in place at the moment. Mr Marshall advised that following discussions with the arts theatre they have identified a potential for vehicular access to the arts centre from the site plus additional parking. He added that there will be a biodiversity area to the East of the site which will result in a biodiversity net gain.

During discussion, Mr Marshall confirmed that there would be up to 150 houses on the site, possibly more if apartments are built, and that he would look at the provision of open space/play areas for the site. Concern was expressed with regard to different levels between the arts centre and the proposal and the potential for ASB on the area shown as undeveloped land. The need to develop safe crossing points for children walking between the site and Pondhu School and/or St Mewan School were identified as a priority.

It was **RESOLVED** to broadly support the latest plans outlined by Mr Marshall.

The Chair thanked Mr Marshall for his update.

P/23/23) Planning Applications

i. **PA21/08915:** 9 And 10 Aglets Way St Austell Cornwall PL25 4GA. Retrospective permission for the construction of decking.

Members expressed concern with regard to the revised plans and felt that the obscured glazing proposed would not mitigate the overlooking issues due to the extreme levels of the properties involved. Members noted the lack of comments from local residents and felt that Cornwall Council should be asked if it had notified neighbours of the revised plans.

It was **RESOLVED** to continue to object to this application on the grounds that the solution suggested is not considered adequate.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that Cornwall Council be asked to confirm that the affected neighbours have been advised of the revised proposals.

ii. **PA23/03121:** 91 Chapel Field St Austell Cornwall PL25 3EN. Change of use of annexe to a single dwellinghouse.

A view was expressed that an extra house in this location is too much, and an objection should be lodged on the grounds of density/mass and not in keeping with the street scene.

A proposal to object to this application was lost 3 votes for, 4 votes against with the casting vote from the chair.

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A proposal to make no objection to this application was carried 4 votes for, 3 votes against with the casting vote from the chair.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

iii. **PA23/03545:** 4 St Piran's Close St Austell Cornwall PL25 3TF. First floor balcony.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

iv. **PA23/03706:** Cornwall Council Tregarne Hostel North Street St Austell. Installation of external access ramps and change of external louvred door to glazed fire door.

Concern was expressed with regard to lack of information with regard to the revised layout of the property and noted in particular the reduction in bedrooms from 9 to 3.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Hamilton voted against this application

v. **PA23/04028:** 23 Pentewan Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 5BU. Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of two dwellings.

Members expressed concern with regard to the overlooking issues between Plot 1 and Plot 2, the general design and appearance of the proposal, no continuity of the existing build form and the precedent that this could set.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to this application on the grounds of:

Design and appearance of the proposal Plot 2 being out of character with the area Plot 2 being overbearing on Plot 1 No continuity of build form The precedent that it sets for other properties nearby

vi. **PA23/04575:** 19 Grove Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 5NP. Front extension to provide a porch/shower room.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application.

Councillor Thompson reiterated his interest and left the meeting

vii. **PA23/00007/NDP:** Carlyon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Carlyon Parish Neighbourhood Development Plan.

Councillor Thomson returned to the meeting

P/23/24) Premises Licence Applications

None.

P/23/25) Planning Decisions

It was **RESOLVED** that the report and decisions be noted.

Councillor Brown took the opportunity to provide an update on the Central Sub Area Planning Committee's decision to refuse Planning Application Number: PA22/09153 (Aspen Drive). He advised that the meeting went well and that he had focussed his speech on the Town Framework and the 5 year housing supply. Councillors Rowse and Mustoe both spoke against the application and felt that the informal site visit arranged by Councillor Rowse for the Chair and Vice-Chair had been helpful. Councillor Brown advised that despite the Planning Officer's recommendation for approval, the committee resolved that the application be refused on a vote of 11 votes in favour, 0 against and 0 abstentions.

P/23/26) Cornwall Council - Urgent Delegated Planning Decisions

The Clerk advised that a 5 day protocol letter had been received from Cornwall Council in respect of Planning Application Number: PA23/01424 (32 Brockstone Road, St Austell) as the Planning Officer is mindful to approve the application. The protocol allows for the Town Council to consider the following options:

- 1. Agree with the planning officer's recommendation
- 2. Agree to disagree
- 3. Maintain the original position and request that the application is determined by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee

During discussion, Members expressed their continued strong objection to this application.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should maintain its strong objection and request that the application is determined by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee (Option 3).

Councillor Pearce left the meeting

P/23/27) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership

The Town Clerk advised that the tender process for procuring consultants to look at the feasibility and design of a roof top garden in Old Vicarage Place is underway with a closing date of 4th July. He added that Cornwall Council is exploring with Cornwall College the potential for student accommodation in the town centre and the opportunities for Levelling Up Funding, which it is believed will be announced shortly. He added that the EV Charging points have been installed in Priory Car Park but are not yet enabled and that the legal agreements and planning permission are now in place for an Integrated Service Hub in White River Place.

The Clerk advised that the transfer of the Penwinnick Road site to Treveth is now likely to take place in July.

Councillor Brown provided a brief update on the partnership meeting held on the 23rd May 2023 and confirmed that the partnership had agreed the tendering and evaluation process for the roof top garden procurement as recommended by the Town Council.

P/23/28) Cornwall Council Highways Schemes

The Clerk advised that the next round of Cornwall Council Highways Schemes will be considered later in the year and asked Members to think about their priority highways schemes for recommendation to the Cornwall Councillors in due course. It was agreed that a discussion with the Cornwall Councillors would be helpful at the appropriate time.

Councillor Brown referred to the recent Highways update meeting with Cornwall Council officers and felt that the Town Council should be involved in future Transport Strategy discussions as suggested by Rebecca Lyle.

During discussion, it was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should write to Rebecca Lyle at Cornwall Council confirming that the Town Council would like to be involved in the next round of St Austell Transport Strategy discussions.

The recent fatal accident on the A391 at the weekend of 16th/17th June 2023 was raised and reference was made to an inquest report from a fatality on the same stretch of road in October 2022 which suggested that the faded road markings, poor visibility and poor road layout were contributing factors. Members expressed a strong view that the improvement of this road is a priority and felt that a letter, possibly jointly with Treverbyn Parish Council, should be sent to Cornwall Council strongly requesting urgent improvements as recommended in the inquest report.

It was **AGREED** that the Town Clerk should liaise with Treverbyn Parish Council and write to Cornwall Council requesting improvements to the A391 as recommended in the inquest report, as a matter of urgency, in the light of the two fatalities in less than a year.

P/23/29) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings of the Planning and Regeneration Committee are Monday 17th July 2023 and Monday 21st August 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.58pm.

MINUTES of a MEETING of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 26th JUNE 2023 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Clemo, French, George, Lanxon, Nott, Pearce and Young.

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

F/23/01) Election of Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor French be elected as Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2023/24 civic year.

F/23/02) Election of Vice-Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Young be elected as Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee for the 2023/24 civic year.

F/23/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Bull and Rowse.

F/23/04) Declarations of Interest

Councillor French declared an interest in Agenda Item 10 by virtue of being a director of the St Austell Business Improvement District (BID).

F/23/05) Dispensations

None.

F/23/06) Minutes of meeting held on 3rd April 2023

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 3rd April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

F/23/07) Matters to Note

The Town Clerk advised that he had nothing to add to the minutes.

F/23/08) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

F/23/09) Inspector Matt Trevivian and Acting Sergeant Will Chesterfield

The Chair welcomed Inspector Trevivian and Acting Sergeant Will Chesterfield to the meeting. They spoke about the work and organisation of the Neighbourhood Team and highlighted the excellent co-operation between the Security Personnel, the CCTV monitoring staff and the various agencies operating in St Austell.

They praised the security staff for their professionalism in dealing with a violent male in the town centre recently and explained that extra patrols were planned for the summer months in the town centre, that Will Chesterfield will be the Neighbourhood Team Leader (NTL) for the town centre and that further Police Specials will be allocated to the town centre team.

Inspector Trevivian concluded that the St Austell Sector is doing extremely well in comparison with other Police Sectors in Cornwall and reiterated his praise for the security guards and CCTV provision in the town centre.

Members raised a number of matters including:

- Trends in crime numbers
- Comparisons with other towns and the lessons to be learnt
- The police presence at the recent Flower Festival
- The perception of crime in St Austell and the negative effect of social media
- The legal issues relating to motorised scooters
- Parking on pavements
- Control of street drinking
- ASB in the Lostwood Gardens area
- Knife crime
- Dangerous roads and driving

Members thanked Inspector Trevivian and Acting Sergeant Chesterfield for attending and for their presentation.

** Councillor French reiterated his interest in the next item and Councillor Young assumed the chair **

F/23/10) Security Guards

The Vice Chair welcomed Dale Lovatt, Chair of the BID, and Annette Miller, the BID Manager, to the meeting and thanked them for their attendance. The Deputy Town Clerk introduced a report on funding for the security personnel employed under contract by the St Austell BID. She explained that the cost for 50 hours per week was £43,000 per annum and that the BID had a budget of £17,000 leaving a balance of £26,000. Members acknowledged the importance of the security guards and the need to tackle ASB.

By way of clarification, the Town Clerk advised that the employment terms and conditions of the security guards are the responsibility of the contractors not the Town Council or St Austell BID.

It is **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should increase its annual contribution towards the cost of the town centre security guards to £26,000 on condition that the extra resource helps support the Town Council's civic events and provides for extended patrols outside of the town centre.

** Councillor French re-assumed the Chair **

F/23/11) St Austell Sea Cadets

The Town Clerk explained the history behind the award of a grant to the St Austell Sea Cadets to help them purchase their premises and the creation of a secured loan

to ensure the premises were used for the intended purpose for a reasonable period of time. He advised that there had been no intention among members at the time to require repayment of this sum.

The Clerk added that as six years had now elapsed, it would be tidier for accounting purposes and reflect Members' intentions, if the loan could be written off and the charge on the property lifted.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk be authorised to arrange the lifting of the legal charge and the redesignation of the loan to a grant as originally intended.

F/23/12) Budget Monitoring Report

The Town Clerk explained a number of variances in the budget monitoring report for April to May 2023. He highlighted in particular the fall in car park income which he felt was probably due to the good weather which traditionally sees people going to the coast rather than town centres.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

F/23/13) St Austell Library

The Deputy Town Clerk introduced a report from the Library Manager setting out some of the activities organised and planned at the Library. She explained that St Austell Library is still often the busiest library in Cornwall and highlighted the recent successful children's literary festival which it was hoped would become an annual event.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report.

F/23/14) To consider excluding the press and public

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the commercially sensitive nature of the business to be transacted.

F/23/15) Photocopier

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council's main printer/scanner/copier was nearing the end of its life and recommended its replacement with a new machine (a Xerox Altalink C8145 Workplace Assistant) provided by the Town Council's existing photocopier/printer supplier at a cost of £5,423. He advised that the residual value of the existing machine was £60 to £80 and that the organisation did not want the machine back.

It was suggested that a local community group or charity might like to have the old machine.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to:

1. Waive the need to seek three quotes in accordance with paragraph 11.1 of the Town Council's Standing Orders to accommodate the purchase of a printer from the Town Council's existing photocopier/printer supplier;

2. Acquire a new photocopier/printer as specified in the report and to offer the existing machine to local community groups and charities.

F/23/16) Dates of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is due to take place on 18^{th} September 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.20pm.

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 5th JUNE 2023 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Fox, George, Pearce, Stephens, Thompson and Young.

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

CC/23/01) Election of Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Thompson be elected Chair of the Community Committee for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

CC/23/02) Election of Vice-Chair

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Cohen be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2023/24 Civic Year.

CC/23/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Double, Guest, Nott and Rowse.

CC/23/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/23/05) Dispensations

Councillor Fox declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (Small Grants Scheme) by virtue of being the applicant for the St Austell St Piran's Event grant request.

CC/23/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 27th March 2023

Councillor Young advised that he was present at the meeting on the 27th March 2023.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to Councillor Young being added to the list of attendees, the minutes of the meeting held on the 27th March 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

Councillor Stephens arrived to the meeting

CC/23/07) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that he had nothing to add.

CC/23/08) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CC/23/09) Mr Barry West - King Edward Memorial at King's Avenue

Mr West referred to the King Edward memorial at Kings Avenue and the desire to have it restored and elevated, if possible, to make it more visible.

He explained that Cornwall Council own the building where it is located and that he is obtaining quotations for an independent assessment of its condition and the cleaning and restoration costs. Mr West expressed a view that in these challenging times it is important for the town to look nice and felt that the restoration of the memorial would add to the feel good factor of the town. Mr West praised the Town Council's grounds maintenance staff for their excellent work across the town.

It was **RESOLVED** to support in principle the restoration of the King Edward Memorial and await further details from Mr West.

CC/23/10) Alice Walker - Studio 4 Dance

Ms Walker explained the background to the restoration of 3 unused units in Old Vicarage Place and thanked the Town Council for their funding support in December 2021 to enable Phase 1 (dance studio) to get off the ground which is supporting the regeneration of the town centre, has created job opportunities for local people and brings people into town helping local businesses. The studio has created two jobs and is the home for a Level 3 Performing Arts course which is run in partnership with Cornwall College. She advised that there are 23 learners on the books, up from 9 learners last year and around 100 dancers come to the town each week to attend the studio, which along with their parents/guardians has increased the town centre footfall considerably.

Ms Walker explained that the Community Event Space in Unit 4 opened in December last year and delivers performance, education, community activities and a coffee shop. This space has provided further job opportunities and an additional 100 people per week into the town centre.

The two learners in attendance with Ms Walker expressed their support for Studio 4 and the opportunities available to them which has helped their development.

Ms Walker advised that in December 2021 the Town Council provided Studio 4 Dance CIC with a £5,000 grant and a £5,000 loan, £2,000 of which has been repaid. She reiterated her gratitude to the Town Council for their support and outlined how she is trying to keep the CIC sustainable but that a bid to the Good Growth Fund had not materialised which she was hoping would provide a programme of events in the town centre. She expressed a view that it is important to keep bringing people into the town centre and getting people to talk about the town positively and requested additional help from the Town Council to fill the funding gap to provide regular events in the town.

During discussion, Members expressed the importance of the CIC being sustainable and suggested strongly that signage to the Studio and Unit 4 needs to be erected in Vicarage Place/White River Place to make it clear the facilities that are on offer.

Ms Walker explained that she is working closely with St Austell BID to develop a programme of events, has submitted 5 funding bids in the hope that a full time Events Manager post can be created and continues to promote unit 4 for private bookings.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(i) commute the loan of £5,000 previously awarded in December 2021 into a grant and;

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(ii) award a grant of £5,000 towards a sustainable programme of town centre events.

CC/23/11) Small Grants Scheme

Imerys Singers

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the purchase of music and paying for the use of a rehearsal room.

Kernow Men's Society

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the running expenses and social activities of the Society.

Councillor Fox outlined the event and left the meeting

St Austell St Piran's Event

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the costs associated with putting on the 2024 St Austell St Piran's Event.

Councillor Fox returned to the meeting

Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery

Although supportive of the school and its keenness to develop childrens' reading, Members felt that they were unable to support the request as Sky Primary and Eden Project Nursery is located outside of the Town Council's area.

It was **RESOLVED** to refuse the grant request of £250 and refer the school to St Blaise Town Council and the Cornwall Councillor Community Chest Scheme.

CC/23/12) Climate and Environment Projects Update

The Clerk advised that the Beryl Bikes have been installed across the town and appear to have settled down reasonably well. He added that the EV charging points are being installed in Priory Car Park and should be finished shortly.

Arising from the above, Members asked if Beryl Bikes could instal bike racks, particularly on the pavement across from Aldi as bikes are regularly left lying on the pavement blocking access for users, including some with wheelchairs and prams. Members also expressed a wish that the range of the Beryl Bike is extended to include areas like Wheal Martyn and Heligan so they can be better used for leisure purposes.

CC/23/13) St Austell Railway Station

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Mrs Wendy Earl had approached the Town Council to advise that she would like to step back from her volunteer activities at the station and is looking for the Town Council to assist the volunteers with their efforts to keep the station planted up and watered. She added that Councillor Double is involved with the activities at the station but cannot commit to additional meetings.

CC/23/14) Projects Update

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the following projects:

Town Centre Regeneration

The Clerk advised that an invitation to tender for feasibility and design work for the rooftop garden is on the Government website with a closing date of the 4th July. A GWR funding bid has also been submitted for public realm improvements near the station as identified in the Masterplan.

CCTV

All 20 cameras are working across the town and the re-deployable camera has had success in its new location close to the urban village.

Poltair Park

The planning application for the bat house has been approved with work due to start as soon as the bat licences have been approved.

Poltair Café

The tenant is still in situ at the café on a Tenancy at Will. The Town Council is currently covering the cost of utilities and some of the business rate costs. This will be reviewed later in the year with the tenant.

Priory/Tregonissey Lane End Car Parks

Car park income is still slightly better than budget but well below pre pandemic levels. The season ticket income is steady with a few regular users. The Pay 2 Park mobile app is working well but the Phone and Pay app not so well with a few issues reported recently which are being followed up. Cornwall Council enforcement officers will be patrolling Tregonissey Lane End Car Park from June to September to reinforce the maximum stay of 3 hours.

Priory Toilets

The coin machines/doors are coming to the end of their life and quotations are being sought for their replacement. Officers are very pleased with the quality of the cleaning contract.

Anti-Social Behaviour

St Austell has a new Inspector, Inspector Matt Trevivian, who has agreed to attend the Finance and General Purposes Committee in July to speak to Town Councillors about policing matters in St Austell. The security guards are working well with the Police and in conjunction with the CCTV, shopwatch radio and DISC systems; ASB in St Austell is overall fairly quiet. The security guards are still patrolling outside of the town centre 2-3 times a week, with no issues to report. The ASB caseworker for St Austell advised at a recent meeting that St Austell is very quiet compared to Truro, Newquay and Liskeard and praised the excellent work of the security guards.

4

St Austell Library

The latest statistics from Cornwall Council show that St Austell Library is performing extremely well and provides an excellent service to the community. The whole school visits are proving extremely popular with approximately 30 children visiting the library at a time with their teachers. The baby classes, lego groups, reading and writing classes and support groups continue on a regular basis and SALSA have a number of summer events planned over the coming months. SALSA have also agreed to hold a cheese and wine evening as a social event for the Mayor planned for 1st September 2023.

Bethel Park improvement

The funding for the Bethel Park improvement scheme has been approved and work is due to start during the week commencing 12th June 2023 with a completion date, all being well, before the summer holidays. The Clerk clarified that the footprint of the playpark will remain the same and that if required, the air ambulance would still be able to land between the goal posts following the refurbishment as it can now.

Truro Road Park

The Clerk advised that the safety surfacing work at Truro Road Park will commence around the same time as the Bethel Road improvements as the same contractors are being used.

Allotments

One of the tenants at Alexandra Road has not tended his allotment for a while, so after following due process, a new tenant will be pursued shortly.

Grounds Maintenance

The summer bedding plants are being planted up across the town this week and some watering will take place which is permitted by SWW as the Town Council is deemed to be a commercial organisation.

Footpaths

The "Public Rights of Way" footpaths are no longer contracted out to be cut and will be maintained by the Town Council's grounds maintenance staff. The Deputy Town Clerk agreed to circulate a map showing the footpaths maintained.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the projects update.

CC/23/15) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 11th September 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.26pm



AGENDA NO: 16

ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING – 10th JULY 2023 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS 28th APRIL 2023 to 30th JUNE 2023

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve a schedule of payments made since the last meeting.

2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

There is a requirement for the Town Council to approve all payments made. All payments are authorised by at least two signatories and all payments must be within the budgets approved by the Council. Payments methods used are cheque, BACS, direct debit, credit card and petty cash.

3. RESOURCE ISSUES

The payments made and proposed are all within the Council's approved budgets.

4. EQUALITY ISSUES

None. Payments are usually made promptly to small contractors and charitable groups to help avoid cashflow difficulties.

5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES

All items procured are delivered to the office by van or lorry. Where possible items are procured locally and from sustainable sources or using recycled materials.

6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Councillors approve the attached Schedule of Payments totalling £219,034.74.

Payment Schedule
St Austell Town Council
For the period 28 April 2023 to 30 June 2023
Cash Basis

Date	Payment Method	d Description	Reference	Amount Account Code	Cost Centre
Mayors Charity Account					
09 Jun 2023 Total Mayors Charity Account	BACS	Payment: St John Ambulance	Donation	1,873.11.105	Mayor's Charity
NW Current Account					
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Cornwall Council		11,446.14 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	HMRC		9,793,79 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: ChapmanGain Accountants	5080/S176	624,00 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Cornwall Signs	42371		Bethel Park
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment; Glasdon UK Limited	S1861669	268.94 100	Other Parks and Open Spaces
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Hudson Accounting	687	550,00 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: ITEC	852743	231,46 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: ITEC	CWI1130626	46,20 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Metro Rod Limited	639625	234,00 100	Library
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Rural Services Partnership Ltd	RMTG/23/24/113	159.60 100	General Administration
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Source for Business	4081655504	56.68 100	Poltair Park
28 Apr 2023	BACS	Payment: Spot-On Supplies Ltd	21562551	22.62.100	Other Parks and Open Spaces
02 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment; Biffa Waste Services Ltd	522C18692	1,281,98 100	Other Parks and Open Spaces
02 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Cornwall Council	802973815-2023/2024-1	172.03 100	Poltair Park
02 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Screwfix Direct Ltd	1353892719	14.89 100	Other Parks and Open Spaces
02 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Screwfix Direct Ltd	1361152591	17.99 100	Stable Block/Pondhu House
03 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Allstar Business Solutions	E2016955339	200.23 100	Transport and Plant
04 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment; BT	M084 FO	504 00 100	General Administration
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: APS Construction Services Limited	3260	5,964.00 100	Priory Toilets
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Cornwall Council	8100362320	100.00 100	Library
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Dormakaba UK Ltd	0000464821	196.80 100	Misc. Projects/Grants
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Flowbird Smart City UK Limited	UK161430	1,612.80 100	Priory Car Park
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Logical Cleaning Solutions	INV-5826	684.25 100	Stable Block/Pondhu House
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Lyreco UK Limited	6723506259	177.53 100	General Administration
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Lyreco UK Limited	6723506258	7.87 100	General Administration
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Lyreco UK Limited	6723506261	63.60 100	General Administration
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Lyreco UK Limited	6723506257	54.08 100	Library
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Lyreco UK Limited	6723506260	10.43 100	Library
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: M-R-S Communications Ltd	1241431	78.00 100	CCTV
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: ObjectiveITServices	3334	358.52 100	General Administration
05 May 2023	BACS	Payment: PJI Security Ltd	31895	36.00 100	Library
09 May 2023	BACS	Hutchison 3G UK Limited		27.17 100	Poltair Park
10 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Allstar Business Solutions	E2017015351	528.80 100	Multiple Categories
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Volunteer		13.50 100	Library
12 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Cornwall Council	8100370479	384.74 100	Priory Car Park
12 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: Cornwall Council	8100363021	157.00 100	Library
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: D May & Son Ltd	2/000000601	32.16 100	Other Parks and Open Spaces
12 May 2023	Direct Debit	Payment: EE Limited	V02104425232	184.99 100	General Administration
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Euro Tool Hire and Sales South West Ltd	294696	72.00 100	Poltair Park
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: G4S	2023042925	551.97 100	Multiple Categories
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Logical Cleaning Solutions	INV-5855	1,030.27 100	Library
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Maggies Country Kitchen	155	70.00 100	Civic Ceremonial
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Manor Made Cornwall	INV-0082	179.00 100	General Administration
12 May 2023	BACS	Payment: Playsafety Limited	70305	1,652.00 100	General Administration

Civic Ceremonial Library Poltair Park	Priory Car Park	Library Tregonissey Lane End	Transport and Plant	Civic Ceremonial	Civic Ceremonial	Multiple Categories	Poltair Park General Administration	Library	Other Parks and Open Spaces	Outer Park Pottair Park	Library	Misc. Projects/Grants	Library	Library	Transport and Plant	General Administration	Civic Ceremonial	Poltair Park Drioty Car Dark	Priory Car Park	General Administration	Stable Block/Pondhu House	General Administration	United marks and Open Spaces Library	Library	Transport and Plant	Transport and Plant	Other Parks and Open Spaces	General Administration	General Administration	Multiple Categories	Poltair Park	Other Parks and Open Spaces	Other Parks and Open Spaces	General Administration	Poltair Park	Transport and Plant	Library	Other Parks and Open Spaces	Multiple Categories Other Parks and Onen Spaces	Other Parks and Open Spaces	Multiple Categories	Stable Block/Pondhu House	Library	Other Parks and Open Spaces
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