

St Austell Town Council



Climate and Environment Committee

To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee
(Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, Preece, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD** on **Monday 20th January 2025 at 6pm.**



David Pooley
Town Clerk

14th January 2025

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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 21st October 2024

**Pages
1 - 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. Smoke Free Parks

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(Purpose: To receive a presentation from Katie Waddington, Health Improvement Practitioner, Healthy Cornwall on smoke free parks). (Statement attached).

8. Weed Spraying

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(Purpose: To consider a statement from Claire Briault with regard to weed spraying in St Austell). (Statement attached).

9. Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

(Purpose: To receive an update on the work of CASA). (Verbal update).

10. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose: To note the date of the next meeting – 7th July 2025 (to be confirmed)).

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 21st OCTOBER 2024 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Guest, Lanxon, Preece, Stephens, Styles and Thompson.

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

CE/24/14) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Clemo, Hamilton and Young.

CE/24/15) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/24/16) Dispensations

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

CE/24/17) Public Participation

Mrs Earl advised that she was in attendance to listen to the meeting.

CE/24/18) Minutes of Meeting held on 1st July 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1st July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/24/19) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that the Holy Trinity Church fountain is now operational and the Town Council has commissioned a three monthly water testing regime.

CE/24/20) White River Project

The Chair welcomed Cornwall Councillor, Councillor Bunney and Tricia Hawes from Mei Loci to the meeting.

Councillor Bunney advised that the White River Project was set up approximately 2 years ago initially to investigate pollution in the White River but it has since been expanded to include the Gover Stream, Polgooth Stream and minor tributaries, roughly on the old Community Network boundaries. The project has now been widened to include other areas promoting wildlife, heritage, healthy living and economic activity and is overseen by a Steering Group with Councillor Clemo representing the Town Council.

Mrs Hawes advised that they are currently at the investigative stage of the Vision Plan and are looking at areas such as:

- Flood risk management
- Re-naturalise the river courses where possible
- Increase biodiversity within the catchment and establish wildlife corridors

- Increase awareness of the area's heritage and historical features
- To improve access to the river environment
- Create environmentally friendly opportunities for the community and economy

There is a long list of projects which it is hoped will be reduced to 5 or 6 large projects all designed and costed up to grant application stage.

Mrs Hawes advised that there is an on-line public survey and that there will be a stakeholder consultation event on the 1st November and engagement with primary and secondary schools facilitating workshops for young people. The consultation phase will finish in November and completion of the Vision Plan is due at the end of December 2024.

During discussion, the following was raised:

- The need to consider the LCWIP in the Vision Plan;
- Consideration be given to the cycle routes through St Austell town centre to make it safer for cyclists;
- Joining up with social prescribing
- Review of signage

In answer to a question, Mrs Hawes advised that the positive use of open space has been proven to reduce anti-social behaviour which could work in conjunction with volunteer groups assisting with activities such as woodland management and clearance works.

Councillor Bunney advised that it would be helpful to have a second representative from the Town Council on the Steering Group. The Town Clerk agreed to try to identify a suitable representative.

The Chair thanked Councillor Bunney and Mrs Hawes for their interesting presentation.

CE/24/21) Climate Emergency Action Plan

The Clerk advised that it is good practice to review the Action Plan from time to time and that the updates were highlighted in yellow. The Clerk added that the Grounds staff empty the bins on Town Council land three times a week and so far, there has not been a noticeable increase in flytipping following the introduction of fortnightly domestic waste collections. There was a comment that there appears to be more domestic waste left by the bins in Clifden Road.

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that in the past, renewable energy has been expensive, but he will review again as and when the Town Council's energy contracts come up for renewal. He advised that some of the Town Council's existing suppliers have an element of renewable energy.

CE/24/22) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

Councillor Cohen advised that Noah Law MP attended the last CASA meeting and the group are carrying out regular litter picks around the town.

With the permission of the Chair, Mrs Earl advised Members that CASA is meeting tomorrow and she is going to suggest to the group that they carry out another

awareness raising campaign, particularly as another batch of leaflets have been printed. She advised that the next litter pick is on Thursday.

Councillor Lanxon offered to put any awareness raising notices on the 3 noticeboards she has access to.

CE/24/23) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 20th January 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.

We would like to propose that Poltair Park becomes totally smoke free.

The parliamentary smoking bill will positively impact on our potential way forward to support smoke-free parks agenda. This new legislation, which bans smoking in all public beaches, pathways, marinas, playgrounds, recreation centres is a fantastic step towards in protecting our communities and reducing the environmental hazards caused by smoking. This bill will really help our smoke-free parks initiative by providing a solid legal framework to enforce smoking bans in public parks. However, we understand that an empathetic approach can work much better with education and conversation about all the positive reasons not to smoke. We anticipate that the implementation of this bill will take place over the next six months, with full enforcement expected by mid-2025.

Healthy Cornwall is a service provided by Cornwall Council, which is dedicated to supporting our local community in leading healthier lives. Our services include weight management, healthy eating, physical activity, smoking cessation, and promoting healthy pregnancies. We also offer training on various health topics and mental health support, available to all residents of Cornwall.

In light of the new legislation and our commitment to public health, making Poltair Park completely smoke-free park will not only enhance the park's environment but also protect our community from the harmful effects of second-hand smoke.

We look forward to attending the meeting 20th January so we can discuss the benefits of a smoke-free Poltair Park and discuss the steps needed to implement this change.

Kind regards,
Katie

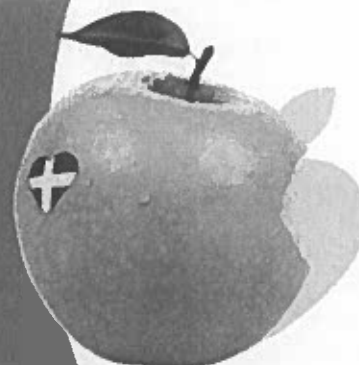
Katie Waddington
Health Improvement Practitioner
Healthy Cornwall
Wellbeing and Public Health

It's time to get
Healthy Cornwall



We can help you make changes to
lead a happier, healthier lifestyle.

www.healthycornwall.org.uk



I moved back to the clay area a year ago, having been in Liskeard for 7 years. Prior to that I lived in Roche for 30 years . I have been an environmental activist since 1994 notably with Local Agenda 21 in St Austell and as a Tree Warden in Roche.

I now collaborate with Extinction Rebellion in South East Cornwall, on campaigns to do with preservation of Nature and Democracy, and have contacted Climate Action St Austell, Chrys McLaren is aware of my contact with SATC.

When I came back to St Austell I saw that there was quite widespread use of glyphosate herbicide (aka agent orange so I could recognise its effect) in the Town Council's administrative area. I saw evidence of it on the road adjacent boundary of the library, in the park next to Market Hill around the old graves, and I saw a young man spraying near Mevagissey roundabout, not wearing any PPE.

I wrote to St Austell Town Council (SATC) in early summer, about my concerns that the use of glyphosate did not comply with the guidelines or advisable policy from Cornwall Council (Corserv) , but was not satisfied with the response, although I did not think it was given by anyone with any scientific understanding of the use of pesticides in urban areas.

After this I started to garden with Treverbyn Hall Collaborative Gardening Group , and became aware of Edible St Austell and The Sensory Trust, as local groups pursuing ecological methods and education.

Contacting SATC again in autumn I was informed of the Climate and Environment Committee and would like to attend in January 2025 please.

My agenda for the meeting will be to raise awareness within St Austell Town Council of the haphazard use of herbicide in the urban areas, parks , verges etc and flag up that it does not accord with the Corserv Nature Recovery Plan which has been carefully compiled for guidance to councils, businesses and individuals.

This matter requires urgent review , and I see from previous minutes that you review your Action Plan regularly,so feel I will not be wasting time by raising my concerns.

I have used as my references the Corserv Nature Recovery Plan 2024, Pesticide Action Network UK Website , and the much respected book by Dave Goulson, Silent Earth- Averting the Insect Apocalypse.

I am sure the members of the committee are familiar with all of these already, but if they had time to look at Page 16 of the Corserv Document it outlines alternatives, and would save time at the meeting.