## St Austell Town Council



#### To: All Members of St Austell Town Council

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend the Annual Meeting of St Austell Town Council to be held in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD on Monday 12th May 2025 at 6pm.

David Pooley
Town Clerk

6th May 2025

Tel 01726 829859

e-mail: <u>david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk</u>

Website: <u>www.staustell-tc.gov.uk</u>

#### **AGENDA**

## 1. Election of Mayor

(Purpose: To elect the Mayor and receive the signed Declaration of Acceptance of Office).

## 2. Election of Deputy Mayor

(Purpose: To elect the Deputy Mayor).

#### 3. Apologies for absence

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

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. Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received.

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

## 5. Dispensations

(Purpose: To consider requests for dispensations).

## 6. Minutes of Meeting held on 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025

Pages 1 - 6

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

#### 7. 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.

## 8. Mayor's/Retiring Mayor's announcements

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

#### 9. 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).

#### **10. 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. (None received).

#### 11. General Power of Competence

Pages 7 - 8

(Purpose: To consider re-adopting the General Power of Competence). (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.

## 12. Internal Audit Report for year ending 31st March 2025

Pages 9 - 14

(Purpose: To receive and note the Internal Audit Report for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025). (Attached).

## 13. Annual Governance Statement

Pages 15 - 20

(Purpose: To agree and approve the Annual Governance Statement as part of the Annual Return for 2024/25). (Attached).

#### 14. Annual Return and Accounting Statements 2024/25

Pages 21 - 30

(Purpose: To agree and approve Section 2 of the Annual Return and the detailed Accounting Statements for 2024/25). (Attached).

#### 15. Standing Committees

(Purpose: To review the Terms of Reference and membership of the following Committees:

- 1. Community Committee
- 2. Finance and General Purposes Committee
- 3. Planning and Regeneration Committee
- 4. Climate and Environment Committee
- 5. Staffing Committee

(Report to follow).

#### 16. Election of Representatives to outside bodies

(Purpose: To elect representatives to the following organisations:

**AFC St Austell Project** 

(Currently Councillor Lanxon)

## **CALC - Larger Councils Liaison Group**

(Currently Councillor M Brown)

#### Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

(Currently Councillor A Cohen)

#### Carlyon Road Masterplanning Group

(Currently Councillors Bull and Lanxon and the Chair of the Planning Committee)

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## **Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Flood Forum**

(Currently Councillor A Cohen)

## **Cornwall Council Planning Partnership**

(Councillor M Thompson)

## **Holy Trinity Church Grounds Steering Group**

(Councillor C Hamilton)

#### **Rural Services Network**

(Councillor M Thompson)

## Rural Service Network - Young Person's Panel

(Councillor E Stephens)

#### **Rural Service Network - Older Person's Panel**

(Councillor P Guest)

#### Safer St Austeil

(Currently Councillor T French)

## St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

(Currently Councillor T French)

## St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF)

(Currently Councillor M Brown)

## St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce

(Currently Councillor Kimber)

## **St Austell Revitalisation Partnership**

(Currently Councillors French, Pearce and the Chair of the Planning & Regeneration Committee)

## St Austell, Mevagissey, St Blazey, Fowey and

Lostwithiel

#### **Community Area Partnership**

(Currently Councillors Lanxon and Young)

#### The House Steering Group

(Currently Councillors Fox and Gray)

#### **Treveth - Penwinnick Road Steering Group**

(Currently Councillors Gray and Hamilton)

#### 17. Schedule of Payments

Pages 31 - 38

(Purpose: To approve a schedule of payments from 8<sup>th</sup> March 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> April 2025). (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.

#### 18. Schedule of meetings

Pages 39 - 40

(Purpose: To confirm a schedule of meetings for the 2025/26 civic year). (Attached).

## 19. Community Committee

Pages 41 - 46

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Community Committee held on the 24<sup>th</sup> March 2025). (Attached).

## 20. Finance and General Purposes Committee

Pages 47 - 50

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee held on the 7<sup>th</sup> April 2025). (Attached).

#### 21. Planning and Regeneration Committee

Pages 51 - 56

(Purpose: To note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee held on the 14<sup>th</sup> April 2025). (Attached).

#### 22. A391 Closure

(Purpose: To receive any comments on the A391 road closure).

## 23. Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership

(Purpose: To provide an update on the Town Centre grant funded projects).(Report attached).

#### 24 To consider excluding the press and public

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 items:

Item 25 is confidential because it contains sensitive staffing information and Item 26 is confidential because it contains sensitive commercial information.

#### 25. Regeneration Officer

(Purpose: To approve an extension to the Regeneration Officer's contract). (Verbal update)

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.

## 26. Poundland Banners

(Purposes: To receive an update on the Poundland Banners Project). (Verbal update).

## 27. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose: To note dates of future Town Council Meetings:

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Annual Parish Meeting) Monday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025

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 MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 17<sup>th</sup> March 2025 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Bull, Clemo, Cohen, Double, Fox, French, Gray, Hamilton, Kimber, Lanxon, Pearce, Pears, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

#### C/24/133) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Guest.

## C/24/134) Declarations of interests and gifts or hospitality received

Councillor Hamilton declared an interest in agenda item 19 as the minutes include a recommendation for a grant to the Sea Cadets for which he is president.

#### C/24/135) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

### C/24/136) Minutes of Meeting held on 27th January 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 27<sup>th</sup> January 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### C/24/137) Matters to Note

Rob Bosworth, Chief Executive of the Cornwall College Group, has confirmed that the College will take on as many of the Adult Education courses as it can and that the logistics of accommodating an Adult Education Service within the campus is being considered. Rob Sweetzer-Sturt from Cornwall Council has asked to speak to the Town Council about the Adult Education Service after the election.

## C/24/138) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had attended the following events:

1st March 2025

St Piran's Day Event in the Town Centre. The Mayor congratulated Councillor Fox for her hard work organising the excellent event.

7th March 2025

Met the "Student's Parliament" at Penrice School and gave a presentation on the work of the Town Council and answered lots of questions.

8th March 2025

Soroptomists book giveaway at the Library.

#### 9th March 2025

Soroptomists Unsung Heroine at the Carlyon Golf Club and gave a presentation on the work of the Town Council.

The Mayor took the opportunity to thank all Councillors for their efforts and extended his best wishes to those not seeking re-election and good luck to those standing again.

#### C/24/139) Public Participation

None.

#### C/24/140) Members' questions

There were no questions from Members.

## C/24/141) Changing Places Toilet

The Clerk outlined the works required and the quotation received to upgrade the Changing Places toilet at Priory Car Park. Members agreed that the provision of a Changing Places Toilet in St Austell is essential, and that the refurbishment/upgrade work should proceed as soon as possible.

It was **RESOLVED** that the proposed upgrade for the Changing Places Toilets at Priory Car Park be approved in line with the quotation received.

#### C/24/142) Civility and Respect Pledge

The Clerk advised that NALC, CALC and SLCC are encouraging Town and Parish Councils to sign up to the Civility and Respect Pledge as a complementary document to the Code of Conduct. The Clerk added that in conjunction with this pledge, it is recommended by NALC, CALC and SLCC to adopt the Dignity at Work Policy referred to in the report.

It was **RESOLVED** to sign up to the Civility and Respect pledge and approve the Dignity at Work Policy.

## C/24/143) Health and Safety Audit

It was **RESOLVED** to note the independent Health and Safety Audit carried out in October 2024 and the recommendations contained therein.

#### C/24/144) Beat the Street

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the Town Council has been approached by Active Cornwall for funding of approximately £1,000 towards a Beat the Street project that they are hoping to roll out after Easter. Active Cornwall is hoping to place 40-50 boxes across the St Austell parish and surrounding parishes and players score points by tapping 2 boxes within an hour timeframe and accumulate points. The game lasts for 4 weeks.

During discussion, Members raised the following queries/issues:

- Concern at the total cost of the project
- The need for the surrounding parishes to contribute towards the initiative
- What the difference is between "Beat the Street" and "Geocaching" and "Pokemon Go"
- Concern that the proposal is to roll the initiative out after Easter which is on the run up to the Election

Although supportive in principle, it was **RESOLVED** that Active Cornwall should be asked to attend a future Council meeting to explain the "Beat the Street" project, its funding, the geographical area proposed, the desired outcomes and the expectations of the Town Council.

#### C/24/145) Street Parties

The Deputy Town Clerk explained that the provision of funding for Street Parties for the Jubilee celebrations a few years ago was extremely successful and suggested that a similar approach be taken for the VE Day/VJ Day commemorations. She suggested that a budget of £2,000 be earmarked for community groups or individuals representing a street to apply for a grant with a maximum of £150 per application. The Deputy Clerk stressed that this budget would not affect the Small Grants Scheme budget.

During discussion, Members expressed their support for a Street Party fund.

It was **RESOLVED** to allocate a budget of £2,000 for a VE Day/VJ Day Street Party Fund with delegation for the approval of grants to the Town Clerk, in consultation with the Chair and/or Vice-Chair of the Community Committee.

#### C/24/146) Local Plan

The Clerk advised that the Local Plan could involve a lot of work for the Town Council and, at times, will probably need the input from a planning expert and suggested that £10,000 is set aside for this purpose should it be needed.

During discussion, Members generally agreed that the Town Council needs to be prepared to respond to local plan consultations and possibly contentious planning applications and that it would be helpful to be able to have the input of an expert if required.

It was **RESOLVED** to earmark the sum of £10,000 for the procurement of Planning advice relating to major planning applications and the development of the local plan as required.

#### C/24/147) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Councillor Gray advised that there is a White River Project Community Launch event on 2<sup>nd</sup> April at the Arts Centre.

Councillor Brown expressed a view that although the group was formed to deal with Government funding, the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership still has a role to play and is a useful forum for Town Councillors, Cornwall Councillors, the business sector, voluntary sector and the MP to meet on a regular basis.

Councillor Lanxon advised that due to a lack of funding, the football club is having to scale back their plans. A further meeting is planned for next week.

Councillor Thompson advised that the hydrotherapy pool discussions are going well and the working group will meet again after the Elections.

Councillor French advised that the Town Council and BID are working together on a number of initiatives. He added that there are a number of struggling businesses in the town centre which may, in due course, reflect in a downturn in income received by the BID.

## C/24/148) Cornwall Councillor update reports

The written reports from Councillors Double and Rowse were noted.

Councillor Pears advised the following:

- The A391 will be closed after the Bank Holiday for major repair works
- There is now a Transport For Cornwall App for people using the busses
- The drains in the Asda underpass have been repaired and should now be fit for purpose.

Councillor Rowse expressed his disappointment with the Bethel bin fire and advised that the Number 27 Truro to St Austell bus route has been reviewed and should provide better timings and connectivity to St Austell.

#### C/24/149) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee dated 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 and **APPROVE** the **RECOMMENDATION** contained therein.

#### C/24/150) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes Committee dated 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 and **APPROVE** the **RECOMMENDATION** contained therein.

## C/24/151) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the minutes of the Community Committee dated 24th February 2025 and **APPROVE** the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein.

#### C/24/152) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments for the period 18<sup>th</sup> January 2025 to 7<sup>th</sup> March 2025 totalling £267,076.94 and transfers between accounts amounting to £156,164.34 be approved.

## C/24/153) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Project

#### Roof Top Garden

The report has been finalised and reviewed by the Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and Town Council.

#### Duke Street

The feedback from the Duke Street consultation was overall positive. Concern/issues raised:

- The need to keep the road wide enough to allow delivery vehicles through;
- The need to keep the landscaping/planting at a low level so it does not obscure the shops;
- The potential for two 20-minute parking spaces to be incorporated into the design.

The Regeneration Officer will review these comments with Mei Loci.

## High Cross Street

It is increasingly likely that student accommodation on this site is not viable. It is hoped that the feasibility work will be useful when looking at other opportunities on the site.

#### Poundland Banners

To minimise disruption to the businesses, the start date for the dismantling of the old banners and erection of the new Poundland Banners is scheduled for the week after Easter.

#### Piazza

The faculty has been received and a meeting has been set up with the consultant, contractor and Holy Trinity Church on Monday to determine a start date.

#### Highways

A feasibility report outlining the feasibility of highways schemes around the town centre is expected to be available from Cornwall Council at the end of March.

#### General Wolfe

Cornwall Council is investigating the listed status of the building.

#### C/24/154) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Annual Town Council Meeting) and 12<sup>th</sup> May 2025 (Annual Parish Meeting).

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.

**AGENDA NO: 11** 

#### ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

#### 12TH MAY 2025

#### GENERAL POWER OF COMPETENCE

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To invite the Council to re-adopt the General Power of Competence in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 for the next four years.

#### 2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 provided for a new General Power of Competence for Councils in England. The General Power is available to Parish and Town Councils which meet conditions of eligibility for the exercise of the Power as set out in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012.

#### 3. RESOURCE ISSUES

None.

#### 4. EQUALITIES ISSUES

None.

## **5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

None.

#### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that the Council resolves that it meets the conditions prescribed by the Secretary of State in the Parish Councils (General Power of Competence) (Prescribed Conditions) Order 2012 and once again adopts the General Power of Competence for the period until the Annual Meeting following the next ordinary election.

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The General Power of Competence is measure introduced by Section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 which allows eligible Parish Councils the power to do anything that individuals generally may do as long as it is not illegal. In order to adopt the General Power of Competence a Town or Parish Council has to meet the criteria laid down by the Government and formally adopt the power (usually every four years after an election).

The Town Council adopted this power at its meeting on the 12<sup>th</sup> November 2012 and again on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2017 and the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2021. It is a legal requirement to re-adopt the power at or after the Annual Meeting of the Council after an "ordinary election".

Your Clerk, Deputy Clerk and Finance/Administrative Assistant have received training in the General Power of Competence and have passed the requisite examinations. Each hold the Certificate in Local Council Administration. More than two-thirds of councillors were elected through an election process. The Council therefore qualifies as an eligible Town Council and is free to adopt the General Power of Competence once again if it so wishes.

DAVID POOLEY TOWN CLERK



HUDSON ACCOUNTING LTD.
INTERNAL AUDIT REPORT:
TO THE MEMBERS OF ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL
YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2025.

ISSUE DATE: 25/04/2025
ISSUED TO: TOWN CLERK

#### INTRODUCTION:

Internal auditing is an independent, objective assurance activity designed to improve an organisation's operations. It helps an organisation accomplish its objectives by bringing a systematic, disciplined approach to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control, and governance processes.

#### Scope:

The scope of the audit covers, as a minimum, the areas included in the Internal Audit Report contained in the Annual Governance & Accountability Return.

#### Approach:

Audit work is carried out in line with the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy's Internal Audit Standards and guidance issued by the National Association of Local Councils.

Where applicable we have included reference to 'proper practice' and the associated guidance as laid out in 'Governance & Accountability for Smaller Authorities in England' which is applicable to financial years from 1st April 2024.

Selective testing was carried out and the relevant policies, procedures and controls were reviewed.

#### **GENERAL COMMENTS:**

We would like to thank the staff for their assistance and co-operation during the audit.

The matters raised in this report are only those which came to our attention during our internal audit work and are not necessarily a comprehensive statement of all the weaknesses that exist, or of all the improvements that may be required.

It should be noted that assurance can never be absolute. The most that the internal audit service can provide is a reasonable assurance that there are no major weaknesses in risk management, governance, and control processes. The audit does not guarantee that the accounting records are free from fraud or error.

The review undertaken obtained a level of assurance which has allowed us to complete the Internal Audit Report element of the Annual Governance & Accountability Return with no qualifications, thus in all significant respects, the control objectives were achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of the Council.

#### AUDIT COMMENTARY:

#### **Previous Recommendations**

There are no previous recommendations requiring action.

#### **Accounting Records**

The accounts have been properly maintained throughout the year.

#### **Payments**

A sample of payments was tested to establish whether the spending decision, procurement process, certification and approval for payment were in line with Financial Regulations as well as ensuring that payments were supported by invoices, VAT was correctly accounted for, and payment controls were applied.

Further testing revealed no issues to report.

#### Risk

Insurance

**Payment** 

The Fidelity Guarantee remains adequate at £2 million.

Risk

The risk register was reviewed in February 2025.

Member internal control checks, including a review of the effectiveness of internal audit, were reported to the Council meeting held in October 2024.

#### **Budgets**

Setting

The budget was properly approved by Full Council in December 2024 following a robust process.

Monitoring

Regular budget monitoring reports have been provided to Members.

Adequacy of Reserves

After allowing for earmarked reserves of £743,025 the general reserve stands at £418,328; equating to 28% of gross expenditure which is within generally accepted parameters.

#### Income

Systems were tested to ensure that suitable controls are in place to ensure that all income is received in a timely manner, that charges are correctly applied and that any cash received is promptly receipted and banked.

Interest

Interest received on the Council's investments has been accurately reflected in the Ledger.

Rents

Rental income is invoiced in line with the Agreements in place.

VAT

VAT claims for the year have been submitted.

The year-end claim is in accord with balances disclosed in the accounts.

#### **Petty Cash**

Petty cash is very sparingly used and is adequately controlled in line with Financial Regulations.

#### **Assets**

The asset register has been updated to reflect acquisitions and disposals and the total value of assets held has been accurately disclosed in the AGAR.

#### **Payroll**

The January payroll was tested, including a check on actual net salaries paid, with no issues to report.

New employees have been issues contracts of employment and have been paid in accordance with the Terms therein.

The national pay award and associated back-pay were accurately implemented.

PAYE and pension requirements have been met.

#### **Bank Reconciliation**

Monthly bank reconciliations have been accurately undertaken in a timely manner throughout the year.

The year-end bank reconciliation was found to be accurate.

#### **Accounting Statements**

The accounts were prepared on an income and expenditure basis and are in accord with underlying records.

Debtors and creditors have been properly accounted for.

#### **Trusts**

The Council has met its obligations as a Trustee.

## **Annual Internal Audit Report 2024/25**

## ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL

www.staustell-tc.gov.uk/External\_Audit

**During** the financial year ended 31 March 2025, this authority's internal auditor acting independently and on the basis of an assessment of risk, carried out a selective assessment of compliance with the relevant procedures and controls in operation and obtained appropriate evidence from the authority.

The internal audit for 2024/25 has been carried out in accordance with this authority's needs and planned coverage. On the basis of the findings in the areas examined, the internal audit conclusions are summarised in this table. Set out below are the objectives of internal control and alongside are the internal audit conclusions on whether, in all significant respects, the control objectives were being achieved throughout the financial year to a standard adequate to meet the needs of this authority.

Internal control objective	Yes	No*	Not covered**
A. Appropriate accounting records have been properly kept throughout the financial year.	V	V.	
B. This authority complied with its financial regulations, payments were supported by invoices, all expenditure was approved and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		N. T
C. This authority assessed the significant risks to achieving its objectives and reviewed the adequacy of arrangements to manage these.	V		
D. The precept or rates requirement resulted from an adequate budgetary process; progress against the budget was regularly monitored; and reserves were appropriate.	V		
E. Expected income was fully received, based on correct prices, properly recorded and promptly banked; and VAT was appropriately accounted for.	V		
F. Petty cash payments were properly supported by receipts, all petty cash expenditure was approved and VAT appropriately accounted for.	~	A SE	
G. Salaries to employees and allowances to members were paid in accordance with this authority's approvals, and PAYE and NI requirements were properly applied.	~	20.000	
H. Asset and investments registers were complete and accurate and properly maintained.	V		
Periodic bank account reconciliations were properly carried out during the year.	V		200000000000000000000000000000000000000
J. Accounting statements prepared during the year were prepared on the correct accounting basis (receipts and payments or income and expenditure), agreed to the cash book, supported by an adequate audit trail from underlying records and where appropriate debtors and creditors were properly recorded.	V		V.
K. If the authority certified itself as exempt from a limited assurance review in 2023/24, it met the exemption criteria and correctly declared itself exempt. (If the authority had a limited assurance review of its 2023/24 AGAR tick "not covered")			~
L. The authority published the required information on a website/webpage up to date at the time of the internal audit in accordance with the relevant legislation.	V		
M. In the year covered by this AGAR, the authority correctly provided for a period for the exercise of public rights as required by the Accounts and Audit Regulations (during the 2024-25 AGAR period, were public rights in relation to the 2023-24 AGAR evidenced by a notice on the website and/or authority approved minutes confirming the dates set).	V		
N. The authority has complied with the publication requirements for 2023/24 AGAR (see AGAR Page 1 Guidance Notes).	~		
O (Far lead acumulta only)	Yes	No	Not applicable
O. (For local councils only)		100	

For any other risk areas identified by this authority adequate controls existed (list any other risk areas on separate sheets if needed).

Date(s) internal audit undertaken

Name of person who carried out the internal audit

10/10/2024

07/02/2025

25/04/2025

S P HUDSON CPFA

Signature of person who carried out the internal audit

S. P. Kudson

Trust funds (including charitable) - The council met its responsibilities as a trustee.

Date

25/04/2025

\*If the response is 'no' please state the implications and action being taken to address any weakness in control identified (add separate sheets if needed).

\*\*Note: If the response is 'not covered' please state when the most recent internal audit work was done in this area and when it is next planned; or, if coverage is not required, the annual internal audit report must explain why not (add separate sheets if needed).

**AGENDA NO: 13** 

# ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 ANNUAL GOVERNANCE STATEMENT

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the responses required for the Annual Governance Statement which is a requirement of the annual audit undertaken by the Council's external auditors.

#### 2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The annual audit of accounts is governed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Council is required to submit a summary set of accounts, an Annual Governance Statement, an annual internal audit report and supporting information to external auditors BDO LLP by the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. BDO LLP have been appointed by the Government to undertake an audit of Parish and Town Councils. Members and officers are required to report any conflicts of interest created by this appointment. An internal audit has been undertaken by Hudson Accounting Ltd. The annual internal audit report attached to the return to BDO LLP is based upon the work of Hudson Accounting Ltd. All audit reports and findings are reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee.

#### 3. RESOURCE ISSUES

None outside of existing budgets.

## 4. EQUALITIES ISSUES

None.

#### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

None.

### 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

#### It is recommended that Members:

- Approve the responses to be shown within the Annual Governance Statement against each of the questions;
- Authorise the Clerk and Mayor to sign the Annual Governance Statement on behalf of the Council.
- Advise of any conflict of interest relating to the appointment of BDO LLP.
- Instruct the Town Clerk to advertise the electors' rights after the accounting statements have been approved in accordance with the External Audit guidance.
- Agree to hold annual meetings of trustees of charities managed by the Council after the Council meeting in July.

## **Background**

BDO LLP are Government appointed external auditors. The Council is required to report any conflicts of interest caused by this appointment.

A copy of Section 1 of the return to be submitted to BDO LLP is attached for the information of Councillors. The Council is required to answer "Yes" or "No" to a number of questions and explain any answers of "No".

The answers to Questions 1-9 should all be "Yes".

Each question is discussed below.

Question 1 – The Town Clerk is a qualified accountant. Sound financial systems and practices are in place as evidenced by the recent Internal Audit report. Accounts are produced in accordance with the Practitioners Guide published by the Joint Panel on Accountability and Governance. Bank reconciliations are completed by one officer and checked by another and are subject to reports to Committee and inspection by nominated Councillors and the Internal Auditor.

Question 2 – Systems of internal control are good with adequate separation of duties and internal check. Internal Audit reports confirm good working practices.

Question 3 – The Council has invested in training of staff in areas of corporate governance, finance, human resources (HR), health and safety and GDPR and subscribes to independent support services for health and safety, HR and legal services. All reports identify legal and risk management issues. There are no known legal proceedings which will affect the Council or its financial standing.

Question 4 – Appropriate notices were placed in notice boards and on the Town Council's website and accounting statements are published together with details of all transactions over £500. No members of the public felt it necessary to question or challenge anything in the Town Council's accounts for 2023/24.

Question 5 – the Council's risk register has been reviewed and made more comprehensive in recent years. Reports on risk management have been considered by the Finance and General Purposes Committee and Council in February/March and the risk register was updated as part of this review. Insurance covers were reviewed and challenged through a tender exercise in 2023.

Question 6 – The Council has appointed Hudson Accounting as its Internal Auditors. The Council receives a thorough professional service and comprehensive reports. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Finance and General Purposes Committee have undertaken half-yearly checks and spot tests using the approved checklists. In addition the Chairman has received lists of all transactions each month and checked their reasonableness asking questions from time to time on any transactions that concerned him. Budget monitoring reports have been published regularly and the Town Clerk has monitored spending and income levels very closely.

Question 7 – all audit reports are reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee or full Council and the Town Council has an excellent record of dealing with and addressing points raised. There are no outstanding audit recommendations.

Question 8 – All reports to the Council and its committees have separate sections to identify any legal and resource implications to aide consideration of these issues when completing and reviewing the accounting statements. No post-year events with significant financial implications have been identified.

Question 9 relates to Trust funds/assets. Both Poltair Park and Truro Road Park have land held in trust with the Poltair Park trust being a charitable trust registered with the Charity Commission. We have no funds held in trust and do not therefore need to produce separate accounting statements but we should submit an annual return to the

Charity Commission for the Poltair Park charity and hold annual meetings of each trust to formally agree an annual report. The meetings of the trusts were last held on the 16<sup>th</sup> July 2024. The next meetings are due to be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July 2025. The return to the Charity Commissioners for 2024/25 has not yet been made but will be submitted after the meeting in July.

Councillors are asked to agree the suggested responses to the questions within the Annual Governance Statement section of the form, approve the actions recommended and authorise the signing of the completed document.

DAVID POOLEY TOWN CLERK

## Section 1 – Annual Governance Statement 2024/25

We acknowledge as the members of:

#### ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

our responsibility for ensuring that there is a sound system of internal control, including arrangements for the preparation of the Accounting Statements. We confirm, to the best of our knowledge and belief, with respect to the Accounting Statements for the year ended 31 March 2025, that:

Agreed				
Yes	No.	Yes m	eans that this authority:	
~			ed its accounting statements in accordance a Accounts and Audit Regulations.	
V			proper arrangements and accepted responsibility reguarding the public money and resources in rge.	
V			ly done what it has the legal power to do and has ad with Proper Practices in doing so.	
~			the year gave all persons interested the opportunity to and ask questions about this authority's accounts.	
V		considered and documented the financial and other risks it faces and dealt with them properly.		
V		arranged for a competent person, independent of the financial controls and procedures, to give an objective view on whether internal controls meet the needs of this smaller authority.		
V		responded to matters brought to its attention by internal and external audit.		
V		disclosed everything it should have about its business activity during the year including events taking place after the year end if relevant.		
Yes	No	N/A	has met all of its responsibilities where, as a body corporate, it is a sole managing trustee of a local trust or trusts.	
	Yes V	Yes No.	Yes No Yes m  prepare with the  made properties for safe its char  has one complie  during inspect  consider faces a  arrange control interna respon externa disclos during end if r  Yes No N/A	

<sup>\*</sup>Please provide explanations to the external auditor on a separate sheet for each 'No' response and describe how the authority will address the weaknesses identified. These sheets must be published with the Annual Governance Statement.

This Annual Governance Statement was approved at a meeting of the authority on:	Signed by the Chair and Clerk of the meeting where approval was given:		
and recorded as minute reference:	Chair		
	Clerk		

AGENDA NO: 14

# ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING – 12TH MAY 2025

**ANNUAL RETURN AND ACCOUNTING STATEMENTS** 

## 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve the Annual Accounting Statements for the 2024/25 financial year and Section 2 of the Annual Return which summarises the Council's accounts.

## 2. LEGAL AND RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

The annual audit of accounts is governed by the Local Audit and Accountability Act 2014 and the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015.

The Council is required to submit a summary set of accounts, an Annual Governance Statement and an annual internal audit report to external auditors BDO LLP by the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2025. Internal audit inspections have been undertaken by Hudson Accounting Ltd. The annual internal audit report attached to the return to BDO LLP is based upon the work of Hudson Accounting Ltd. All audit reports are reported to either the Finance and General Purposes Committee or the full Council.

#### 3. RESOURCE ISSUES

None outside of existing budgets.

## 4. EQUALITIES ISSUES

None.

### **5. ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES**

None directly.

## 6. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- Consider and approve the detailed accounting statements and transfers to and from reserves as shown;
- Approve the accounting statements in Section 2 of the audit return; and
- Authorise the Clerk and Mayor to sign the accounting statements in the Annual Return on behalf of the Council.

#### **Background**

A copy of the detailed financial accounting statements for the Town Council for the year ended the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025 is attached for the information of Councillors. Councillors are asked to consider and approve the accounts and the transfers to and from reserves as set out in the statements, to approve the summary accounts section of the Annual Return form and authorise the signing of this document.

In addition to the Annual Return the Town Council is required to submit the following information to the external auditor:

- a. a financial year-end bank reconciliation and bank statements;
- b. explanations for significant variances from last year to this year;
- c. quantified explanations for any differences between box 7 and box 8 in section 2;
- d. explanation of any "no" answers in Section 1;
- e. details of earmarked reserves at year end if deemed high (not applicable).
- f. Proof that the Town Council has appointed an internal auditor appropriately;
- g. Details of capital projects over £100,000 in value;
- h. Copy of budget for 2024/25 and reports and minutes relating to approval of the budget;
- i. Evidence to support the adoption of the General Power of Competence.

2024/25 was a good year for the Council with further progress in a number of areas, several significant projects completed and a surplus generated at the year-end.

Achievements in the year included:

- The replacement and repair of play equipment and safety surfacing at The Meadows and Landrew Road Park;
- The replacement of safety surfacing at Prince Charles Park;
- Installed more seating in Woodland Road play area;

- Redesigned Lostwood Road gardens to reduce anti-social behaviour;
- Acquired large garden games and a trailer to support a programme of events;
- 25 trees planted in the parks and open spaces;
- Redesigned Mount Charles Roundabout;
- Resurfaced part of Priory Road Car Park and improved floral displays in the car park;
- Increased biodiversity by introducing wild areas in Jubilee Meadows and Polmarth Close;
- Maintained a high quality service and organised various events at the Library which is consistently one of the busiest libraries in Cornwall;
- Helped to fund extra town centre security guards and used a re-deployable CCTV camera to improve two ASB hotspots;
- Managed a Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership and attracted funding to undertake feasibility and design work in preparation for future funding opportunities.

#### **The Financial Outturn**

The surplus at the year-end was £38,675.22 after transferring £10,998.14 from reserves and £225,574.54 to reserves (£35,000.00 for the Play Equipment Reserve, £10,000 to the Elections Reserve and £180,574.54 for specific projects). The Council's earmarked reserves are now:

Elections Reserve	£35,000.00
Repairs and Renewals Reserve	£439,676.50
Projects Reserve	£268,348.68
TOTAL	£743,025.18

The Elections Reserve is an amount set aside to fund future elections.

The Repairs and Renewals Reserve has been created to help fund the cost of replacement and major repairs to play equipment. The Council's play equipment has an estimated replacement cost of over £1million and significant units will require replacement or substantial repairs within the next 5-7 years.

The Projects Reserve includes the following commitments:

- Sea Cadets grant £10,000
- Poltair Park Café £5,298
- Priory Toilets changing places £18,000.00
- CCTV cameras £25,000.00

- Church piazza project £20,000
- Town Centre Revitalisation Project £20,000.00
- Vehicle replacement £25,000.00
- CIL grants £7,810.54
- The Meadows pump track ~ £10,000
- Local plan consultancy £10,000
- Community project to be determined £80,000

The outcome of the 2024/25 financial year was a surplus of £38,675.22 which means that the Council's General Fund balance has increased from £379,653 to £418,328. This is considered to be an acceptable balance and described by the independent auditor as "equating to 28% of gross expenditure which is within generally accepted parameters".

## **Conclusions**

The Council has managed some very large projects during 2024/25 and successfully delivered these within its overall budget. It remains in a healthy financial position and provides good service levels with a council tax level lower than most comparable towns in Cornwall.

Members are asked to approve the draft accounting statements and the transfers to and from reserves set out in this report.

DAVID POOLEY
TOWN CLERK

## **Profit and Loss**

## St Austell Town Council For the year ended 31 March 2025

	2025	202
urnover		
Car Park Income	265,359.97	245,954.23
Interest Income	52,082.18	35,799.93
Library Income	6,078.67	5,767.2
Other Grants and Contributions	208,403.50	125,114.2
Other Income	7,447.75	4,131.83
Precept Payments	1,177,920.00	1,067,220.00
Public Convenience Charges	2,372.29	2,318.93
Rent Received	10,360.00	10,410.00
Transfers from Reserves	10,998.14	136,960.5
Total Turnover	1,741,022.50	1,633,676.84
Gross Profit	1,741,022.50	1,633,676.8
Administrative Costs		
Books and Publications	119.05	(10.00
Cleaning & Domestic Supplies	20,321,58	19,192.99
Contract Hire and Operating Leases	854.69	613.4
Contract Payments	150,909.43	158,546.4
Election Expenses	_	11,651.6
Electricity	16,496.94	16,303.03
Fuel	11,238.17	10,014.5
Gas	5,155.94	8,390.5
Grounds Maintenance Supplies	27,135.00	20,656.2
Insurances	11,519.11	10,745.0
IT / Communications	26,426.43	22,513.89
Mayors Allowances		91.8
Miscellaneous Expenses	172,471.60	128,184.5
Miscellaneous Grants	68,061.91	65,913.50
Office Supplies	4,499.62	10,020.8
Other Transport/plant expenses	27,540.94	2,892.1
Play Equipment	55,281.46	216,500.1
Printing and Stationery	3,063.20	2,674.5
Protective Clothing	2,594.35	2,375.4
Publicity	585.65	812.00
Rates	42,179.62	35,925.3
Recruitment	160.00	33.0
Rent / Room Hire	5,541.00	5,541.0
Repairs / Maintenance Premises	49,290.36	50,121.8
Repairs/ Maintenance-Vehicles/Plant	16,283.19	12,089.6
Road Fund / Taxes	1,350.00	1,290.0
Salaries / Wages	730,521.61	691,055.1

Profit and Loss St Austell Town Council 29 Apr 2025 Page 1 of 2

	2025	2024
	=	=
Small Grants Scheme	7,936.39	7,500.00
Subscriptions	8,055.32	8,076.97
Training	3,630.50	2,927.88
Transfer to Reserves	225,574,54	92,001.64
Transport Insurance	4,529.96	3,089.20
Travel and Subsistence	926.99	546.54
Water	2,092.73	2,370.34
Total Administrative Costs	1,702,347.28	1,620,651.57
Operating Profit	38,675.22	13,025.27
Profit on Ordinary Activities Before Taxation	38,675.22	13,025.27
Profit after Taxation	38,675.22	13,025.27

Profit and Loss | St Austell Town Council | 29 Apr 2025 26 Page 2 of 2

## **Balance Sheet**

## St Austell Town Council As at 31 March 2025

	31 MAR 2025	31 MAR 2024
Fixed Assets		
Tangible Assets		
Ceremonial Assets	101,505.71	99,505.71
Land and Buildings	448,801.41	398,317.41
Long Term Investment	10,000.00	10,000.00
Office Equipment	24,520.49	22,033.01
Street Furniture inc Notice Boards	131,424.10	129,871 60
Vehicles, Plant & Machinery	140,354.44	124,289.49
Total Tangible Assets	856,606.15	784,017.22
Total Fixed Assets	856,606.15	784,017.22
Current Assets		
Cash at bank and in hand		
Library Cash Account	100.00	100.00
Mayors Charity Account	2,406.92	282.00
NW Business Reserve Account	94,220.39	21,106.49
NW Current Account	18,186.86	113,649.32
Petty Cash Account	81.18	7.86
Total Cash at bank and in hand	114,995.35	135,145.67
Accounts Receivable	4,236.00	3,916.60
Debtors and Prepayments	55,325.54	21,557.01
Short Term Investments	995,260.48	770,083.30
Total Current Assets	1,169,817.37	930,702.58
Creditors: amounts falling due within one year		
Accounts Payable	13,126.49	33,175.30
Accruals	12,636.71	9,556.40
St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	6,395.68	2,528.12
VAT	(23,694.52)	(22,658.63)
Total Creditors: amounts falling due within one year	8,464.36	22,601.19
Net Current Assets (Liabilities)	1,161,353.01	908,101.39
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	2,017,959.16	1,692,118.61
Net Assets	2,017,959.16	1,692,118.61
Capital and Reserves		
Asset Revaluation Reserve	96,652.00	96,652.00
Capital Financing Reserve	759,954.15	687,365.22
Current Year Earnings	38,675.22	13,025.27
Earmarked Reserves	743,025.18	528,448.78
General Reserve	379,652.61	366,627.34
Total Capital and Reserves	2,017,959.16	1,692,118.61

Balance Sheet St Austell Town Council 29 Apr 2025 Page 1 of 1

## Section 2 – Accounting Statements 2024/25 for

#### ENTER NAME OF AUTHORITY

	Year ending		Notes and guidance		
	31 March 2024 £	31 March 2025 £	Please round all figures to nearest £1. Do not leave any boxes blank and report £0 or Nil balances. All figures must agree to underlying financial records.		
Balances brought forward	940,035	908,101	Total balances and reserves at the beginning of the year as recorded in the financial records. Value must agree to Box 7 of previous year.		
2. (+) Precept or Rates and Levies	1,067,220	1,177,920	Total amount of precept (or for IDBs rates and levies) received or receivable in the year. Exclude any grants received.		
3. (+) Total other receipts	429,496	552,104	Total income or receipts as recorded in the cashbook less the precept or rates/levies received (line 2). Include any grants received.		
4. (-) Staff costs	691,055	730521	Total expenditure or payments made to and on behalf of all employees. Include gross salaries and wages, employers NI contributions, employers pension contributions, gratuities and severance payments.		
5. (-) Loan interest/capital repayments	0	0	Total expenditure or payments of capital and interest made during the year on the authority's borrowings (if any).		
6. (-) All other payments	837,595	746,251	Total expenditure or payments as recorded in the cash- book less staff costs (line 4) and loan interest/capital repayments (line 5).		
7. (=) Balances carried forward	908,101	1161353	Total balances and reserves at the end of the year. Must equal (1+2+3) - (4+5+6).		
8. Total value of cash and short term investments	905,229	1,110,256	The sum of all current and deposit bank accounts, cash holdings and short term investments held as at 31 March — To agree with bank reconciliation.		
9. Total fixed assets plus long term investments and assets	784,017	856,606	The value of all the property the authority owns – it is made up of all its fixed assets and long term investments as at 31 March.		
10. Total borrowings	0	0	The outstanding capital balance as at 31 March of all loans from third parties (including PWLB).		

For Local Councils Only	Yes	No	N/A	
11a. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	V			The Council, as a body corporate, acts as sole trustee and is responsible for managing Trust funds or assets.
11b. Disclosure note re Trust funds (including charitable)	~			The figures in the accounting statements above exclude any Trust transactions.

I certify that for the year ended 31 March 2025 the Accounting Statements in this Annual Governance and Accountability Return have been prepared on either a receipts and payments or income and expenditure basis following the guidance in Governance and Accountability for Smaller Authorities – a Practitioners' Guide to Proper Practices and present fairly the financial position of this authority.

Signed by Responsible Financial Officer before being presented to the authority for approval

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

Date

DD/MM/YYYY

I confirm that these Accounting Statements were approved by this authority on this date:

DD/MM/YYYY

as recorded in minute reference:

MINUTE REFERENCE

Signed by Chair of the meeting where the Accounting Statements were approved

SIGNATURE REQUIRED

....

Page 5 of 6

**AGENDA NO: 17** 

# ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COUNCIL MEETING – 12<sup>th</sup> MAY 2025 SCHEDULE OF PAYMENTS 8<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 to 30<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To approve a schedule of payments made since the last meeting. +9

#### 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**

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 £330,786.32 and the transfers between bank accounts amounting to £517,376.40.

DAVID POOLEY - TOWN CLERK

PAYMENT SCHEDULE
St Austell Town Council
For the period 8 March 2025 to 30 April 2025

Part						
Basic Francisch Francisc	Transfer					
## 1995   Part   Particle	2707		NW Business Reserve Account to NW Current Account	de.	00.0	40,000.00
Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back Transfer from NVO Curred Account to STATELL 17 C. Cheld Card   Back	2002		NW Business Reserve Account to NW Current Account	BP	40,000.00	00:00
Part	5005		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	BP	2,000.00	00:00
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The content of the	6202		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	86	0.00	2,000.00
Transfer   Particle	2022		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	BP BP	00.00	2,000.00
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Part   Transfer Tra	2023		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	9	00.0	1,976.41
Part   County   Cou	2025		NW Business Reserve Account to NW Current Account	<b>a</b>	0.00	40,000.00
Part   Control Contr	2000		NW Business Reserve Account to NW Current Account	85	40,000.00	00:00
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Transfer	2023		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	86	0.00	2,000.00
Transfer	2025		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	86	2,000.00	00:0
Transfer   Particle	6202		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	BP	2,000.00	0:00
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Part	2025		NW Current Account to Mayors Charity Account	8P	389.98	00'0
Bank Transfer from WC Current Account to St AUSTELL TO Credit Card EPP 3,000 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	2025		NW Business Reserve Account to NW Current Account	98	000	20 000 00
Part   Transfer from MV Current Account to St. MSTELL TC Credit Card EBP 2,000 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20 20	2025		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	88	3 000 00	000
Part	2025		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	0	000	30000
Part	2025		NW Current Account to St All STELL TC - Credit Card		0000	00.000
Transfer	2025		NIM Current Accounts to Ct. AlloTELL TO Condit Cond		2,000.00	000
Particle   Debt	2025		The College Account to G. Nool Etc. 10 - Cledit Cald	L 0	2,000.00	0.00
Transfer	2025		NAY CUITERIL ACCOUNT TO SCAUSIELL IC - Credit Card	48	0.00	2,000.00
Participation 3G UK Limited	2026		NW Current Account to St AUSTELL TC - Credit Card	d B	0.00	2,000.00
Part   Transfer	5005		NW Current Account to NW Business Reserve Account	98	400,000.00	00:0
Symbol         Franklison 3C UK Limited         Hutchison 3C UK Limited         Hutchison 3C UK Limited         Hutchison 3C UK Limited         Avoidage (UK) Ltd         Avoidage (UK)	CZOZ		NW Current Account to NW Business Reserve Account	9P	0.00	400,000.00
Pythogon of Control Engine Debti Putchison 3G UK Limited         Hutchison 3G UK Limited         Hutchison 3G UK Limited         Hutchison 3G UK Limited         On Control	ank Transfer				517,376.40	517,376.40
Direct Debti	e Payment					
Direct Debit   Worldpay (UK) Ltd   Payment: Alista Business Solutions   Payment: Engle Power Limited   Payment: Cornwall Council   Payment: Engle Power Limited   Payment: Engle Power Corle Co		Hutchison 3G UK Limited	Hutchison 3G UK Limited		00.0	28 38 Poltair Park
Direct Debit   Wordgay (UK) Ltd		Worldpay (UK) Ltd	Worldpay (UK) Ltd		000	1.42 General Administration
Direct Debit		Worldpay (UK) Ltd	Worldpay (UK) Ltd		000	1 24 General Administration
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## ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS - May 2025 to May 2026

	Day	Time	Meeting	Location
1st May 2025	Thursday		Elections	
5th May 2025	Monday		Bank Holiday	
12th May 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Annual Town Council Meeting	Registrars Office
13th May 2025	Tuesday	6.00pm	Annual Parish Meeting	Registrars Office
19th May 2025 26th May 2025	Monday Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee Bank Holiday	Registrars Office
2nd June 2025	Monday	6.00pm		Depletors Office
9th June 2025	Monday	о.оори	Community Committee	Registrars Office
16th June 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	Registrars Office
18th June 2025	Wednesday	6.30pm	Mayor Making Ceremony	Holy Trinity Church
23rd June 2025 30th June 2025	Monday Monday	6.00pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Stable Block
7th July 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Climate and Environment Committee	TBC
14th July 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
21st July 2025 28th July 2025	Monday Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
	1			
4th August 2025 11th August 2025	Monday Monday			
18th August 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
25th August 2025	Monday		Bank Holiday	
1st September 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
8th September 2025 15th September 2025	Monday Monday	6.00pm	Community Committee	TBC
22nd September 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
29th September 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Stable Block
6th October 2025	Monday			
13th October 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
20th October 2025 27th October 2025	Monday Monday	6.00pm 6.00pm	Climate & Environment Committee	TBC TBC
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3rd November 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Stable Block
10th November 2025 17th November 2025	Monday Monday			
24th November 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Community Committee	TBC
1st December 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
8th December 2025	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
15th December 2025	Monday			
22nd December 2025	Monday			
25th December 2025	Thursday		Christmas Day	
26th December 2025 29th December 2025	Friday Monday		Boxing Day	
1st January 2026	Thursday		Nov. Year's Day	
5th January 2026	Monday	6.00pm	New Year's Day Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
12th January 2026	Monday	0.000	. Idining a riogalicitation committee	100
19th January 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Climate & Environment Committee	TBC
26th January 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
2nd February 2026 9th February 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
16th February 2026	Monday Monday	6.00pm	Finance and General Purposes Committee	Stable Block
23rd February 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Community Committee	TBC
2nd March 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
9th March 2026	Monday			
16th March 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Council	TBC
23rd March 2026 30th March 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Community Committee	TBC
SOUTH MATCH 2020	Monday			
3rd April 2026	Friday		Good Friday	
6th April 2026	Monday	6.00	Easter Monday	TD0
7th April 2026 13th April 2026	Tuesday Monday	6.00pm 6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC Stable Block
27th April 2026	Monday	о.оорт	Finance and General Purposes Committee Annual Parish Meeting	Stable Block TBC
4th May 2026	Monday		Bank Holiday	
11th May 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Annual Town Council Meeting	TBC
18th May 2026	Monday	6.00pm	Planning & Regeneration Committee	TBC
25th May 2026	Monday		Bank Holiday	

Excludes: Extraordinary Meetings and Working Groups

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Fox, Kimber, Pearce, Preece, Pears, Stephens and Thompson.

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Hamilton

#### CC/24/51) Apologies for absence

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

#### CC/24/52) Declarations of Interest

None.

#### CC/24/53) Dispensations

None.

#### CC/24/54) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th February 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

#### CC/24/55) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that the grants to the St Austell Sea Cadets and Merlin Neuro Therapy Centre have been approved and will be paid when confirmation is received that the projects are ready to go ahead.

The Chair advised that the Salutem Care and Education presenters were running late and that he would like to bring Agenda Item 9 forward after public participation.

#### CC/24/56) Public participation

Mr Keast thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for attending the Festival of Music and Speech/final concert and the Town Council for their financial support. Mr Keast advised that, along with professional soloists, the St Austell Choral Society is due to perform Handel's Messiah on Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and will be of a quality only usually seen in larger towns. He added that most professional performances require grant funding and hoped that the Town Council would look favourably upon the application.

#### CC/24/57) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Choral Society Concert - 17th May 2025

Members thanked Mr Keast for his grant application and expressed their unanimous support for St Austell Choral Society.

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It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the St Austell Choral Society for their concert at St Johns Methodist Church on the 17<sup>th</sup> May 2025.

#### WILD Young Parents

Members expressed their support for the Soft Play Fun Day proposed by WILD Young Parents.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to WILD Young Parents for their Soft Play Fun Day at St Austell Leisure Centre.

#### CC/24/58) Meadows Pump Truck

The Clerk advised that a bid has been submitted to Cornwall Council's Community Levelling Up Programme for funding in the sum of £86,000 with a contribution of £10,000 from the Town Council. During discussions, Members expressed a preference for the pump track that allows better accessibility and has a more aesthetically pleasing layout.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the designs and, if approved, consult Young People Cornwall before agreeing a final design.

#### CC/24/59) Leanne Bovey, Regional Director - Salutem Care and Education

\*\*The Chair welcomed Leanne Bovey and Jasmine Sutherland to the meeting\*\*

Ms Bovey and Ms Sutherland advised that Salutem has recently moved from Polgooth to their new premises on Priory Road (previously Cornwall Council Audiology Unit) and provides specialist services for adults with complex needs.

Ms Sutherland advised that their enabling service helps people to live independently within their communities and can help with shopping trips, social activities, education, community engagement and transport. In addition, the team can assist with housework and provide companionship. At the present time, 35 individuals are being helped at Priory Road. Referrals to the service are mainly through Cornwall Council, but direct referrals from the customer can be made.

Members thanked Leanne and Jasmine for their very interesting presentation.

#### CC/24/60) CCTV

Members noted the CCTV statistics for January 2024 to December 2024 and January 2025 to February 2025.

During discussion, Members queried the spike in incidents in September 2024 and January 2025 and the increase in incidents in January 2025 compared to January 2024. The Deputy Town Clerk **AGREED** to ask for clarification from the CCTV Manager.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the CCTV statistics for January 2024 to December 2024 and January 2025 to February 2025.

#### CC/24/61) Schedule of Events

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the organisation of events is going well and that the Community Projects Officer is currently concentrating on the Easter event due to take place in Poltair Park on Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

Other events scheduled to take place are:

- VE Day Reflection Library 8<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Climate Awareness Event Library 30<sup>th</sup> May 2025
- Community Plant Swap Library 29<sup>th</sup> June 2025
- After school games events in the parks (if funding bid is successful)
- Community Picnic in Bethel Park July (date to be determined)
- Fun Day/VJ Event, Town Centre 14th August 2025
- Christmas activities at the Market House (to be determined)

#### CC/24/62) Projects Update

#### Shared Prosperity Fund (Round 1)

The roof top garden feasibility study has been finalised and shared with the Town Council and Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership.

#### Town Vitality Fund

The banner is due to be erected after the Easter holidays and the Church Piazza ground work should commence week commencing 28<sup>th</sup> April. The student accommodation feasibility work for High Cross Street is almost complete. The finalised report is expected to conclude that the number of students looking for accommodation in St Austell is not as high as first anticipated. The highways work looking at improvements to the traffic flows around the church and Fore Street is almost complete with a report due by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

#### Community Capacity Fund

The Duke Street consultation has taken place. Comments received include:

- The need to keep the road wide enough to allow deliveries through
- Low level planting so that the shops are not obscured
- The potential for 20 minute parking spaces to be created to allow people to make a quick visit to the town centre

These comments are being reviewed by Mei Loci.

#### Shared Prosperity Fund (Round 2)

#### Community Capacity Fund

A bid has been submitted for a trailer and large garden games for use by schools and Town Council/BID events. Outcome awaited.

#### Community Levelling Up Programme

A bid has been submitted for a pump track at The Meadows. Lots of community support has been received for the project. The Town Council has approved £10,000 by way of match funding should the grant be approved.

#### CCTV

The CCTV monitoring will revert to summer monitoring hours in April. Five cameras are on order for installation at Biddicks Court Steps, McDonalds roundabout, Cross Street, top of Victoria Place and South Street.

#### Young People Cornwall (YPC)

The YPC steering group meet quarterly and has Town Council representation on it. The organisation is extremely busy, particularly as Cornwall Council has cut their contract with Action 4 Children.

#### Car Park

The car park income remains better than budget and a further section of resurfacing has been carried out. Re-lining is due to commence after Easter. This work is being done on a phased basis so that the car park can remain open. The contactless payment system is working well and the season tickets are steady with a number of regular users. Cornwall Council is in discussions with St Johns Methodist Church regarding the creation of an access from the short stay car park to St Johns.

No response has been received from Cornwall Council regarding the future operation of Clifden Road Car Park.

#### Anti-social behaviour

The hotspot funding for the security guards expires at 31<sup>st</sup> March. It is hoped that the Police second homes council tax income will fund further hours. The security guards are keeping an eye on a few new faces around the town and assisting where they can with shop lifting which remains an issue. The guards are now CSAS trained.

#### Grounds Staff

The winter maintenance across the town is almost complete and the summer grass cutting has commenced. All the rural footpaths have been cut.

Landrew Road and The Meadows have both received new playing ground equipment utilising CIL Funding. The paths in the parks have been edged and a further 2,500 bulbs have been planted across the parish. The centre of Asda roundabout has been re-planted and a flower tower installed at Porthpean Road roundabout. A selection of summer bedding plants are being grown on in the polytunnel.

#### Public conveniences

The Town Council has approved the refurbishment of the changing places toilet at Priory Car Park which will include a new hoist to replace the existing one which is beyond economic repair.

Arising from questions, the Clerk confirmed that the oak tree stump in cemetery park will remain in situ as a wildlife habitat and that he would speak to the Operations Manager about the potential for more daffodils on Southbourne Road.

Members congratulated the grounds staff on the beautiful flower displays across the town.

### CC/24/63) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday  $2^{\text{nd}}$  June 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.

MINUTES of a MEETING of the FINANCE AND GENERAL PURPOSES COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 7<sup>th</sup> APRIL 2025 in The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, French, Lanxon and Pearce.

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

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Thompson.

#### F/24/62) Apologies for absence

Apologies of absence were received from Councillors Clemo and Young

#### F/24/63) Declarations of Interest

None.

#### F/24/64) Dispensations

None.

#### F/24/65) Minutes of meeting held on 17th February 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 17<sup>th</sup> February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

\*\*Councillor Brown arrived during this item\*\*

#### F/24/66) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that with regard to Risk Management (F/24/56), Martyn's Law has been enacted and all Risk Assessments, where relevant, will reflect the requirements under this legislation.

With regard to F/24/60 (General Wolfe Building), the Clerk advised that no further update has been received from Cornwall Council.

#### F/24/67) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

### F/24/68) Budget Monitoring Report

The Clerk explained the variances as at 28th February 2025 as follows:

- Car Park income more income than anticipated
- Interest income higher interest rates and balances
- Other grants and contributions Shared Prosperity Fund and Town Vitality Fund grants
- Contract payments small saving anticipated.
- **Grounds maintenance supplies** increased cost of planting and winter maintenance.

- Miscellaneous expenses Town centre projects
- Other transport/plant expenses new mower/brushcutters.
- Play equipment Projects in progress
- Rates successful appeal against rateable value of Priory car park
- Repairs/Maintenance Vehicles/Plant increased cost of repairs due to age of vehicles
- Salaries and Wages reduced staff costs/vacancies

The Clerk added that the Town Council is in a good financial position and expected a surplus at the year end.

During discussion, it was noted that election costs will be less than budget due to only one Ward being contested and a view was expressed that the surplus from this budget could be expended on a community project. The Clerk suggested that the expected surplus at the year-end could also be put towards a project if Members wished.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should produce a report for the next Finance and General Purposes Committee, in consultation with the Mayor and Deputy Mayor, outlining the anticipated surplus funds and the options available for bringing forward a community project.

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

#### F/24/69 Asset Register

The Clerk outlined the items added to and deleted from the Asset Register and arising from questions, explained the valuation criteria for assets within the register.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Reconciliation of Assets and Asset Register as at 31st March 2025.

#### F/24/70) Treasury Management Strategy

The Clerk outlined the Treasury Management Strategy and highlighted the amendment within paragraph 2.5 "Liquidity of Investments". The Clerk explained the Town Council's current investments and advised that he is in discussions with NatWest about additional investment opportunities.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the report and approve the Treasury Management Strategy for a further 12 months.

#### F/24/71) Insurance Claim

The Clerk outlined the circumstances of an insurance claim in the sum of £2,762 and that, apart from a small excess in the sum of £100, the full cost of the claim should be received. Final approval from the insurers is awaited. The Clerk reassured Members that security has been increased at the Town Council's offices to prevent, as far as possible, another incident of this nature.

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

#### F/24/72) Community Capacity Fund

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has approved the grant application to the Good Growth Fund in the sum of £6,500 for a trailer and large garden games. The grant application was submitted to the 2025/26 budget round, but due to a surplus, Cornwall Council has approved the grant against the 2024/25 budget. A condition of the grant is to show the spend before  $31^{st}$  March 2025.

The Clerk advised that due to the very short timescales given to fulfil the grant obligations (3 working days), he agreed to the offer from Cornwall Council under delegated procedures and fulfilled the grant conditions by purchasing the equipment before 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

It was **RESOLVED** to endorse the action taken by the Town Clerk.

#### F/24/73) St Austell Library

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the following:

- The re-configured Library Help Desk
- Two retirements and the resultant two vacant positions
- The disconnection of the Customer Service telephone line
- The excellent performance figures for March
- SALSA. VE Day, VJ Day and 65<sup>th</sup> Birthday Events.

Arising from the above, Members expressed their gratitude that the Town Council election packs could be picked up from the Library and suggested that Cornwall Council should be asked to make this the default venue for picking up Town Council election packs in the future.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to Cornwall Council to request that the library is the default venue for prospective Town Councillors to pick up an election pack.

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

Before the meeting closed, Councillor Brown expressed his gratitude on behalf of the Town Council to Councillor French, Chair of the Committee, who is standing down at the election. He highlighted his diplomacy and tact as a particular strength and that he would be missed in the Council Chamber.

Councillor French advised that he had been a Town Councillor for 16 years and thanked Councillor Brown for his kind words.

#### F/24/74) Dates of next meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Finance and General Purposes Committee is due to take place on 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.02pm.

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL PLANNING AND REGENERATION COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 14th APRIL 2025 in The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

**Present:** Councillors: Brown, Cohen, Fox, Hamilton, Kimber, Lanxon, Preece, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

#### P/24/155) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull and Double.

#### P/24/156) Declarations of Interest

None.

#### P/24/157) Dispensations

None.

#### P/24/158) Minutes from the Meeting dated 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

\*\*Councillor Lanxon arrived during the next item\*\*

#### P/24/159) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that the Menear Road, Solar Farm planning application is due to be considered by Cornwall Council's Strategic Planning Committee on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

During discussion, Members expressed a view that the Town Council should support Treverbyn and Carlyon Parish Councils and speak against the application at that meeting. Councillor Kimber volunteered to attend the meeting.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Kimber should be registered to attend the Strategic Planning Committee Meeting on Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2025 and speak against Planning Application Number: PA23/09532 (Land off Menear Road, North of St Austell).

The Clerk advised that the application for funding for a Pump Track at The Meadows is progressing through Cornwall Council's approval processes and has received a favourable response from the approvals team so far.

The Clerk advised that the meeting with the neighbouring Parish Councils to discuss the "call for sites" consultation was well received and suggested that this could be a model for future consultation.

Councillor Brown thanked the Members who were able to attend the meetings.

Councillor Thompson expressed concern with regard to the closure of the A391 during May and the severe congestion it will create on the surrounding roads. He advised that the public are generally not aware what "clearway" means and expressed concern that Clifden Road has not been included in the clearway. He advised that the social club has not been approached for its car park to be available for displaced resident parking and that Carclaze School children have not been given additional protection to help them cross what will be an extremely busy road. Councillor Thompson urged all Councillors to make their thoughts known to Cornwall Council.

#### P/24/160) Public participation

There were no members of the public present.

#### P/24/161) Planning Applications

i. PA24/09728: Highfield Avenue Open Space East Highfield Avenue St Austell Cornwall. Installation of new air quality monitoring station. Ward: Central & Gover. PA25/00402: 45 Trevarthian Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4BT. Proposed loft conversion and alterations.

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

ii. **PA25/00402:** 45 Trevarthian Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4BT. Proposed loft conversion and alterations.

Members expressed concern with regard to potential overlooking issues and felt that the proposed garage should be separate from the boundary wall.

It was **RESOLVED** to make no objection to this application subject to the proposed garage being separate from the boundary wall and the Planning Officer being satisfied that there are no overlooking issues.

iii. **PA25/01471:** The Home Farm Trust Limited Trelowen 1 Blowing House Lane St Austell. Works to Trees within a Conservation Area (TCA) - Site - Sever ivy on larger tree specimens to allow it to die off. G001 - remove and replant with a suitable hedgerow species. T001 - Ash - remove.

The Clerk advised that the Planning Officer has approved this application.

iv. **PA25/01485:** Land North Of 92 Bodmin Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 5AG. New self-build and custom build dwelling with associated works.

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

v. **PA25/01527:** 10 Church Street St Austell Cornwall PL25 4AS. Replacement of 8 existing timber windows with Heritage style UPVC windows.

Members expressed mixed views with regard to the use of UPVC windows on a heritage building.

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

vi. **PA25/01531:** 1 Clinton Drive St Austell Cornwall PL25 5JT. Demolition of existing attached utility room and garage and erection of two storey side extension, front porch and changes to windows on rear fenestration.

Members expressed concern that the proposal is out of keeping with the street scene and there would be a potential for over-shadowing on the neighbouring properties.

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

- Not in keeping with the street scene
- Mass and density of the proposal
- The potential for over-shadowing
- vii. **PA25/01629:** 41 Slades Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 4HA. Loft conversion to create an extra bedroom space.

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

viii. **PA25/01951:** 1 Bownder Vean St Austell Cornwall PL25 3DB. Proposed single storey side extension to 1 Bownder Vean. They require the property to have more space for their children and to have space for the applicant to work from home when needed.

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

ix. **PA25/02216:** 1 North Hill Park St Austell Cornwall PL25 4BJ. Construction of a two storey extension, alteration and improvements, formation of annex and removal of small extensions, roof lantern and chimneys.

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

#### P/24/162) Premises Licence Applications

None

#### P/24/163) Planning Decisions

The Clerk advised that due to concerns from the Heritage Officer, St John's Methodist Church has withdrawn its application for an access walkway and ramp from Priory Car Park. It is expected to submit a scaled back application in due course that will hopefully meet the approval of the Heritage Officer.

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

#### P/24/164) Cornwall Council – Urgent Delegated Planning Decisions

PA25/00646 - Pentreva Bungalow, The Blantyre Centre - 5 day local council protocol

The Clerk advised that in line with 5-day protocol procedures, he had, in consultation with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Committee agreed with the Planning Officer's recommendation for approval of the application but have

requested that the Highways Officer be asked to consider imposing a "no right turn" at the exit from the site due to health and safety concerns.

#### P/24/165) Local Plan

The Clerk advised that the Town Council's response to the "Call for Sites" consultation has been submitted and acknowledged by Cornwall Council. No further update has been received.

Councillor Brown referred to a recent meeting of the Cornwall Council Growth Board and expressed concern with regard to the lack of detail surrounding the decisions made at the meeting. Councillor Brown highlighted the following that had emerged from the meeting:

- Further iterations of the call for sites could be undertaken;
- Core Stakeholders will be updated on developments.

Councillor Brown also suggested that the Town Council should write to Cornwall Council and CALC to request that all interested parties are consulted before alternative strategies are placed before the Growth Board and that it would be helpful if CALC could arrange for a Planning Officer to speak regularly to local Councils.

Arising from a question, the Town Clerk confirmed that the Town Council submitted comments on the Interim Policy Position Statement.

A view was expressed that the public are generally unaware of the importance of the local plan and that this should be addressed. Members agreed that the meetings with the neighbouring Parish Councils on the Call for Sites consultation was very useful.

#### P/24/166) St Austell Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership

#### Poundland Banners

The banners are still on target to be erected at the end of April with work being carried out early in the morning/late evening to minimise disruption to shop keepers and shoppers.

#### Church Piazza

The permissions are in place and the work is due to commence at the end of April and Cornwall Council's archaeology unit have been engaged to oversee the digging works. It is hoped that the project will be completed in time for the Fun Day on the 14<sup>th</sup> August 2025.

#### High Cross Street

The work carried out to date indicates that student accommodation on the High Cross Street site is not viable. A final piece of work is being undertaken to see if other forms of housing could be accommodated on the site.

4 54

#### **Highways**

A final report has been received from Cornwall Council's Highways Officer which indicates a lack of appetite for the reversal of traffic through Fore Street. The Clerk advised that he would bring the report to a meeting of the Town Council in due course for consideration.

#### General Wolfe

The latest information received is that Historic England has indicated that it would strongly object to a proposal to demolish the building. It is anticipated that discussions with Cornwall Council will re-commence after the Elections.

#### P/24/167) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings of the Planning and Regeneration Committee are Monday 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and Monday 16<sup>th</sup> June 2025.

Before closing the meeting, the Chair took the opportunity to thank the Deputy Chair and the Committee. He advised that the Planning and Regeneration Committee is a very busy committee and thanked everyone for their hard work over the last year. He added his thanks to the Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk for their assistance with the meetings and to the Finance and Administrative Assistant for administering the committee paperwork.

The Clerk added his gratitude to Councillors Fox and Styles for their contributions to the Committee as they are due to step down as Councillors at the May elections.

The meeting closed at 7.16pm.