

St Austell Town Council



Climate and Environment Committee

To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee
(Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Gray, Hamilton, Hawken, Kimber, Pearce, Stephens and Taylor).

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ** on **Monday 20th October 2025** at **6pm**.



David Pooley
Town Clerk

14th October 2025

Tel: 01726 829859
e-mail: david.pooley@staustell-tc.gov.uk
Website: www.staustell-tc.gov.uk

AGENDA

- 1. Election of Chair**
- 2. Election of Vice-Chair**
- 3. Apologies for absence**
- 4. Declarations of Interest**

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

5. Dispensations

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

6. 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.

7. Minutes of Meeting held on 20th January 2025

**Pages
1 - 2**

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

8. 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.

9. Climate Action Plan

**Pages
3 -14**

(Purpose: To review the updated Climate Action Plan). (Attached).

10. In Bloom

(Purpose: To consider supporting a community group "In Bloom" initiative).

11. Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

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

12. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose: To note the date of the next meeting – 19th January 2026).

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Hamilton, Lanxon, Preece, Stephens, Thompson and Young

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk) and Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

CE/24/24) Apologies for absence

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

CE/24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/24/26) Dispensations

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

CE/24/27) Public Participation

No matters were discussed under this heading.

CE/24/28) Minutes of Meeting held on 21st October 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/24/29) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that further to minute CE/24/21 some issues had been identified over the Christmas holiday period with large quantities of dog faeces being deposited in Town Council bins possibly by commercial dog walkers. He explained that such businesses should have commercial waste contracts and warnings would be given to any offenders identified.

CE/24/30) Smoke Free Parks

The Chair welcomed Katie Waddington and Sue Collins-Snell, Cornwall Council (Health Cornwall) Health Improvement Practitioners, to the meeting. They advised of a no smoking initiative in parks which they were championing and asked Members to consider making Poltair Park play areas no smoking areas. Members supported this idea and asked if Truro Road Park and Bethel Park could be treated similarly.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should agree appropriate signage and launch details for Poltair Park and, if possible, Truro Road and Bethel parks.

CE/24/31) Weed Spraying

The Chair welcomed Claire Briault and Chris McClaren to the meeting. Claire explained her concerns about the use of glyphosate based weed spray and the risk of harm to people and wildlife including in particular bees. She referred Members to the

publication Silent Earth by Dave Goulson and Corserv's Nature Recovery Strategy and stressed the need to protect and enhance biodiversity. She acknowledged that agriculture uses large quantities of glyphosate and that Corserv is still a significant user of chemicals. She expressed a view that there was no need to use chemicals or control weeds.

The Town Clerk explained the range of measures being taken by the Town Council to increase biodiversity and provide wildlife habitats, the small quantities of herbicide used and the lack of viable alternatives currently available. Members expressed a desire to control weeds on kerbsides and surfaced paths but agreed that it would be desirable to reduce the use of glyphosate based herbicides if possible while controlling weeds.

Members thanked Claire for her presentation.

CE/24/32) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

The Chair advised that CASA planned to undertake litter picks as follows:

- 9.30am Saturday 25th January at Prince Charles Park
- 9.30am Saturday 22nd February at Linear Park

CE/24/33) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 7th July 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.

St Austell Town Council



Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2026

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager Finance and General Purposes Committee	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract. Working well.	Yes.
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	Sept 2025	Renewable energy purchased for Priory toilets and town centre electric point.	Closely monitoring

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager Council	Ongoing	651 trees planted since 2017. All trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. Around 60 trees are being brought on at the Town Council's nursery.	Ongoing
Installation of a polytunnel to allow the re-cycling of plants and growing on of trees/shrubs and creation of a tree nursery.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Polytunnel well used since 2022 for the growing on of plants and trees. 750 plants have this year been grown from seed or plugs in the polytunnel and the nursery is currently housing around 60 young trees to be brought on for planting when they are mature enough.	Fully operational.
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete
Replacement of internal lights in the Committee Room at the Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager Community Committee	November 2021		Complete
Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2021		Complete

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	February 2021	Existing grant criteria reviewed to encourage climate emergency projects.	Complete.
Review horticulture service/employ a horticultural apprentice dependent on workloads.	Town Clerk/Deputy Town Clerk/ Operations Manager Council	February 2021/ ongoing	New apprentice started April 2024 and qualified in July 2025 .	Complete
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Spring 2021/ ongoing	Method is not suitable for all areas across the town and is powered by diesel. Machinery and service proved unreliable.	Trial complete.
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager Community Committee	March 2021/ ongoing	The Meadows and Cemetery Park schemes were completed and the Town Council have taken on maintenance responsibility for both sites.	Complete and waiting for future opportunities

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager Community Committee	March 2021/ ongoing	Signed off by Council 22.03.21. Review due.	Complete
Develop Environmental Policy based on good practice identified by Cornwall Council.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	April 2021/ ongoing	Reviewed and approved July 2024	Complete
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	May 2022/ ongoing	Poltair Park entered into the 2023 Pride in Park competition part of which is judged on sustainability. 3 Stars achieved. Truro Road Park entered in 2024.	Truro Road Park achieved a Silver Gilt award
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2022	Community Groups provided opportunity to enter IYN competition 2023. Library entered 2024 and 2025.	Community Groups encouraged to enter.
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	May 2022/ ongoing	Poltair Park café actively re-cycling and in contract with BIFFA.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	July 2022	BID have stopped entering due to resource issues.	
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk Council	December 2021	Cornwall Council and housing associations have taken advantage of funding opportunities.	
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager Council	31 st October 2022	Major improvement scheme completed and further planting to be undertaken Spring 2024.	Wildflower area created at Bethel Park in Spring 2024 and expanded in summer 2025
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Town Council has lobbied for improvements to the scheduling of buses. Timetables reviewed regularly.	
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	Due to the costs involved, ecolabel paper rather than recycled paper is procured for most uses at the present time.	

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	-	Woods sold to a private individual.	Complete
Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	Ongoing	Town Council street lights being replaced with LED's on a phased basis. Comprehensive replacement cost prohibitive.	
Community Engagement	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Ongoing	TC worked closely with CASA. Garden festival and green festival supported. Rotary Club carrying out planting and litter picks across various sites TC supported the CASA climate event at St Johns Church in September 2025	
Liaise with St Austell BID with regard to the efficiency of the Town Centre Christmas lights.	Deputy Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	December 2022/ongoing	All Christmas lights are LED and were replaced in 2023.	Complete
Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	Spring 2022/ongoing	Orchard Car Park identified as a potential site to create formal composting bays. Town Council's future at the Stable Block uncertain due to	

				re-development of the Penwinnick Road site.	Discussions commenced with Treveth
Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete	Complete
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk Climate & Environment Committee	December 2021/ongoing	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project. Still to be progressed.		
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager Climate & Environment Committee	February 2022/ongoing	EV charging points installed and operational.	Complete	
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2022	Funding bid submitted to Cornwall Council for the creation of a pump track at The Meadows.	Funding awarded and construction started in early October 2025	
In order to reduce the need for cash collection, explore the installation of a contactless payment system on at least one of the car park payment machines in Priory Car Park.	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	April 2022/ongoing	Contactless payment systems installed February 2024. Cash payments reduced but still important to the operation of the car park.	Complete	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	May 2025	Priority Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Will review resource implications at next budget round.	Principle approved by Council.
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	A further climate awareness event in the library is being planned for Spring 2025.	Event took place at the Library On 30.05.25
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at: Penwinnick Road, Daniels Lane, The Meadows and Trenowah Road. The Meadows wildflower areas refreshed October 2023.	Areas have been reseeded in spring 2024 and again in 2025
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	LCWIP completed. Rooftop Garden feasibility tested. Report received. Church piazza project incorporates sustainable planting. Due to be completed November 2025.	Awaiting update from CC on LCWIP projects. Report complete. Works commenced. Scheduled to complete end November 2025

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers Council	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers and contractors are used.	
Improvement of Multi Use Trails	All officers Council	Ongoing	Signage improved by Sustrans and Rotary Club in partnership with Town Council. Trail at Tremena Gardens improved. LCWIP completed.	Signage cleaned and painted again by the Rotary Club in September 2025
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library. Shrubs and plants recycled where possible. Wood from Poltair pavilion and Lostwood Garden recycled.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Provision of battery-operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Battery operated blower acquired and is successful. Another will be ordered in spring 2025	
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Grass cutting policy reviewed May 2024. Tree watering systems acquired to save water and watering.	9 large trees on order for planting in the parks during winter 2025
Engagement with young people to encourage environmental issues	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	Litter picks in Poltair Park and new litter bin purchased for the park on the recommendation of Young People Cornwall. YPC facilitating Summer Games in the Parks. Creation of a Youth Council being considered.	
Environmental activities with regard to Town Council maintained public rights of way	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Maintenance work being absorbed by the Council workforce to reduce travel and carbon emissions.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Creation of Truro Road Park – Friends Group	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Truro Road Friends Group resurrected and involved in improvement projects for the park. Recycling shrubs from Lostwood Garden to Truro Road.	Friends Group achieved a Silver Gilt award in the Pride in Parks competition in 2023
Landrew Road community garden	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Growing group of volunteers at the garden. Compost toilet created, covered area erected utilising re-claimed wood and regular composting at the site	
Planning & Regeneration Committee to look favourably on planning applications where it can be demonstrated that consideration has been given to the impact the proposal has on the environment and mitigating actions put in place.	Town Clerk Planning & Regeneration Committee	Ongoing	National policy changes introduced regarding biodiversity. Committee has raised environmental concerns and issues for a number of planning applications and will continue to do so.	
Purchase re-cycled material where possible	Steve Skinner Operations Manager	Ongoing	All new benches, tables and safety surfacing in parks are now made from recycled materials.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Explore efficient ways to provide assistance in terms of warmth, shelter and food for the disadvantaged.	Sara Gwilliams Deputy Town Clerk	Winter 2022/23	St Austell Library engaged with NHS and Volunteer Cornwall to support the Safe Space and Warm Space initiatives. Small Grants Scheme terms and conditions reviewed to permit revenue expenditure such as energy costs to funded for voluntary groups.	Complete
Repairing play equipment rather than buying new.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	Ongoing	Winter maintenance includes comprehensive repairs and servicing which should extend the life of play equipment. Local engineering company used to manufacture and repair some parts.	
Creation of bat shelter in Poltair Park.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	February 2024	Complete.	Complete
Identify a suitable space in Priory Car Park for electric bikes to be located.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	Spring 2023	Beryl Bikes rolled out in St Austell by Cornwall Council in April 2023. Space in Priory Car Park identified, and line removal/re-lining carried out to allow the bikes to be picked up/dropped off in that location.	Beryl Bikes withdrawn in Sept 2024 due to lack of use.