

St Austell Town Council

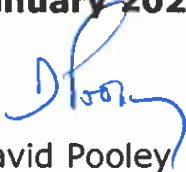


Climate and Environment Committee

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

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to attend a **Meeting** of the **Climate and Environment Committee** to be held at **The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD** on **Monday 22nd January 2024 at 6pm.**



David Pooley
Town Clerk

16th January 2024

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AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence

2. Declarations of Interest

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

3. Dispensations

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

4. Public participation (15 minutes maximum)

The Chair 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 Chair's discretion). Each person addressing the Council will be allocated a maximum of two minutes.

5. Minutes of Meeting held on 3rd July 2023

**Pages
1 - 4**

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

6. Matters to note

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

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

7. Ocean Housing

(Purpose: To receive a presentation from Ocean Housing on their energy efficiency improvement programme).

8. Geothermal Engineering Ltd

(Purpose: To receive an update from the Chair on the geothermal project at United Downs, St Day). (Verbal update)

9. Climate Emergency Work Plan

**Pages
5 to 18**

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

10. Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

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

11. Dates of Meetings

(Purpose: To note the dates of the next meetings – 1st July 2024)

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 3rd JULY 2023 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Double, Hamilton, Lanxon, Nott, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

CE/23/01) Election of Chair

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

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be elected Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2023/24 civic year.

CE/23/02) Election of Vice-Chair

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

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Lanxon be elected Vice-Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2023/24 civic year.

CE/23/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clemo, Cohen, George, Guest and Pearce and from Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

CE/23/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/23/05) Dispensations

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

CE/23/06) Public Participation

Mrs Earl thanked the Town Council for its work in connection with the climate change agenda and for all that it is doing for the town.

CE/23/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 24th October 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th October 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/23/08) Matters to note

The Town Clerk advised that further to minute CE/22/20 the fencing at the entrance of the Clay Trail at Tremena Gardens has been repaired to a good standard.

Further research into the electric vehicle sharing scheme (Minute number CE/22/22) has revealed that the Town Council would be required to underwrite the scheme to an unacceptably high level, so the project is not being progressed any further at the present time.

Cornwall Council has adopted an ethical investment policy for the pension fund (Minute number CE/22/23) and that the library event on the 3rd November 2022 was very successful and well supported (Minute number CE/22/25).

CE/23/09) Climate Emergency Work Plan

The Chair led members through the Climate Emergency Action Plan and officers provided updates and more information on many of the actions. It was noted that there were now over 100 trees being grown on in the Council's nursery. Members raised a number of points including:

- The quality of the Council's parks
- The need to campaign for more retrofit work on housing in St Austell
- The amount of maintenance required by wildflower meadows
- The advantages of tree planting over wildflower meadows
- The merits of measuring the Town Council's carbon footprint

Councillor Thompson asked for clarification of Cornwall Council's policy for grass cutting on land adjacent to highways. The Chair invited members to think about how climate change awareness could be raised.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(i) Note the updated workplan;

(ii) Ask the Town Clerk to write to Cornwall Council seeking clarification on:

- The highways grass cutting standards and policies adopted by Cornwall Council and;
- The retrofit schemes planned for St Austell.

CE/23/10) Cornwall Council - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Clerk advised that the LCWIP for St Austell is now complete and available on Cornwall Council's website. He explained that there is a need to identify the priorities and sources of funding within the plan to deliver some of the improvements identified, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring parishes.

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

CE/23/11) Cornwall Council - EV Charging Points in Priory Car Park

The Clerk advised that 4 fast and 1 rapid electric vehicle charging points have been installed in Priory Car Park and each will be capable of charging two cars. Work is progressing well, and it is hoped that they will go live shortly. The Clerk undertook to update Members as soon as he had an operational commencement date.

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

CE/23/12) Cornwall Council - Beryl Bikes

The Clerk advised that the Beryl bike scheme has settled down and appears to be operating reasonably well. He advised that he is pressing Cornwall Council for the bay at Sandy Hill junction to be moved slightly to protect the planter and for bike racks to be installed at key locations to prevent the blocking of pathways.

A proposal to ask for the bikes to be clearly numbered to allow reporting of misbehaviour was lost by 2 votes for and 3 against.

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

CE/23/13) St Austell Garden Festival

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had supported the BID's town centre garden festival on the 17th June 2023 and received very positive feedback about the floral displays around the town, the parks generally and the Bethel Park improvement project. He explained that a suggestions box was provided and circulated a summary of the suggestions received on the day.

Members noted that suggestion schemes usually identify negative issues and acknowledged that some of the matters raised were not within the remit of the Town Council but felt it important to debate the points made.

It was **RESOLVED** to refer the list of suggestions to the Community Committee for debate.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had occupied space near Cornwall Council's Townscape Heritage Scheme and the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor had each attended a guided walk around the town to see the excellent work organised by Andrew Richards.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should express the gratitude of the Committee to Andrew Richards for the excellent work undertaken throughout the Townscape Heritage Project.

CE/23/14) Linear Park – Environmental Events

The Clerk outlined two event permission requests for Linear Park. During discussion, concern was expressed that neither event appears to be providing toilet facilities. Overall, Members were supportive of the events proposed subject to suitable toilet facilities being available commensurate with the scale of the event.

CE/23/15) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

The Chair provided an update on the work of CASA who he said were very active meeting monthly at the Quaker House. They have their own bank account, own a gazebo, support events and give talks, undertake litter picks and publish a fortnightly article in the Voice.

A discussion regarding litter ensued and a proposition to erect more signs in parks was lost by 2 votes to 3.

The Chair advised that CASA proposed holding an awareness event in the Holy Trinity Church in October and that they are trying to devise a scheme for the distribution of wildflower seeds.

Mrs Earl encouraged Members to sign up to the GIKI Earth app and the Chair undertook to circulate a link to the system.

CE/23/16) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 23rd October 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm.

St Austell Town Council



Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 - 2024

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. Will monitor impact of new domestic waste arrangements.	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	Library and Poltair Park electrical supplies to be negotiated with renewable energy companies when the market stabilises.	Closely monitoring

Action	Responsible Officer/ Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Develop a tree planting programme to compliment the Forest for Cornwall	Operations Manager Council	Ongoing	637 trees planted since 2017. All trees planted are logged with Forest for Cornwall. Around 30 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.	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	2 apprentices employed with effect from February 2021. Further apprentice being recruited.	Ongoing
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 2022	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 will be entered in 2024.	Ongoing
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 & Lostwood Gardens entered.	Ongoing
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager Finance & General Purposes Committee	May 2022/ongoing	Poltair Park café now under new management and open for business Tenant 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.	
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	Revitalisation Partnership to consider as part of the revitalisation works.	
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.	
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk Finance & General Purposes Committee	-	Woods sold to a private individual.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Explore ways to reduce paper production.	Town Clerk Council	March 2022/ongoing	A trial was undertaken with the previous administration where 10 Councillors agreed not to receive paper copies of agendas. Councillors to be surveyed soon.	
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 C.A.S.A. Garden festival and green festival supporting Rotary Club carrying out planting and litter picks across various sites	
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

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	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. Awaiting contact from Treveeth.	
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.	
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager Community Committee	February 2022	Project deferred due to budget cuts, limited grant funding and lack of resource.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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 being installed during January 2024.	
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk Finance and General Purposes Committee	May 2025	Priory Car Park Toilets identified. Suitability to be determined. Will review resource implications at next budget round.	
Consider how best to engage with the town's residents to raise awareness of climate change issues.	Deputy Town Clerk Community Committee	Ongoing	Climate Awareness afternoon held in Library. CASA actively promoting. Further library event being planned.	
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.	

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk Council	Ongoing	LCWIP completed. Improved planting schemes being designed and accessibility being improved. Rooftop Garden feasibility being thoroughly tested.	Awaiting update from CC
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. eBikes introduced.	

Action	Responsible Officer/Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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.	
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 in September 2022. Tree watering systems acquired to save water and watering,	
Provision of battery operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager Community Committee	Ongoing	Battery operated blower acquired and being evaluated.	
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. Youth forum and Library garden project being developed with YPC.	

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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.	
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.	
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.	

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
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.	
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 be funded for voluntary groups.	Complete Complete

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	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 some parts.	
Creation of bat shelter in Poltair Park.	Steve Skinner Community Committee	February 2024	Work nearing completion.	
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.	Complete

