

# St Austell Town Council

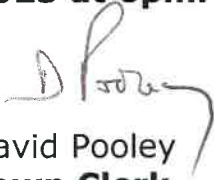


## Climate and Environment Committee

**To: All Members of the Climate and Environment Committee**  
(Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Double, George, Guest, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, 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 3<sup>rd</sup> July 2023 at 6pm.**



David Pooley  
**Town Clerk**

27<sup>th</sup> June 2023

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### 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 24<sup>th</sup> October 2022**

**Pages  
1 to 4**

(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 Emergency Work Plan**

**Pages  
5 to 18**

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

**10. Cornwall Council - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)**

(Purpose: To receive an update on progress with the LCWIP). (Verbal report).

**11. Cornwall Council - EV Charging Points in Priory Car Park**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the EV charging point installation in Priory Car Park). (Verbal report).

**12. Cornwall Council - Beryl Bikes**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the Beryl Bike roll out across St Austell). (Verbal report).

**13. St Austell Garden Festival**

(Purpose: To receive an update on the Town Council's attendance at the Garden Festival). (Verbal report).

**14. Linear Park – Environmental Event**

(Purpose: To receive an update on a proposed environmental event at Linear Park). (Verbal report).

**15. Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**

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

**16. Dates of Meetings**

(Purpose: To note the dates of the next meetings – 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2023).



**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 24<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER 2022 at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Hamilton, Lanxon, Styles, Thompson and Young.

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

**CE/22/15) Apologies for absence**

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

**CE/22/16) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CE/22/17) Dispensations**

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

**CE/22/18) Public Participation**

Mrs Earl advised that she is meeting with Steve Skinner later in the week with other representatives of CASA to discuss the delivery and onward distribution of 1,000 trees from Forest for Cornwall.

**CE/22/19) Minutes of Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Councillor Hamilton thanked Councillor Lanxon for standing in for him at the meeting in July and advised that CASA will most probably become an Unincorporated Association rather than a CIC.

Councillor Lanxon advised that she has been in contact with Cornwall Council about the expected timescale for restoring the bank and removal of the temporary barriers at the start of the Clay Trails at Tremena Road. It is understood that there has been some difficulty in obtaining permission from Network Rail to work next to the railway line.

Councillor Hamilton advised that the Garden Festival in September was a success and that the BID has pencilled in a similar event for June next year.

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> July 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CE/22/20) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that further to minute number CE/22/09 he would raise the issue of the temporary barriers at the LCWIP meeting later in the week. During discussion, Members felt strongly that the temporary arrangement had been in place for too long and that the required reinstatement works now needed to take place.

It was **RESOLVED** to write to Cornwall Council to request that the reinstatement works to the bank at the entrance to the Clay Trails off Tremena Road are prioritised as a matter of urgency.

### **CE/22/21) Making Spaces for Nature**

The Chair welcomed Melissa Ralph, Making Spaces for Nature Project Lead, to the meeting.

Ms Ralph thanked the Committee for inviting her to the meeting and outlined her work at the A391, The Meadows and Cemetery Park over the last three years. She explained that her work had been carried out in partnership with Exeter University and had involved a number of community projects.

Ms Ralph advised that the wildflowers on the A391 had been a joint project with SABEF and that a good display of wildflowers had been seen over the last couple of years utilising pictorial meadow turf. The area has just received its autumn cut and collect which should allow a good display again next year.

The project at Cemetery Park was a more robust, urban design due to its location and hopefully reflects a sense of the seasons. Ms Ralph advised that a stumpery garden will be created where the large beech tree came down and expressed her delight that the park is now being used by more families and organisations for outdoor exercise classes.

Ms Ralph advised that native planting in the form of hazel, holly and hawthorn was carried out at the Meadows to invite nature back. Sustainable drainage systems by way of wetland scrapes have been installed and the St Austell brownies have made bee hotels and made use of the newly created nature trails.

Ms Ralph outlined the long term management plans for the sites and the benefits of keeping volunteers engaged.

Members thanked Ms Ralph for her presentation.

### **CE/22/22) Electric Vehicle Sharing Schemes**

The Clerk advised that following enquiries, Falmouth has two cars under an EV sharing scheme which are well used, Bude has one car, where the use is sporadic, and Truro has two cars where the usage is not known at the present time. He advised that if Members would like to explore an EV sharing scheme in St Austell, most EV sharing organisations require a survey to be undertaken to ascertain demand.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should undertake an online survey to ascertain the demand for an EV sharing scheme in St Austell.

### **CE/22/23) Climate Emergency Work Plan**

Councillor Hamilton introduced the updated action plan and in response to a question the Clerk confirmed that he is watching the energy supply market at the present time. He added that the Town Council is currently locked into a reasonably good deal with Kent County Council (through Cornwall Council) and that the prices are competitive.

A question was also raised with regard to Cornwall Council's pension fund and the investment in fossil fuels. The Clerk advised that he is due to attend the Annual Pension Fund meeting shortly and would raise the question.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the action plan.

#### **CE/22/24) Cornwall Council - E Bike Scheme and Electric Vehicle Charging Station at Priory Car Park**

The Clerk advised that the E-Bike scheme for St Austell is now expected to be implemented in November and that he is awaiting a reply from Cornwall Council as to whether or not E-Bikes will be located in Priory Car Park.

The Clerk added that the installation of EV charging points in Priory Car Park have been confirmed by Cornwall Council and will be located close to Ozell Bowl. The funding obtained by Cornwall Council for the project has to be spent by March 2023, so the charging points should be installed within the next few months.

#### **CE/22/25) Climate Awareness Afternoon, St Austell Library – 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2022**

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a Climate Awareness Afternoon has been arranged at St Austell Library for Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November, 1pm to 4pm and that Councillor Alvey, Portfolio Holder for Environment and Climate Change, will be in attendance. The other confirmed attendees are the National Maritime Aquarium, Cornwall Wildlife Trust, Community Energy Plus, CASA and 3 Bays Wildlife. A short film will also be running showing how Cornwall is already being affected by Climate Change.

#### **CE/22/26) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**

Councillor Hamilton advised that CASA are still a very active group and are a formally constituted group. They meet every two weeks to discuss issues, have a regular article in the St Austell Voice and organise regular litter picks. He highlighted Giki as a good tool to assess your own personal carbon footprint and identify ways to reduce carbon and save money.

#### **CE/22/27) Dates of Meetings**

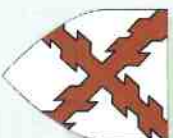
It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.





## St Austell Town Council



### Climate Emergency Action Plan 2020 – 2023

Action	Responsible Officer / Committee	Deadline	Progress	Complete
Implement new in-house waste management function.	Town Clerk Deputy Town Clerk Operations Manager <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	March 2020	New arrangements implemented utilising existing staff with reduced travel compared to previous contract.	Yes.
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources for Priory Toilets, Poltair Park and town centre electric point.	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Sept 2022	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 <b>Council</b>	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 <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Polytunnel well used during 2022 for the growing on of plants and trees and training projects for the Apprentices.	October 2021. Polytunnel installation complete.
Replacement of external lights at The Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete
Replacement of internal lights in the Committee Room at the Stable Block with low energy LED lights	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	November 2021		Complete
Installation of rainwater harvesting facility at Alexandra Road allotments	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2021		Complete

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Establish a small grants scheme for community climate change initiatives or amend existing scheme.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	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 <b>Council</b>	February 2021/ongoing	2 apprentices employed with effect from February 2021. Both apprentices are now Chapter 8 accredited.	Apprenticeships complete. Now permanent staff.
Trial of an organic foam based weed solution in the Town Council's parks and car park.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Spring 2021/ongoing	The foam based weed treatment is used twice a year in Poltair Park. Method is not suitable for all areas across the town and is powered by diesel.	Next treatment is scheduled for November 2023
Engage with GI4G to maximise improvements in biodiversity through "making space for nature"	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	March 2021/ongoing	The Meadows Scheme Cemetery Park project	TC have now taken on maintenance responsibility for both sites, with a volunteer day held on 19 <sup>th</sup> January 2023 and another

				scheduled for June/July 2023
<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Development of a Parks and Open Spaces Strategy	Town Clerk/Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	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 <b>Community Committee</b>	April 2021/ongoing	Reviewed and approved July 2022	
Enter one or more parks in the South West in Bloom Pride in Parks competition to demonstrate environment initiatives.	Operations Manager/Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	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 2023/24
Assist Community Groups to enter SWIB In Your Neighbourhoods	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	Community Groups provided opportunity to enter IYN competition 2023.	Library & Lostwood Gardens entered.
Install re-cycling bins	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2022/ongoing	Poltair Park café now under new management and open for business Tenant actively re-cycling.	Tenant has engaged in their own recycling contract with BIFFA

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Assist the St Austell BID with SWIB BID entry	Operations Manager Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	July 2022	Town Council grounds maintenance staff assisted the BID with the tidying up of the flower beds and accompanied the judges during their visit to the town.	Resource allocated to assist the BID with the 2023 entry.
Lobby Government and Cornwall Council to introduce subsidised retrofit programmes for housing in deprived areas	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	December 2021	No progress to date.	
Improve planting in Bethel Park.	Operations Manager <b>Council</b>	31 <sup>st</sup> October 2022	Following a positive expression of interest, a full application is being completed for funding towards a refurbishment project to include a sensory garden	Funding confirmed. Project to start in summer 2023
Lobby for improvements to public transport and more flexible hopper/community bus service	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Revitalization Partnership to consider as part of the revitalisation works.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Procure re-cycled paper for St Austell Library and the office.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Due to the costs involved, re-cycled paper is procured on a small scale at the present time.	
Review management and ownership of Gover Woods	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	-	Considered by Council – decision deferred.	Woods sold to a private individual.
Explore ways to reduce paper production.	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	March 2022/ongoing	A trial undertaken with the previous administration where 10 Councillors agreed not to receive paper copies of agendas. Not yet progressed.	
Explore the potential to purchase energy from renewable sources as existing contracts end for the library	Town Clerk <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	September 2022	Contract ended September 2022. Exploring suppliers in difficult market conditions.	
Street Lights. Explore energy saving measures for Town Council owned street lights.	Operations Manager <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	-	Town Council street lights being replaced with LED's on a phased basis.	

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer /Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Community Engagement	Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	Ongoing	TC worked closely with CASA to facilitate the handing out of free trees from CC in Dec 2022	Rotary Club carrying out litter pick across various sites during summer 2023
Liaise with St Austell BID with regard to the efficiency of the Town Centre Christmas lights.	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	December 2022/ongoing	All Christmas lights are LED	Complete
Review composting arrangements and explore the potential to develop own compost.	Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	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 Cornwall Council.	
Explore carbon accounting for Town Council activities.	Town Clerk <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	December 2021/ongoing	Potential solution identified. Insufficient resource currently to complete project.	Still to be progressed.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Investigate and consider installing electric charging point(s) in Priory Car Park	Town Clerk Operations Manager <b>Climate &amp; Environment Committee</b>	February 2022/ongoing	Cornwall Council has confirmed that Priory Car Park is one of the sites to be considered for EV charging points. Installation before March 2023 planned. Project now delayed until June 2023.	
Explore potential for a cycling facility at The Meadows	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	February 2022	Project deferred due to budget cuts, limited grant funding and lack of resource.	
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 <b>Finance &amp; General Purposes Committee</b>	April 2022/ongoing	Town Council approval obtained for the installation of two contactless payment systems at Priory Car Park.  New mobile telephone payment system installed (Pay 2 Park). Very well received and working well.  Contactless still being explored.	October 2021



<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Consider suitable buildings for photovoltaic panels and explore viability	Town Clerk <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	May 2023	Priority 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 <b>Community Committee</b>	Autumn 2022	Climate Awareness afternoon being organised at St Austell Library on Thursday 3 <sup>rd</sup> November 2022.	Complete
Enhancement of current wildflower areas	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Wildflower areas maintained at: Penwinnick Road, Daniels Lane, The Meadows and Trenowah Road. The Meadows wildflower areas refreshed October 2023.	
Installation of new wildflower areas on behalf of Cornwall Councilors to commemorate the Jubilee.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Summer 2022	Jubilee wildflower areas seeded at: Cosgarne Triangle, Bethel Park and Woodland Road.	Reasonable show in the summer of 2022. One year display.

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Identify opportunities for green/climate emergency projects through the Town Revitalisation Partnership	Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	LCWIP nearing completion. Improved planting schemes being designed and accessibility being improved.	Awaiting update from CC
Follow a buy local policy to support local businesses and reduce miles travelled by goods.	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Unless mitigating factors prevail, local suppliers and contractors are used.	
Improvement of Multi Use Trails	All officers <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Working Group resurrected. Signage improved at Tremena Gardens, Drummers Hill, East Hill and Sandy Hill courtesy of Rotary Club in partnership with the Town Council. Sustrans have improved some town centre signage. Trails monitored and improvement works identified on a regular basis. Awaiting completion of the LCWIP.	Improvements to the Tremena Gardens/Menacuddle sections of the clay trail due to be carried out in December 2022 have been completed

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Provision for re-cycling	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Council</b>	Ongoing	Contract held with Biffa. Recycling of cardboard and plastics on a fortnightly basis for both the office and library. Space being created to allow the distribution of re-cycling boxes from the library	
To keep grass cutting, wildflower and tree planting policies under review to support pollinators and carbon sequestration.	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Grass cutting policy reviewed in September 2022.	
Provision of battery operated grounds maintenance equipment	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	No battery operated machinery is currently on the market to suit the Town Council's needs.	
Engagement with young people to encourage environmental issues	Deputy Town Clerk <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Litter picks in Poltair Park and new litter bin purchased for the park on the recommendation of Young People Cornwall.	
Efficiency of operating the Town Council's Public conveniences at Priory Car Park	Operations Manager <b>Finance and General Purposes Committee</b>	Ongoing	Local cleaning contractors appointed to reduce travel	June 2021

<b>Action</b>	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b>	<b>Deadline</b>	<b>Progress</b>	<b>Complete</b>
Environmental activities with regard to Town Council maintained public rights of way	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Maintenance work being absorbed by the Council workforce to reduce travel and carbon emissions.	Spring/Summer 2022
Creation of Truro Road Park – Friends Group	Operations Manager <b>Community Committee</b>	Ongoing	Truro Road Friends Group recently resurrected in June 2022 and actively seeking improvement projects for the park.	Regular Friends Group activities in Truro Road Park. Friends Group gardening session organised for June 2023 and group will also enter In Bloom competition
Landrew Road community garden	Operations Manger <b>Community Committee</b>	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	Town Clerk <b>Planning &amp; Regeneration Committee</b>	Ongoing	<b>Planning &amp; Regeneration Committee – Demolition of Penwinnick Road offices.</b> Urgent action to protect the trees at the	

consideration has been given to the impact the proposal has on the environment and mitigating actions put in place.			Penwinick Road Offices. TPO application for the retention of a variety of trees submitted to Cornwall Council.	<b>Complete</b>
<b>Action</b> Purchase re-cycled material where possible	<b>Responsible Officer/Committee</b> Steve Skinner <b>Operations Manager</b>	<b>Deadline</b> Winter 2022/23	<b>Progress</b> 3 x re-cycled benches to be installed in each of the Town Council's Wards over the winter to commemorate the late Queen's Platinum Jubilee	Complete
Explore efficient ways to provide assistance in terms of warmth, shelter and food for the disadvantaged.	Sara Gwilliams <b>Deputy Town Clerk</b>	Winter 2022/23	St Austell Library engaged with NHS and Volunteer Cornwall to support the Warm Space initiative.  Small Grants Scheme terms and conditions due to be reviewed at the next Community Committee to consider revenue expenditure being permitted to allow organisations to bid for funding to assist with energy costs.  SALSA exploring funding to provide energy efficient	Complete  Did not pursue



			tools such as slow cookers for those who need it.	
Identify a suitable space in Priory Car Park for electric bikes to be located.	<b>Steve Skinner</b> 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