

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council Room 231 St Austell One Shop 39 Penwinnick Road St Austell Cornwall PL25 5DR

Telephone: 01726 223374

Email: sgwilliams@staustelltc.cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.staustelltowncouncil.com



TOWN TEAM:

Clerk David Pooley with Deputy Clerk Sara Gwilliams and (seated) assistant Kimberley Gay

Cornwall Council

Cornwall Council has wide ranging responsibilities, including:

- Education
- Social Services
- Highways and Transportation
- Determining Planning Applications and Development Control.
- Collection of Council Tax
- Benefits Administration
- Social Housing
- Libraries and Arts
- Fire Brigade
- Magistrates Courts and Probation Services
- Waste Disposal and Refuse collection
- Environmental Health
- Leisure and Parks
- Youth Services

Cornwall Council can be contacted at:

Cornwall Council County Hall Treyew Road Truro Cornwall TR1 3AY

or

Cornwall Council One Stop Shop 39 Penwinnick Road St Austell PL25 5DR

Telephone: 0300 1234 100

Email: enquiries@cornwall.gov.uk

Website: www.cornwall.gov.uk

In the 2015/16 civic year Cornwall Council had five Councillors representing St Austell. These were Councillors Brown, Bull, French, Heyward and King.

Message from the Mayor

The past year as your Mayor and Town Council Chairman has been incredibly busy, at times quite challenging, thoroughly enjoyable and once again a huge privilege and honour.

Usually accompanied by my wife Alison, I have been able to represent you at 141 mayoral engagements which have ranged from the more private and intimate occasions such as 100th birthdays, one 103rd birthday, a 50th wedding anniversary a 70th anniversary and two royal visits. During those family celebrations it was a real privilege to listen to shared life stories. I really believe we should treasure those recollections of our community's social history.

The Torchlight Carnival and Feast Week continue to go from strength to strength and have become firmly re-established as annual events that we can all enjoy and look forward to. Those successes have been joined by the Christmas lights 'switch on' in Aylmer Square, which was simply amazing last Christmas. I didn't know Aylmer Square could hold so many people! The 'late night' shopping evenings were also well attended this year despite the rain! Well done to the BID team.

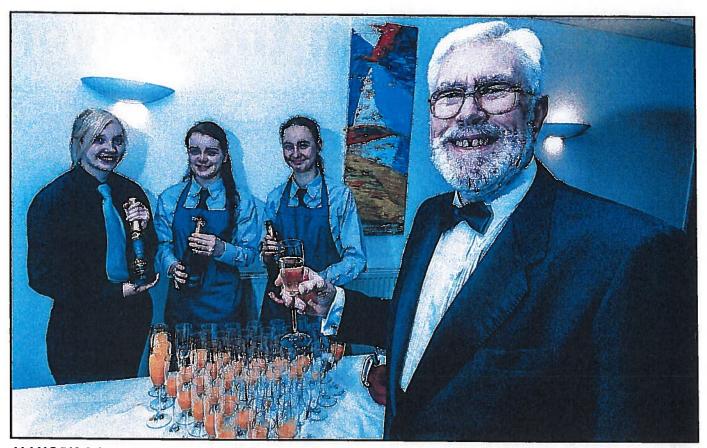
Yet another community success has been the winning of yet more awards in the South West in Bloom competition congratulations to everyone who worked so hard to achieve such a successful outcome.

However, the 'stand out' event during this past year simply had to be the Gorsedh Kernow, and its associated Esedhvos events. Over 200 Bards assembled for the Gorsedh itself. They came from not only Cornwall, but also from our fellow Celtic nations of Wales and Brittany and from all over the world, the descendants of the sons and daughters of Kernow who migrated during the 19th and early 20th centuries. The fact that the Gorsedh was hailed as an outstanding success was a tribute to the quite small team who worked so hard to organise it and contributed greatly to the increasing respect in which St Austell is being held



MAYOR BRIAN PALMER and his wife Alison

During the past year the Town Council has continued negotiations with Cornwall Council over the devolution of services agreement, which in principle, has been reached for the transfer of a large range of services. We have already taken on some services including allotments, public conveniences and the operation of the CCTV network. Other services, including parks, our wonderful library, and car parks are due to be transferred over the next



MAYOR'S BALL: Mayor Brian Palmer at Cloisters Restaurant at Cornwall College

several months.

It was so very encouraging to us at the Town Council that the public survey about the transfer of services which we commissioned demonstrated support for the transfers, rather than see service levels diminished or completely lost.

The Anti-Social Behaviour working group, which I have been 'Chairing' and which consists of representatives from a wide range of local organisations and service providers, including the police, has made a very significant impact on recorded crime and anti-social behaviour in the town. It is now being held up as an example of 'Best Practice'.

Another, very real, example of 'community leaders' drawing together for the good of the town has been the increasingly cordial co-operation between the BID (Business Improvement District), the Chamber of Commerce, White River Place, and the Town Council. That burgeoning relationship has already started to score some successes and I have every confidence it will continue to do so.

I have previously mentioned hard work by relatively small teams, our team of Town Clerks, David Pooley, Sara Gwilliams and Kimberley Gay are our very own 'small team' of hard workers. They really are super stars who 'twinkle' very brightly indeed! Alison and I, quite simply, could not get through this past year without their unstinting support.

Throughout the past year wherever I have travelled and at the many community events at which I have represented you I have been made very aware of how much the perception of the image of St Austell has become so much more positive over the past few years. We really do need to embrace the fact that we are citizens of a good town and members of an increasingly self-confident and buoyant community.

I have worked hard and hope that I have done my very best to represent you all and to advance the cause of St Austell wherever I've gone during the past year. You have my assurance that I will continue to work hard as a Town Councillor, representing Poltair Ward.

I now pass over the chains of office to Councillor Jackie Bull and wish her and her husband Bob all the very best for her year as your Mayor. I am totally confident that she will do a great job.

> Brian Palmer Mayor of St Austell 2015/2016

St Austell Town Council

St Austell Town Council was formed in June 2009 and has 20 elected Councillors (4 Councillors representing the Gover Ward, 4 Councillors representing Poltair Ward, 2 Councillors representing St Austell Bay Ward, 5 representing Bethel Ward and 5 representing Mount Charles Ward).

A list of current Councillors is included on page 15 of this report.

Town Council elections were held in May 2013 and will take place next in 2017.

Each year, the Council elects one councillor to be the Mayor who then acts as the civic leader and chairs Council meetings. The Council has a Code of Conduct and is committed to proper standards and sound corporate governance arrangements.

Meetings are usually held in Cornwall Council's One Stop Shop at Penwinnick Road, St Austell. The full Council

meets approximately every six weeks. In addition to the full Council meetings, the Council has three standing committees to ensure the effective management of its business:

- Finance and General Purposes Committee
- Planning Committee
- Communities Committee

There is a public participation session at each of the Council's official meetings to allow members of the public to make comments or raise issues about items on the agenda.

From time to time, working groups are formed to address particular issues.

A calendar of Council meetings for the forthcoming year can be found on the Council's website at www.staustelltowncouncil.com

Agendas and minutes are published on the website.

The Council employs two full-time and one part-time member of staff who are

based at the St Austell One Stop Shop, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR. These are:

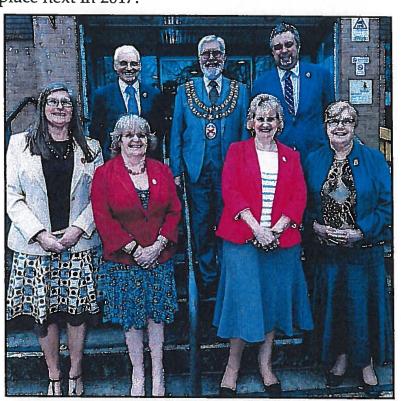
- David PooleyTown Clerk
- Sara GwilliamsDeputy TownClerk
- Kimberley Gay
 Mayor's Secretary / Administrative Assistant
 (Part-time)

The Town
Council serves
the town of St
Austell which has
a population of
approximately
22,000. Services
and facilities
provided within

the town of St Austell are also enjoyed by people living in the surrounding villages and by the many tourists who visit the town each year.

The Town Council is very keen to ensure that however the town changes in the future the process is managed properly and that appropriate infrastructure accompanies it.

The Town Council currently manages very few services. Its main role is to represent and lobby on behalf of local residents and businesses to ensure that their views are taken into account by the



MAYORS OF ST AUSTELL: Brian Palmer (centre) with former mayors of St Austell

It has however submitted a business case to Cornwall Council to demonstrate how it could provide more services within the town at less cost to Cornwall Council and has started an ambitious programme of service transfers from Cornwall Council. To date public conveniences and allotments have transferred to the Town Council.

The Town Council is consulted on all planning and some licensing applications in its area and in relation to many of the

other services provided by Cornwall Council.

The Town Council is keen to work in partnership with Cornwall Council and other agencies in order to ensure delivery of the highest quality services and facilities to local residents.

2015/16 Activities

Feast Week

St Austell Town
Council, along with a
large number of
community groups,
charities, businesses
and community interest
groups, organised a
week of feasten
celebration during June
2015 in St Austell. The
week was a real success
in the town and was
recreated in the
summer of 2016.

The week included organic historic talks, a schools' concert, an open air church service, theatrical performances, a choir concert, a golf day and an It's a Knockout competition.

Most of the events were free for the public to attend and geared towards the entire St Austell community. The Town Council successfully obtained £3.200 of

funding from various sources to enable this event to take place.

Town Heritage Scheme

The Town Council is working with Cornwall Council and the Market House to bid for a Townscape Heritage (TH) scheme for St Austell. Such bids usually take up to two years to develop. An initial bid in 2014 was unsuccessful but a further bid submitted in August 2015 was successful

and should lead to a grant of £980,000 in due course.

Townscape Heritage schemes fund quality traditional repairs to targeted historic buildings in Conservation Areas. A scheme in St Austell would complement Management Plan actions in the Conservation Area Appraisal and Management Plan and the ongoing Business Improvement District (BID) scheme. It will boost the local economy and make the town a better place to live, work and visit.



CHARITY GOLF: Cllr Palmer at the Mayor's Charity Golf Day with organiser Alan Dibb

Town Framework

The St Austell and surrounding parishes Town Framework will be a document which will set out a vision and options for the future development and change of the

urban area of St Austell and its immediate hinterland. Work has taken place throughout the year with Cornwall Council's planning officers to produce a draft Town Framework consultation document. A number of consultation exercises and meetings have taken place and it is hoped that a final Town











Framework will be in place within the next 12 months. Once finalised, this document will be part of Cornwall Council's formal planning policies.

St Austell Business Improvement District (BID)

The Business Improvement District (BID) for St Austell became operational in April 2013. This is an initiative funded by local business ratepayers in the town centre to enhance and promote the BID area. The Town Council has supported the BID in its first three years of operation. It is already beginning to make significant progress and has organised a number of events and environmental initiatives in the town centre.

Footpaths/Weed Treatment

Due to cutbacks at Cornwall Council, the Town Council in the summer of 2013 took on the maintenance of the designated footpaths in St Austell for the first time. Responsibility for weed treatment on public highways and pavements also passed to the Town Council in the spring of 2014. The Town Council let and managed contracts with local contractors for these services at a cost significantly

lower than being paid by Cornwall Council.

CCTV

In April 2015 the CCTV system previously owned by Cornwall Council transferred to the Town Council. Cornwall Council upgraded the system prior to hand over and St Austell Town Council is now running the system and sharing monitoring arrangements with Newquay Town Council.

Environmental initiatives

The Town Council undertakes a number of environmental projects each year. In 2015/16 we:

- Provided a bench at Menacuddle Well
- Improved the flower beds in the town centre
- Provided planting in the red tubs in the town centre
- Liaised with Cornwall Council on improvements to local parks
- Continued negotiations with Cornwall Council regarding allotments



TOWN TEAM: The Mayor (centre), Town Clerk (right) and Deputy Town Clerk (left) and spouses

Service Devolution

In November 2015 the Town Council undertook a comprehensive consultation exercise to raise public awareness and gauge public support for the Town Council taking responsibility for a range of Cornwall Council functions. Following this, the Council negotiated a package of services to be devolved to the Town Council from Cornwall Council including toilets, allotments, bus shelters, parks and open spaces, car parks and the library. To date public conveniences and allotments have transferred. Others will follow over the next 12 to 18 months.

Gorsedh

The Town Council hosted the Gorsedh celebrations and events in St Austell which were very well supported and reflected the town well to a wide audience including Bards from overseas.

Anti-Social Behaviour

During 2015/16 the Town Council coordinated an anti-social behaviour group including representatives of a very broad range of agencies and organisations to deal primarily with town centre anti-social behaviour issues but which will in future deal with a wider geographical area. This group has been instrumental in contributing towards the reduction in crime in and around the town centre and has been highlighted as a model of good practice.

Youth Services

The Town Council provide funding to secure the future of The House youth project following a decision by Cornwall Council to withdraw its funding for such facilities. In addition, secured a grant of £3,250 from the "Our Place" initiative to help develop an operating plan for the centre and worked closely with Youth

communications and joint working with regard to youth services.

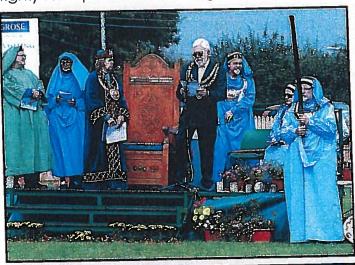
Other initiatives

The Town Council has:

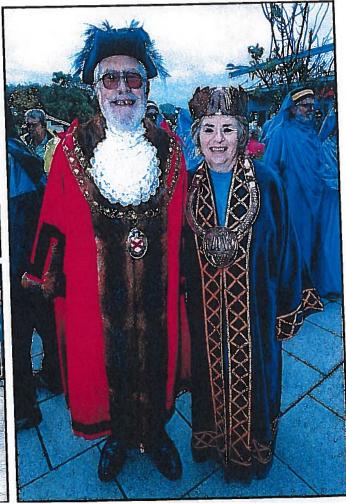
- Continued to support the Youth Council and helped to organise an outdoor cinema event for the young people;
- Operated a small grants scheme for local community and charitable groups. The Council gave 37 grants totalling £7,342 in 2015/16;
- Provided a number of grants including grants to STAK and CAB for debt advice services, Cosgarne for a Phoenix Project initiative, the Street Pastors for a shop watch radio and the Carnival for their annual torchlight procession;
- Undertaken pre-planning consultations with a number of developers, arranged a number of large scale public meetings to give residents the opportunity to raise concerns and suggest improvements to major planning proposals;
- Maintained contracts for the maintenance of footpaths, weed spraying on highways and pavements and for the maintenance of a number of floral displays including the displays at South Street and in the red pots in the town centre;
- Helped create and promote a shopwatch radio system for the town centre;
- Responded to consultations affecting the town on many issues including Cornwall Council's Local Plan, a Town Framework Plan, car parking, road improvements, licensing policies and libraries;
- Provided funding once again for the St Austell Discovery Map, meaning that the map can be distributed free of charge to members of the public.



GORSEDH: St Austell hosted the 2015 Gorsedh Kernow at Poltair Park where Mayor Brian Palmer welcomed the Bards (below left) and joined Grand Bard Maureen Fuller (below right) for a procession through the town centre (bottom left)







Standing committees 2015/16

Planning Committee

Valerie Bradford Derek Collins John Colwill Gary King Andrea Lanxon Peter Murtagh Nicky Oxenham Brian Palmer Richard Pears Janet Pollard Jenny Stewart Graham Walker

Community Committee

Jackie Bull Derek Collins John Colwill Anne Double Sandra Heyward John Keast Monica Lake Robin Leonard Brian Palmer Richard Pears **Janet Pollard** Jenny Stewart

Finance and General Purposes Committee

Valerie Bradford Malcom Brown Tom French Andrea Lanxon Robin Leonard Peter Murtagh Nicky Oxenham Brian Palmer Graham Walker

Working Parties

A number of working groups met during 2015/16 to help progress Council business. These

- Devolution of Services Working Group
- Anti-Social Behaviour Working Group
- Feast Week Working Group
- Allotments Working Group

Representatives on outside bodies

- St Austell Carnival Committee Councillor Heyward.
- St Austell Bay Chamber of Commerce Councillor Double.
- CALC Larger Councils Liaison Group Councillor Palmer.
- Cornwall Council Town Framework Steering Group Councillors Oxenham and Palmer.
- Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Flood Forum Councillor Stewart (Councillor Collins reserve).
- St Austell Bay Economic Forum (SABEF) Councillors French and Brown.
- St Austell Business Improvement District (BID) Councillor Walker.
- East Cornwall LAG Councillor Oxenham.

Annual accounts 2015/16

The Council's Statement of Accounts for 2015/16 has been prepared in accordance with the Accounts and Audit Regulations 2015. The Council's Accounts are audited annually by an independent internal auditor and forwarded to Grant Thornton, an external auditor, for final appraisal.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST MARCH 2016

2014/15		2015/16
£		£
	RECEIPTS	
17,325.33	Miscellaneous Income and Grants	9,224.16
1,918.45	Interest received	2,403.87
208,250.00	Precepts	217,250.00
34,323.26	Council Tax Support Grant	29,070.46
150.00	Mayor's Charities Income	2,559.01
0.00	Gorsedh	2,729.64
261,967.04	Total Receipts	263,237.14
	PAYMENTS	
	Employee Expenses	
99,230.80	Salaries and Wages (Inc. oncosts)	105,338.34
487.00	Recruitment costs	145.00
857.33	Training Expenses	939.67
196.67	Travel & Subsistence	443.46
175.22	Chairman's Allowance	489.37
187.15	Members' Allowances	50.00
101,134.17		107,405.84
	General Administration	
20.00	Room Hire	105.00
5,181.00	Office Accommodation	5,181.00
763.82	Office Supplies	339.88
224.75	Refreshments	357.45
1,049.28	Printing and binding	1,368.86
618.29	Postages	806.55
141.64	IT Support & software	33,33
285.00	Website	285.00
2,320.00	General publicity	0.00
0.00	Noticeboards	1,056.97
1,898.94	Insurance	2,509.26
21.00	Bank Charges	0.00
2,933.83	Subscriptions	3,188.85
20.80	Books and Publications	93.75
15 478 35		15 324 90

	PAYMENTS cont.	
	Miscellaneous Expenses	
0.00	Elections	7,524.19
19,377.83	Grants	30,278.15
12,331.53	Projects	25,200.83
40.00	Gorsedh	3,011.42
1,517.67	Youth Council	1,858.58
50,231.23	CCTV	42,420.53
998.09	Civic Ceremonial	2,052.79
1,100.00	Audit fees	1,100.00
150.00	Mayor's Charities	2,559.01
9,277.26	Grounds Maintenance	13,112.60
7,564.09	Feast Week	3,856.83
101,030.03		132,974.93
217,642.55	Total Expenses	255,705.67
44,324.49	Surplus for Year	7,531.47
94,743.52	General Fund Balance B/Fwd	136,194.78
44,324.49	Add Surplus for Year	7,531.47
11,059.10	Add Contributions from Reserves	11,932.33
13,932.33	Less Contribution to Reserves	25,147.59
136,194.78	General Fund Balance C/Fwd	130,510.99



Balance sheet as at March 31, 2016

31.3.15 £		£	31.3.16 £	Notes
98,015.00 2,521.00 20,172.00 6,993.81 127,701.81	Fixed Assets Ceremonial assets Allotments and other premises Street Furniture inc. Notice Board Office Equipment		98,015.00 1.00 26,674.21 6,140.35 130,830.5 6) [5
	Current Assets			
6,175.33	Debtors	2,602.18		2
2,509.26	Prepayments	3,017.28		
70,580.84	Bank Balances	87,262.15		
251,604.01	Short Term Investments	253,955.73		
11.24	Cash in Hand	16.97		
330,880.68		346,854.31		
10,392.67	Current Liabilities Creditors and advance payments	18,834.83		3
320,488.01	Net Current Assets		328,019.4	8
448,189.82	Net Assets		458,850.0	4
	Represented By:			
100,536.00 27,165.81 136,194.78 184,293.23	Asset Revaluation Reserve Capital Financing Reserve General Revenue Balance Earmarked Reserves		98,016.0 32,814.5 130,510.9 197,508.4	56 99
448,189.82			458,850.0	04

Notes

- 1. Ceremonial assets have been valued by independent valuers using an insurance methodology as at 31st March, 2010. It is not considered necessary to revalue all assets annually.
 - 2. Made up of bank interest and VAT due at the year end.
- 3. Creditors at the year end include the cost of a CCTV camera, youth services, administration expenses and monies collected for the Mayor's charities.
 - 4. The following sums have been set aside as earmarked reserves:

	${\cal E}$
Elections	22,500.00
Projects Reserve	65,008.49
Devolution of Services	110,000.00
•	197,508,49

Bay Ward



Conservatives

Councillor Peter Murtagh
Address: 58 Lower Woodside, St Austell, Cornwell PL25 5EQ
Telephone: 07780 333420
Email: petermurtagh81@gmail.com

Bethel Ward





Cilr Malcolm Brown
Address: 20 Kiliyvarder Way, St Austeil, Cornwall PL25 3DJ
Telephone: 01726 63696
Email: mabrown77@btinternet.com





Clir Nicky Oxenham
Address: 1 Ropehaven Road, St Austell Comwall, PL25
4DT
Telephone: 07891 348689
Email: noxenham@btinternet.com



Conservatives

Cilir Richard Pears
Address: 86 Beach Road, Carlyon Bay, St Austell PL25 3PL
Telephone: 07793 113150



Independent

Ciir Graham Weiker Address: 28 Tremena Gardens, St Austell, PL25 5QH Telephone: 01726 63707 Emall: gwalkera 1@gmail.com



LIBERAL DEMOCRATS

Clir John Colwill
Address: 20 Boldventure Road, St Austeil PL25 3DX
Telephone: 01726 68494
Email: John.colwil@outlook.com

Gover Ward



Conservatives

Clir Tom French
Address: 6 Trevone Crescent, St Austell, PL25 5EB
Telephone: 01726 73735
Email: tofrench1@gmail.com



Independent

Cilr Sandra Heyward
Address: 14 Tewington Pisce, St Austell, PL25 5NN
Telephone: 01726 65045 or mobile: 07791 066 638
Email: sandraheyward152@gmail.com





Clir Monica Lake
Address: Heywood,31 Gloucester Avenue,Carlyon Bay
Telephone: 07999560996 PL25 3PT
Email: miske@monicalake.plus.com





Cilr Jenny Stewart (Deputy Mayor)
Address: 58 Lower Woodside, SI Austell, Comwall PL25 SEQ
Telephone: 01728 73417
Email: jennypstewart@me.com

Mount Charles Ward





Address: 16 Bay View Park, St Austell, PL25 3TR Telephone: 07974 808854 Email: anne@stavedouble.org.uk



Independent

Clir John Keast OBE
Address: 8 Highfield Avenue, St Austell, PL25 4SN
Telephone: 01726 61444
Emall: John@keast_myzen.co.uk



Independent

Cilir Gery King
Address: 102 Alexandra Road, St Austeil PL25 4QJ
Telephone: 01728 77944
Email: gking@comwell.gov.uk



Independent

Ciir Robin Leonard Address: 13 Highfield Avenue, St Austell PL25 4SN Telephone: 01728 70719 Email: me.robin@rockeimail.com



Independent

Clir Janet Poliard
Address: 38 Victoris Road, St Austell PL25 4QD
Telephone: 01726 77038
Email: councillorianetpoliard@gmail.com

Poltair Ward





Clir Jackie Bull (Mayor)
Address: 4 Chanders Walk, Charlestown Road, St Austell
Telephone: 01726 74619 PL25 3NB
Email: jbull@cornwall.pov.uk





Clir Derek Collins
Address: 44 Biscovey Road, Par, PL24 2HW
Telephone: 07508 423735
Email: soundlec@aol.com



澤Labour

Cilr Andrea Lanxon
Address: 16 Prince Charles Road, St Austell, PL25 4JL
Telephone: 01726 74840
Email: andresiarxon@yshoo.co.uk



Independent

Citr Brian Palmer
Address: 23 Menacuddie Lane, St Austeil, PL25 5QN
Telephone: 01726 65379
Email: brianpalmer379@btinternet.com

