

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 5th JULY 2021 at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Double, George, Hamilton, Lanxon, McDonagh, Nott, Styles, Thompson and Young

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

CE/21/01) 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 2021/22 civic year.

CE/21/02) 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 2021/22 civic year.

CE/21/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest and Pears.

CE/21/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/21/05) Dispensations

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

CE/21/06) Public Participation

Mrs Earl welcomed Members of the newly formed Climate and Environment Committee and introduced herself as a member of Climate Action St Austell (CASA), a local action group who would like to work closer with the Town Council's Climate and Environment Committee.

CE/21/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 20th January 2020

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 20th January 2020 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/21/08) Matters to note

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the updated Action Plan is due to be considered later on the agenda and a carbon accounting tool, suitable for Town and Parish

Councils has only recently been identified but due to a lack of resource, has not been progressed further. She added that an Operations Manager Forum has been set up and the Town Council's Operations Manager is a member of the group and a Climate Change information week was organised at the library before the pandemic. She advised that due to Covid19 and resource constraints the suggested schools' competition had not been organised.

CE/21/09) Terms of Reference

The Clerk advised that his only suggestion for amendment of the previously approved Terms of Reference was the spending limit which, due to budget cuts, is now £5,000, reduced from £10,000.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be approved as drafted subject to the spending limit being amended to £5,000.

CE/21/10) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

The Chair welcomed Dr Anthony Hereward to the meeting.

Dr Hereward provided an inspirational speech explaining the deteriorating state of the world's environment and the local impact of climate changes in terms of winter rainfall and summer heatwaves. He outlined the work of the Climate Action St Austell Group (CASA) which included:

- A website
- A Facebook page
- Regular articles for the Voice newspaper
- The planning of a repair shop to open after the pandemic
- Promotion of the 10 pledges

The Chair thanked Dr Hereward for his challenging and, at times, frightening speech and advised that he would be very happy to attend meetings of CASA and to support the group.

In response to questions, Dr Hereward explained the levels of carbon dioxide currently being experienced and identified communication as being the main thing that the Town Council could do in relation to the Climate Emergency. He also identified reducing meat consumption and flying as significant measures and suggested that the Town Council should consider how it was going to lead St Austell to bring carbon down to zero.

Members raised a number of matters including:

- School traffic;
- The STARR project and the lack of funding for the Linear Park proposals;
- The high quality of the CASA website;
- The work of the community network panel co-ordinating the various climate change groups in the area;
- The need for further training;
- The potential to use the library as a communication point;
- The need to raise the importance of environment issues with planning decisions.

The Chair thanked Dr Hereward for his interesting presentation.

CE/21/11) Climate Emergency Work Plan

The Clerk explained each of the projects listed in the action plan in detail. Arising from discussions, Members raised the following issues:

- The need to lobby Cornwall Council to carrying out further retro-fitting of properties to reduce fuel poverty;
- Consideration of solar panels on Town Council assets;
- Exploration of composting at the Stable Block which could be distributed to community groups/allotment holders;
- Exploration of the cost benefit analysis of carbon accounting;
- The need to communicate better to the public the Town Council's environmental achievements;
- Consider the logistics of distributing re-cycling boxes from the library;
- Disappointment that the seagull sacks and re-cycling boxes are not re-cyclable

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Climate Emergency Work Plan as drafted subject to consideration of the above suggestions being incorporated into a future update.

CE/21/12) Priory Car Park – Electric Vehicle Charging Points

The Clerk advised that there are very few electric vehicle charging points in St Austell and that the installation of charging points in Priory Car Park could bring people into the town centre who would not normally otherwise visit the town. He advised that he had spoken to Western Power recently about the electricity throughput in the car park and initial conversations suggest that the supply is sufficient to drive electrical charging points and now might be a good time to speak to potential suppliers about the costs involved. He added that Cornwall Council has obtained EU funding for fitting electric charging points in their car parks and that he would speak to the officer leading the project to see if Town and Parish Councils can tap into this funding.

During discussion, Members suggested that the installation of a 45 minute superfast charging point, 50kw and above, would probably be the most attractive to electric car users as opposed to the cheaper to install slower charging point solutions currently on the market.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should speak to potential suppliers about the installation of superfast electric charging points in Priory Car Park and report back to the Town Council as soon as possible.

CE/21/13) Dates of Meetings

Members discussed the frequency of meetings of the Climate and Environment Committee and suggested that the meetings should be on a par with the other Committees. The Clerk stressed the lack of resource in the office which precluded the servicing of many more meetings and suggested a date of 25th October 2021 as the next meeting date on the proviso that if anything urgent came up in the meantime it could be considered by either full Council or the Community Committee.

It was **RESOLVED** that the next Climate and Environment Committee meeting date would be on Monday 25th October 2021.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.