

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 4th JULY 2022 at the Council Chamber, St Austell Information Centre, 39 Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DR at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, George, Lanxon, Nott, Styles and Thompson

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk).

CE/22/01) Election of Chair

The Town Clerk asked for nominations for Chair. He advised that Councillor Hamilton was isolating due to Covid and had given his apologies but had confirmed that he was willing to continue as Chair if members so wished. A nomination was received for Councillor Hamilton.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be elected Chair of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2022/23 civic year.

CE/22/02) Election of Vice-Chair

The Clerk 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 2022/23 civic year.

*** Councillor Lanxon assumed the Chair ***

CE/22/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Double, Guest, Hamilton, Pears and Young.

CE/22/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/22/05) Dispensations

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

CE/22/06) Public Participation

Mrs Earl advised that CASA were very pleased with the support of Councillor Hamilton and his reports back to the Town Council. She advised that she was impressed with the actions completed by the Town Council and urged the Council to support the Garden Festival planned for the 3rd September 2022. She outlined a project which CASA hoped to undertake with Treverbyn CIC to distribute up to 1000 small trees to individuals for planting in gardens.

CE/22/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 25th October 2021

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 25th October 2021 be approved and signed as a correct record subject to noting that 27th December on page 1 should read 27th November.

CE/22/08) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had been well represented at the Climate Change Festival at Cornwall College on the 27th November 2021 and thanked all of the councillors who supported the event.

He advised that Priory Car Park was still identified as a preferred site for Electrical Vehicle Charging Points and that WPD were undertaking surveys of potential locations. An update on progress and timescales is expected shortly.

The Clerk advised that preparations for the e-bike trial were progressing. A contract has been awarded and approximately 50 bikes per town were anticipated with effect from September 2022.

CE/22/09) Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Clerk advised that stakeholder engagement workshops had been undertaken and an online mapping tool had elicited 180 responses. Sustrans were now moving into the next phase and following two days of on-site auditing would soon be recommending improvements and places for future investment. A further round of engagement will be held once these ideas have been formulated to amend, refine and shape the prioritisation of schemes.

Members welcomed this work and identified the importance of good walking and cycling routes.

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

CE/22/10) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

Mrs Earl provided an update on CASA. She explained that an application for charitable status had been refused so the group were adapting the constitution of a similar group in Helston to become a CIC. She highlighted the monthly litter picks undertaken by the group and asked councillors to support these if possible.

Members thanked Mrs Earl for the update.

CE/22/11) Climate Emergency Work Plan

The Clerk introduced the action plan which had been updated by the Deputy Town Clerk and explained how impressed and pleased he was with the achievements of the Town Council since declaring a climate emergency. He highlighted the potential funding bids being prepared to improve Bethel Park and create a tree nursery.

In response to a question the Clerk explained that Edible St Austell were now a properly constituted CIC and that terms for a lease had been agreed. It was hoped to draft a lease shortly.

Members noted the importance of ensuring the action plan was a working document and constantly updated and added to.

It was **RESOLVED** to thank the Deputy Town Clerk for her hard work and to note the action plan.

CE/22/12) Climate and Environmental Policy

Members reviewed the Council's Climate and Environmental Policy and considered a recommendation for a minor change suggested by Councillor Hamilton.

A discussion took place concerning the Council's grass cutting and parks and open spaces policies and the merits of various types of plants and grass cutting strategies. The Clerk confirmed that opportunities would be provided to revisit the approved policies in due course.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that the Policy be reconfirmed subject to the addition of the words "energy saving features and" in the second bullet point under the heading Development on page 6 of the policy.

CE/22/13) St Austell Garden Festival

Members discussed the Town Council's potential involvement in a Garden Festival planned for the Town Centre on the 3rd September 2022. It was suggested that this might be an opportunity to discuss grass cutting and planting strategies with members of the public.

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Operations Manager and the Committee Chair to determine the content and form of stand taken by the Town Council and arrange the Town Council's attendance at the Garden Festival.

CE/22/14) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the dates of the next meetings of the Climate and Environment Committee are Monday 24th October 2022 and Monday 23rd January 2023.

The meeting closed at 6.53pm.