

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 24th 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 4th 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 4th 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 – 3rd November 2022

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that a Climate Awareness Afternoon has been arranged at St Austell Library for Thursday 3rd 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 23rd January 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.21pm.