

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 3rd JULY 2023 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Double, Hamilton, Lanxon, Nott, Styles, Thompson and Young.

In attendance: David Pooley (Town Clerk), Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

CE/23/01) 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 2023/24 civic year.

CE/23/02) 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 2023/24 civic year.

CE/23/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Clemo, Cohen, George, Guest and Pearce and from Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk).

CE/23/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/23/05) Dispensations

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

CE/23/06) Public Participation

Mrs Earl thanked the Town Council for its work in connection with the climate change agenda and for all that it is doing for the town.

CE/23/07) Minutes of Meeting held on 24th October 2022

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th October 2022 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/23/08) Matters to note

The Town Clerk advised that further to minute CE/22/20 the fencing at the entrance of the Clay Trail at Tremena Gardens has been repaired to a good standard.

Further research into the electric vehicle sharing scheme (Minute number CE/22/22) has revealed that the Town Council would be required to underwrite the scheme to an unacceptably high level, so the project is not being progressed any further at the present time.

Cornwall Council has adopted an ethical investment policy for the pension fund (Minute number CE/22/23) and that the library event on the 3rd November 2022 was very successful and well supported (Minute number CE/22/25).

CE/23/09) Climate Emergency Work Plan

The Chair led members through the Climate Emergency Action Plan and officers provided updates and more information on many of the actions. It was noted that there were now over 100 trees being grown on in the Council's nursery. Members raised a number of points including:

- The quality of the Council's parks
- The need to campaign for more retrofit work on housing in St Austell
- The amount of maintenance required by wildflower meadows
- The advantages of tree planting over wildflower meadows
- The merits of measuring the Town Council's carbon footprint

Councillor Thompson asked for clarification of Cornwall Council's policy for grass cutting on land adjacent to highways. The Chair invited members to think about how climate change awareness could be raised.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

(i) Note the updated workplan;

(ii) Ask the Town Clerk to write to Cornwall Council seeking clarification on:

- The highways grass cutting standards and policies adopted by Cornwall Council and;
- The retrofit schemes planned for St Austell.

CE/23/10) Cornwall Council - Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)

The Clerk advised that the LCWIP for St Austell is now complete and available on Cornwall Council's website. He explained that there is a need to identify the priorities and sources of funding within the plan to deliver some of the improvements identified, possibly in conjunction with neighbouring parishes.

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

CE/23/11) Cornwall Council - EV Charging Points in Priory Car Park

The Clerk advised that 4 fast and 1 rapid electric vehicle charging points have been installed in Priory Car Park and each will be capable of charging two cars. Work is progressing well, and it is hoped that they will go live shortly. The Clerk undertook to update Members as soon as he had an operational commencement date.

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

CE/23/12) Cornwall Council - Beryl Bikes

The Clerk advised that the Beryl bike scheme has settled down and appears to be operating reasonably well. He advised that he is pressing Cornwall Council for the bay at Sandy Hill junction to be moved slightly to protect the planter and for bike racks to be installed at key locations to prevent the blocking of pathways.

A proposal to ask for the bikes to be clearly numbered to allow reporting of misbehaviour was lost by 2 votes for and 3 against.

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

CE/23/13) St Austell Garden Festival

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had supported the BID's town centre garden festival on the 17th June 2023 and received very positive feedback about the floral displays around the town, the parks generally and the Bethel Park improvement project. He explained that a suggestions box was provided and circulated a summary of the suggestions received on the day.

Members noted that suggestion schemes usually identify negative issues and acknowledged that some of the matters raised were not within the remit of the Town Council but felt it important to debate the points made.

It was **RESOLVED** to refer the list of suggestions to the Community Committee for debate.

The Clerk advised that the Town Council had occupied space near Cornwall Council's Townscape Heritage Scheme and the Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Mayor and Deputy Mayor had each attended a guided walk around the town to see the excellent work organised by Andrew Richards.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Clerk should express the gratitude of the Committee to Andrew Richards for the excellent work undertaken throughout the Townscape Heritage Project.

CE/23/14) Linear Park – Environmental Events

The Clerk outlined two event permission requests for Linear Park. During discussion, concern was expressed that neither event appears to be providing toilet facilities. Overall, Members were supportive of the events proposed subject to suitable toilet facilities being available commensurate with the scale of the event.

CE/23/15) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

The Chair provided an update on the work of CASA who he said were very active meeting monthly at the Quaker House. They have their own bank account, own a gazebo, support events and give talks, undertake litter picks and publish a fortnightly article in the Voice.

A discussion regarding litter ensued and a proposition to erect more signs in parks was lost by 2 votes to 3.

The Chair advised that CASA proposed holding an awareness event in the Holy Trinity Church in October and that they are trying to devise a scheme for the distribution of wildflower seeds.

Mrs Earl encouraged Members to sign up to the GIKI Earth app and the Chair undertook to circulate a link to the system.

CE/23/16) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 23rd October 2023.

The meeting closed at 7.19pm.