

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 21<sup>st</sup> OCTOBER 2024 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.**

**Present:** Councillors: Cohen, Guest, Lanxon, Preece, Stephens, Styles and Thompson.

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

**CE/24/14) Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Clemo, Hamilton and Young.

**CE/24/15) Declarations of Interest**

None.

**CE/24/16) Dispensations**

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

**CE/24/17) Public Participation**

Mrs Earl advised that she was in attendance to listen to the meeting.

**CE/24/18) Minutes of Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

**CE/24/19) Matters to note**

The Clerk advised that the Holy Trinity Church fountain is now operational and the Town Council has commissioned a three monthly water testing regime.

**CE/24/20) White River Project**

The Chair welcomed Cornwall Councillor, Councillor Bunney and Tricia Hawes from Mei Loci to the meeting.

Councillor Bunney advised that the White River Project was set up approximately 2 years ago initially to investigate pollution in the White River but it has since been expanded to include the Gover Stream, Polgooth Stream and minor tributaries, roughly on the old Community Network boundaries. The project has now been widened to include other areas promoting wildlife, heritage, healthy living and economic activity and is overseen by a Steering Group with Councillor Clemo representing the Town Council.

Mrs Hawes advised that they are currently at the investigative stage of the Vision Plan and are looking at areas such as:

- Flood risk management
- Re-naturalise the river courses where possible
- Increase biodiversity within the catchment and establish wildlife corridors

- Increase awareness of the area's heritage and historical features
- To improve access to the river environment
- Create environmentally friendly opportunities for the community and economy

There is a long list of projects which it is hoped will be reduced to 5 or 6 large projects all designed and costed up to grant application stage.

Mrs Hawes advised that there is an on-line public survey and that there will be a stakeholder consultation event on the 1<sup>st</sup> November and engagement with primary and secondary schools facilitating workshops for young people. The consultation phase will finish in November and completion of the Vision Plan is due at the end of December 2024.

During discussion, the following was raised:

- The need to consider the LCWIP in the Vision Plan;
- Consideration be given to the cycle routes through St Austell town centre to make it safer for cyclists;
- Joining up with social prescribing
- Review of signage

In answer to a question, Mrs Hawes advised that the positive use of open space has been proven to reduce anti-social behaviour which could work in conjunction with volunteer groups assisting with activities such as woodland management and clearance works.

Councillor Bunney advised that it would be helpful to have a second representative from the Town Council on the Steering Group. The Town Clerk agreed to try to identify a suitable representative.

The Chair thanked Councillor Bunney and Mrs Hawes for their interesting presentation.

### **CE/24/21) Climate Emergency Action Plan**

The Clerk advised that it is good practice to review the Action Plan from time to time and that the updates were highlighted in yellow. The Clerk added that the Grounds staff empty the bins on Town Council land three times a week and so far, there has not been a noticeable increase in flytipping following the introduction of fortnightly domestic waste collections. There was a comment that there appears to be more domestic waste left by the bins in Clifden Road.

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that in the past, renewable energy has been expensive, but he will review again as and when the Town Council's energy contracts come up for renewal. He advised that some of the Town Council's existing suppliers have an element of renewable energy.

### **CE/24/22) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)**

Councillor Cohen advised that Noah Law MP attended the last CASA meeting and the group are carrying out regular litter picks around the town.

With the permission of the Chair, Mrs Earl advised Members that CASA is meeting tomorrow and she is going to suggest to the group that they carry out another

awareness raising campaign, particularly as another batch of leaflets have been printed. She advised that the next litter pick is on Thursday.

Councillor Lanxon offered to put any awareness raising notices on the 3 noticeboards she has access to.

**CE/24/23) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025.

The meeting closed at 6.50pm.