

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 20th JANUARY 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Clemo, Cohen, Hamilton, Lanxon, Preece, Stephens, Thompson and Young

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

CE/24/24) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Guest, Styles and Rowse.

CE/24/25) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/24/26) Dispensations

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

CE/24/27) Public Participation

No matters were discussed under this heading.

CE/24/28) Minutes of Meeting held on 21st October 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 21st October 2024 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CE/24/29) Matters to note

The Clerk advised that further to minute CE/24/21 some issues had been identified over the Christmas holiday period with large quantities of dog faeces being deposited in Town Council bins possibly by commercial dog walkers. He explained that such businesses should have commercial waste contracts and warnings would be given to any offenders identified.

CE/24/30) Smoke Free Parks

The Chair welcomed Katie Waddington and Sue Collins-Snell, Cornwall Council (Health Cornwall) Health Improvement Practitioners, to the meeting. They advised of a no smoking initiative in parks which they were championing and asked Members to consider making Poltair Park play areas no smoking areas. Members supported this idea and asked if Truro Road Park and Bethel Park could be treated similarly.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should agree appropriate signage and launch details for Poltair Park and, if possible, Truro Road and Bethel parks.

CE/24/31) Weed Spraying

The Chair welcomed Claire Briault and Chris McClaren to the meeting. Claire explained her concerns about the use of glyphosate based weed spray and the risk of harm to people and wildlife including in particular bees. She referred Members to the

publication Silent Earth by Dave Goulson and Corserv's Nature Recovery Strategy and stressed the need to protect and enhance biodiversity. She acknowledged that agriculture uses large quantities of glyphosate and that Corserv is still a significant user of chemicals. She expressed a view that there was no need to use chemicals or control weeds.

The Town Clerk explained the range of measures being taken by the Town Council to increase biodiversity and provide wildlife habitats, the small quantities of herbicide used and the lack of viable alternatives currently available. Members expressed a desire to control weeds on kerbsides and surfaced paths but agreed that it would be desirable to reduce the use of glyphosate based herbicides if possible while controlling weeds.

Members thanked Claire for her presentation.

CE/24/32) Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

The Chair advised that CASA planned to undertake litter picks as follows:

- 9.30am Saturday 25th January at Prince Charles Park
- 9.30am Saturday 22nd February at Linear Park

CE/24/33) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the date of the next meeting of the Climate and Environment Committee is 7th July 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.06pm.