

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 24th MARCH 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Fox, Kimber, Pearce, Preece, Pears, Stephens and Thompson.

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Hamilton

CC/24/51) Apologies for absence

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

CC/24/52) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/24/53) Dispensations

None.

CC/24/54) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th February 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th February 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/24/55) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that the grants to the St Austell Sea Cadets and Merlin Neuro Therapy Centre have been approved and will be paid when confirmation is received that the projects are ready to go ahead.

The Chair advised that the Salutem Care and Education presenters were running late and that he would like to bring Agenda Item 9 forward after public participation.

CC/24/56) Public participation

Mr Keast thanked the Mayor and Deputy Mayor for attending the Festival of Music and Speech/final concert and the Town Council for their financial support. Mr Keast advised that, along with professional soloists, the St Austell Choral Society is due to perform Handel's Messiah on Saturday 17th May 2025 and will be of a quality only usually seen in larger towns. He added that most professional performances require grant funding and hoped that the Town Council would look favourably upon the application.

CC/24/57) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Choral Society Concert – 17th May 2025

Members thanked Mr Keast for his grant application and expressed their unanimous support for St Austell Choral Society.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the St Austell Choral Society for their concert at St Johns Methodist Church on the 17th May 2025.

WILD Young Parents

Members expressed their support for the Soft Play Fun Day proposed by WILD Young Parents.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to WILD Young Parents for their Soft Play Fun Day at St Austell Leisure Centre.

CC/24/58) Meadows Pump Truck

The Clerk advised that a bid has been submitted to Cornwall Council's Community Levelling Up Programme for funding in the sum of £86,000 with a contribution of £10,000 from the Town Council. During discussions, Members expressed a preference for the pump track that allows better accessibility and has a more aesthetically pleasing layout.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the designs and, if approved, consult Young People Cornwall before agreeing a final design.

CC/24/59) Leanne Bovey, Regional Director - Salutem Care and Education

The Chair welcomed Leanne Bovey and Jasmine Sutherland to the meeting

Ms Bovey and Ms Sutherland advised that Salutem has recently moved from Polgooth to their new premises on Priory Road (previously Cornwall Council Audiology Unit) and provides specialist services for adults with complex needs.

Ms Sutherland advised that their enabling service helps people to live independently within their communities and can help with shopping trips, social activities, education, community engagement and transport. In addition, the team can assist with housework and provide companionship. At the present time, 35 individuals are being helped at Priory Road. Referrals to the service are mainly through Cornwall Council, but direct referrals from the customer can be made.

Members thanked Leanne and Jasmine for their very interesting presentation.

CC/24/60) CCTV

Members noted the CCTV statistics for January 2024 to December 2024 and January 2025 to February 2025.

During discussion, Members queried the spike in incidents in September 2024 and January 2025 and the increase in incidents in January 2025 compared to January 2024. The Deputy Town Clerk **AGREED** to ask for clarification from the CCTV Manager.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the CCTV statistics for January 2024 to December 2024 and January 2025 to February 2025.

CC/24/61) Schedule of Events

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the organisation of events is going well and that the Community Projects Officer is currently concentrating on the Easter event due to take place in Poltair Park on Saturday 19th April 2025.

Other events scheduled to take place are:

- VE Day Reflection – Library - 8th May 2025
- Climate Awareness Event – Library - 30th May 2025
- Community Plant Swap – Library - 29th June 2025
- After school games events in the parks (if funding bid is successful)
- Community Picnic in Bethel Park – July (date to be determined)
- Fun Day/VJ Event, Town Centre – 14th August 2025
- Christmas activities at the Market House (to be determined)

CC/24/62) Projects Update

Shared Prosperity Fund (Round 1)

The roof top garden feasibility study has been finalised and shared with the Town Council and Town Centre Revitalisation Partnership.

Town Vitality Fund

The banner is due to be erected after the Easter holidays and the Church Piazza ground work should commence week commencing 28th April. The student accommodation feasibility work for High Cross Street is almost complete. The finalised report is expected to conclude that the number of students looking for accommodation in St Austell is not as high as first anticipated. The highways work looking at improvements to the traffic flows around the church and Fore Street is almost complete with a report due by 31st March 2025.

Community Capacity Fund

The Duke Street consultation has taken place. Comments received include:

- The need to keep the road wide enough to allow deliveries through
- Low level planting so that the shops are not obscured
- The potential for 20 minute parking spaces to be created to allow people to make a quick visit to the town centre

These comments are being reviewed by Mei Loci.

Shared Prosperity Fund (Round 2)

Community Capacity Fund

A bid has been submitted for a trailer and large garden games for use by schools and Town Council/BID events. Outcome awaited.

Community Levelling Up Programme

A bid has been submitted for a pump track at The Meadows. Lots of community support has been received for the project. The Town Council has approved £10,000 by way of match funding should the grant be approved.

CCTV

The CCTV monitoring will revert to summer monitoring hours in April. Five cameras are on order for installation at Biddicks Court Steps, McDonalds roundabout, Cross Street, top of Victoria Place and South Street.

Young People Cornwall (YPC)

The YPC steering group meet quarterly and has Town Council representation on it. The organisation is extremely busy, particularly as Cornwall Council has cut their contract with Action 4 Children.

Car Park

The car park income remains better than budget and a further section of resurfacing has been carried out. Re-lining is due to commence after Easter. This work is being done on a phased basis so that the car park can remain open. The contactless payment system is working well and the season tickets are steady with a number of regular users. Cornwall Council is in discussions with St Johns Methodist Church regarding the creation of an access from the short stay car park to St Johns.

No response has been received from Cornwall Council regarding the future operation of Clifden Road Car Park.

Anti-social behaviour

The hotspot funding for the security guards expires at 31st March. It is hoped that the Police second homes council tax income will fund further hours. The security guards are keeping an eye on a few new faces around the town and assisting where they can with shop lifting which remains an issue. The guards are now CSAS trained.

Grounds Staff

The winter maintenance across the town is almost complete and the summer grass cutting has commenced. All the rural footpaths have been cut.

Landrew Road and The Meadows have both received new playing ground equipment utilising CIL Funding. The paths in the parks have been edged and a further 2,500 bulbs have been planted across the parish. The centre of Asda roundabout has been re-planted and a flower tower installed at Porthpean Road roundabout. A selection of summer bedding plants are being grown in the polytunnel.

Public conveniences

The Town Council has approved the refurbishment of the changing places toilet at Priory Car Park which will include a new hoist to replace the existing one which is beyond economic repair.

Arising from questions, the Clerk confirmed that the oak tree stump in cemetery park will remain in situ as a wildlife habitat and that he would speak to the Operations Manager about the potential for more daffodils on Southbourne Road.

Members congratulated the grounds staff on the beautiful flower displays across the town.

CC/24/63) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 2nd June 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.24pm.