

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 2nd JUNE 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Clemo, Hawken, Kimber, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Taylor, Thompson, Whitehouse and Young.

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

Public: There were five members of the public present.

CC/25/01) Election of Chair

The Clerk asked for nominations for Chair.

- A nomination was received for Councillor Thompson
- A nomination was received for Councillor Preece

Members undertook a secret ballot to elect the Chair of the Community Committee for the 2025/26 civic year. The result of the ballot was:

Councillor Thompson – 5 votes
Councillor Preece – 6 votes

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Preece be elected Chair of the Community Committee for the 2025-26 civic year.

CC/25/02) Election of Vice-Chair

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

A nomination was proposed and seconded for Councillor Kimber

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Kimber be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2025/26 Civic Year.

CC/25/03) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hamilton and Lingham.

CC/25/04) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Clemo declared an interest in Agenda Item 11 (Small Grants Scheme) by virtue of knowing the Personal Trainer from No Limits Personal Training and Wellbeing CIC.

CC/25/05) Dispensations

None

CC/25/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 24th March 2025

The Chair referred to Page 4 (Grounds Staff) and suggested that in the last line the word "on" should be deleted.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment the minutes of the meeting held on the 24th March 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/25/07) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that the CCTV Manager's response to the CCTV query (Minute Number: CC/24/60) was circulated to the Committee.

CC/25/08) Public Participation

Ms Vanloo expressed a view that the General Wolfe building should be retained and refurbished for community use and supported the views of local historian, Lyndon Allen who is firmly against its demolition.

Ms Heyward, supported Ms Vanloo's comments and expressed concern that a number of Cornwall Council owned buildings have been left to deteriorate and then demolished and that the General Wolfe should not be allowed to succumb to the same fate. Ms Heyward advised that only the old part of the building is listed and expressed a view that if a crossing was put in place the building could be refurbished for community use.

CC/25/09) General Wolfe Building

The Town Clerk circulated a communication received from Mr Lyndon Allen and provided an overview of the recent history of the General Wolfe building, the potential options and the estimated costs to bring it back into use.

The Clerk added that Corserv Facilities Ltd own the building and that in conjunction with Cornwall Council they will be inviting Community Groups at the end of June to submit an Expression Of Interest (EOI) for a viable community proposition for the building. Interested parties will receive an information pack and be given a tour of the building if required. If the process goes well, Cornwall Council's Cabinet will receive a recommendation and hopefully decide on the future of the building in December.

The Town Council, St Austell Town Centre Partnership and St Austell BID will be briefed by Cornwall Council on the Expression of Interest process on Tuesday 10th June 2025.

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

*** In order to assist a member of the public present, the Chair agreed to consider the grant application from the St Austell Hockey Club next***

CC/25/10) Small Grants Scheme

St Austell Hockey Club

Mr Hocking advised following a fire at Poltair astro turf a few years ago, St Austell Hockey Team have been training in Truro twice a week.

He explained that the club would like to play and train in St Austell and have identified Penrice School as a suitable venue, but the pitch does not have floodlights. The club would like to purchase temporary floodlights and a container to store them which requires funding in the sum of £9,700, £6,500 of which has been raised so far. Mr Hocking advised that funding bids have been submitted to Tesco and Co-op and they are hopeful that the full amount can be raised by August.

During discussion, Mr Hocking confirmed that he is in discussions with CELT and all safeguarding processes and procedures are in place including DBS checks.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to St Austell Hockey Club towards the purchase of temporary floodlights.

CC/25/10) Grounds Maintenance Service

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Operations Manager had outlined the activities of the grounds maintenance team within his report and hoped that the new Members of the committee would find it helpful to understand the remit of the service.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the grounds staff work on a "summer schedule" and "winter schedule" and that they are currently on their summer schedule which is mainly cutting grass. She advised that the Town Council cut the highways verges and residential areas under a Service Level Agreement with Cornwall Council and that it takes approximately 3 weeks for the team to get across the town. The team carry out approximately 9 cuts over the summer months, depending on weather conditions.

The "winter schedule" consists of maintenance projects such as bench repairs, tree works, re-building walls, playground repairs, library maintenance, flower bed stripping, rotavating areas for wildflowers and bridge and fence repairs.

All year-round colour is achieved through summer and winter bedding plants.

The grounds team consists of 8 staff, 7 full-time and 1 part-time and as well as grass cutting and winter maintenance they carry out the maintenance of footpaths under a Service Level Agreement with Cornwall Council.

During discussion, Councillors thanked the Operations Manager and the grounds team for their excellent work.

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

Councillor Clemo reiterated his interest and left the meeting

CC/25/11) Small Grants Scheme

No Limits Personal Training and Wellbeing CIC

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to No Limits Personal Training for funding towards the "Reclaim" project.

Councillor Clemo returned to the meeting

Sunshine and Showers

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Sunshine and Showers for funding towards pool fees and kit for adult and childrens' scuba club activities at Twyandreath School pool.

CC/25/12) PULSE – Information Boards

The Clerk outlined the history of PULSE and the discussions to date with St Austell BID, PULSE and the Clerks from Newquay Town and Truro City Councils.

Members although supportive of improving the town centre signage expressed concern with regard to the height of the boards, the number of boards proposed and the potential for mis-use of the Wi-Fi and emergency calling features.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Council should not proceed with the installation of PULSE Boards or similar signage until such time that they are proven to work satisfactorily in other local towns.

CC/25/13) Schedule of Events

The Deputy Clerk provided an update on the schedule of events as at 23rd May 2025. She advised that the Easter Fun Day had been a great success with over 200 children and their families enjoying the event. The Community Plant swap also went well on 30th May 2025 which ran alongside the climate awareness event at the library.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Community Projects Officer is working on a schools' welly boot decorating/planting competition, the entries for which will be displayed in White River Place on the 21st June as part of their Summer Fayre. The Mayor will judge the wellington boots on the day and prizes will be given to the winning entrants.

A number of after school games sessions in the Town Council's parks are in the planning stage for July and all being well will be run by Young People Cornwall. The VJ Day event planning is nearing finalisation. The event starts with a parade through Fore Street and culminates in a 1940's style family fun day in White River Place.

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Community Projects Officer will start planning Christmas events shortly which will hopefully include a Santa's grotto at the Market House, a snow machine, flash choirs, bands and collaboration with the church on a winter wonderland in Holy Trinity Church.

Arising from the above, Councillor Taylor expressed her strong concern that the Market House is not accessible for all and that an alternative venue should be considered. Councillor Young advised that the Market House has a ramp for wheel-chair access from Market Street and an accessible access to the first floor of the Market House from North Street.

Arising from a further question, the Deputy Clerk advised that when the trailer/games is not in use by the Town Council, it can be lent out to the BID and White River Place to compliment activities in the town centre.

CC/25/14) Projects Update

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided an update as follows:

Town Centre Revitalisation (Shared Prosperity Fund – Round 1)

The banner project is temporarily on hold whilst the appointment of a new contractor is being carried out.

The Holy Trinity Piazza project has started which is still on target for a completion date in August.

Grant funding approval from Cornwall Council is still awaited for the proposed Pump Track at The Meadows.

CCTV

The Town Council runs the CCTV service in partnership with Newquay Town Council. Both towns are monitored from Newquay Police Station and at the present time the service is on summer monitoring hours which is almost 24/7. 5 additional cameras are on order and should be installed later this month. The tender for the maintenance of the CCTV system is up for renewal and the Town Clerk is in discussions with Newquay Town Council to agree the tender process.

Young People Cornwall (YPC)

Young People Cornwall continue to be an important stakeholder in the town and offer a tremendous amount of support and educational activities for young people. The Town Council has two representatives on the steering group. It is hoped that YPC will run the after-school games during July.

Priory Car Park

The car park income remains good and further re-lining work will be done this week. The contactless payment system remains popular and there is a steady group of season ticket holders. No response has been received from Cornwall Council with regard to the Town Council potentially taking on Clifden Road Car Park.

Anti Social Behaviour

There are a few new people around the town which the security guards do not recognise. Shop lifting is sadly prevalent, and the shops are regularly requesting assistance from the security guards. Further Hot Spot funding has been released but the terms are not ideal, so negotiations have started to agree some amendments to the timing and location of patrols proposed by the OPCC.

Priory Public Conveniences

The Changing Places Toilet at Priory Car Park is now open.

Stable Block

Discussions are taking place with Treveth for the renewal of the Town Council's lease of the Stable Block for a further 5 years with a 3 year break clause. Treveth has also indicated that they would be willing to build a purpose-built office and depot for the Town Council on the Penwinnick Road site.

The rent for the Stable Block is likely to increase quite substantially over the next few years and discussions are taking place with the localism team about the potential to charge Cornwall Council for grass cutting. The devolution deal negotiated in 2016/17 with Cornwall Council included a low rent for the Stable Block in return for free grass cutting on Cornwall Council land.

CC/25/15) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for Monday 8th September 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.