

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 8th SEPTEMBER 2025 at The Registrar's Office, Carlyon Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 4LD at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Hamilton, Hawken, Lingham, Preece, Stephens, Taylor, Thompson and Whitehouse.

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

CC/25/16) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Clemo, Kimber, Pears, Rowse and Young.

CC/25/17) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Cohen declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Small Grants Scheme – Climate Action St Austell) by virtue of being the Town Council's representative on the group.

Councillor Hamilton declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Small Grants Scheme – Imerys Singers) by virtue of being related to one of the choir members.

CC/25/18) Dispensations

None.

CC/25/19) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 2nd June 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 2nd June 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/25/20) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has received one expression of interest for the General Wolfe building and is evaluating the proposal.

CC/25/21) Public Participation

The members of the public present advised that they would like to speak when the agenda item that they are interested in is considered.

CC/25/22) Trenance to Menacuddle Well

The Clerk advised that the area around Menacuddle Well has been looked after for many years by a group of volunteers and is a well-respected community asset. He added that there used to be a footpath running from Menacuddle Well to Trenance but it has been closed for many years. A move to re-open it a few years ago was not successful due to concerns from the Brewery who own a section of the land.

Mrs Earl advised that she has been in contact with Cornwall Council who has advised that if there is sufficient evidence from individuals who have used the path over a period of time, they would consider adding it to the definitive map. She advised that the pavement along Bodmin Road to Menacuddle is very narrow and dangerous in places which makes it even more important that this footpath is re-opened.

Mr Barry West advised that he remembers the footpath being open and expressed his support to the campaign to re-open it. He advised that there would be a number of local people who would be able to remember using the path and would support its re-opening.

During discussion, Members fully supported the campaign to re-open the footpath and expressed strong concern with regard to the narrow pavement at Bodmin Road and the dangerous crossing to Menacuddle Well.

It was **RESOLVED** to support the action being taken to re-open the footpath between Menacuddle Well and Trenance.

CC/25/23) Barry West

Mr West advised that he has recently carried out improvement works at the Quaker Burial ground and advised that he would like to erect an information board next to the flower bed detailing the history of the site. Mr West advised that he has approached Pentewan Valley Parish Council about creating a wildflower meadow on the site and that he would like to put 20 books into 20 schools at £10 per book to inform the next generation about the burial ground.

Members thanked Mr West for his interesting presentation and for all his hard work at the site. Members supported a contribution towards the proposals and for the Town Clerk to administer the funding in the most cost effective and appropriate manner.

It was **RESOLVED** to earmark a maximum of £350 towards the cost of an information board at the Quakers Burial Ground, assistance with wildflowers at the Quakers Burial ground and the cost of up to 20 books going into 20 schools to inform school children on the history of the burial ground.

CC/25/24) Small Grants Scheme

Councillor Cohen reiterated her interest and left the meeting

Climate Action St Austell (CASA)

Mr Salmon spoke in support of the CASA grant application and outlined their recent activities and their event on the 27th September at St Johns Methodist Church.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 towards room hire costs and the event planned for 27th September 2025.

Councillor Cohen returned to the meeting

Cornwall Performing Arts

Members reviewed the grant application and although supportive of the event, concern was expressed with regard to the inclusivity of the workshop activities proposed to take place in the Market House.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 but express concern with regard to the accessibility of the workshop activities at the Market House.

Imerys Singers

Councillor Hamilton reiterated his interest and left the meeting

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards room hire and travelling costs associated with their performances.

Councillor Hamilton returned to the meeting

St Austell Phab

No application received.

St Blazey Amateur Operatic Society

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 towards the Sleeping Beauty Production in January 2026.

True Butterflies Foundation

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 towards funding seven St Austell families to go on the Little Wings Programme.

YMCA

No application received.

CC/25/25) CCTV Statistics

Members reviewed the statistics and felt that for comparison purposes, it would be helpful to have statistics for the previous year. During discussion, Members expressed an interest in visiting the CCTV suite, preferably one evening.

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Obtain the previous year's statistics for comparison purposes;
2. Arrange an evening visit to the CCTV suite for those Members who wish to attend;
3. Note the report

CC/25/26) Schedule of Events

The Deputy Town Clerk tabled the latest events schedule and outlined in detail the events so far and the proposed activities for Halloween and Christmas. She stressed the significant resource required to run events safely and successfully and the need to discuss priorities with Councillors in due course as there was a limit to the number and scale of events which could be delivered with the resources available.

During discussion, Members felt that Councillors could assist more with the arranging of events.

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

CC/25/27) Projects Update

The Clerk and Deputy Clerk provided an update as follows:

Banner

Both banners have been erected, and the dismantled finger post sign will be replaced shortly.

Plazza

The issues with regard to the utilities have been resolved and the laying of the granite should commence shortly.

Town Centre Revitalisation Investment Programme

The grant application for small environmental projects around the town has been approved and requires delivery of each project by 31st December. The Regeneration Officer has commenced meetings with all interested parties.

CCTV

There have been delays with the ordering and installation of the 5 new cameras proposed for Biddicks Court steps, McDonalds roundabout, Cross Street, Victoria Place and South Street.

The maintenance contract is being re-negotiated in partnership with Newquay Town Council.

Young People Cornwall (YPC)

YPC facilitated the after-school games in July and have provided an evaluation report of each event. Steering Group meetings are held quarterly with Town Council representation.

Priory Car Park

Income is above budget and improvement works, including re-lining have been carried out. The refurbishment of the changing places toilet is now complete. Quotations to put solar panels on the toilet block are being evaluated.

ASB

There are a few new faces in the town and within the last few weeks a couple of instances of ASB in cemetery park which required the police to attend. The security guards have reported a slight decrease in shoplifting. Further hot spot funding has been received to enable the additional hours for the security guards to remain.

Footpaths

The footpaths are being maintained by the Town Council and the bridge repairs at Polmarth are being undertaken by Cormac.

Stable Block Lease

Discussions have taken place with Treveth about a further 5 year lease of the Stable Block. At the present time, Cornwall Council is unwilling to pay compensation for the proposed rent increase. The Chair and Vice-Chairs discussed the matter at a recent informal meeting.

There is the potential for Treveth to build a purpose built office and depot for the Town Council on the Penwinnick Road site.

Poltair Park

The Town Council has been approached about the potential to provide a new skateboard park for Poltair Park. It is hoped that the community can get behind the proposal similar to the approach taken for the Pump Track at The Meadows. The Operations Manager is looking at the possibility to replace aging equipment in a phased manner.

Arising from the above the following was raised:

- Parking at Tregonnisey Lane End Car Park
- Consideration of a wheelchair swing at Poltair Park

CC/25/28) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for 24th November 2025.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm