

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 24th NOVEMBER 2025 at Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.

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

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Lanxon

CC/25/29) Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors: Hamilton, Kimber, Lingham and Rowse.

Councillor Young advised that he needed to leave the meeting early.

CC/25/30) Declarations of Interest

None.

CC/25/31) Dispensations

None.

Councillor Stephens arrived during the next item

CC/25/32) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 8th September 2025

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 8th September 2025 be approved and signed as a correct record.

CC/25/33) Matters to Note

General Wolfe. Cornwall Council has confirmed that the one expression of interest received for the building has been assessed as unviable. It is understood that a report will be submitted to Cornwall Council's Cabinet, possibly early next year, recommending a way forward.

Trenance to Menacuddle Well footpath. Cornwall Council has advised Mrs Earl that evidence of historic use by the public needs to be submitted before an application to open the Trenance to Menacuddle Well footpath can proceed.

Quaker Burial Ground. The Clerk confirmed that he has been in contact with Mr West and is awaiting a reply.

CC/25/34) Public Participation

None.

CC/25/35) Emily Hudson, Regional Leader, Smartphone Free Childhood

The Chair welcomed Emily Hudson, Regional Leader for the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative.

Ms Hudson introduced the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative and the local schools' policies on Smartphones. She explained that the primary schools in St Austell have a "hand in at the office" policy and secondary schools a "switch off and in bag policy" but both policies allow for smartphones to be used on the walk to school, on the bus, in toilet cubicles, changing rooms and behind the teachers' backs. Ms Hudson outlined the detrimental impact that smartphones have on school life and the positive impact a smartphone free policy would have on children.

Ms Hudson advised that Councillor Hilary Frank, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families, is in support of the initiative and has suggested that contact should be made with the Community Area Partnerships to gain widespread support amongst schools. To date four Community Area Partnerships have booked a presentation with herself.

By way of information, Ms Hudson advised that following a meeting with Newquay Town Council, the primary and secondary schools in the Newquay area have agreed to act collectively and over time become smartphone free.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should write to the Community Link Officer and Chair of the Cornwall South Community Area Partnership to request that Emily Hudson is invited to a future Cornwall South Community Area Partnership to present the Smartphone Free Childhood initiative as suggested by Councillor Hilary Frank, Portfolio Holder for Children, Schools and Families.

CC/25/36) Small Grants Scheme

YMCA Cornwall

Mr Davies, representing YMCA Cornwall advised that YMCA Cornwall is fundraising to build four new units of accommodation at their premises in Penzance. The site currently has 50 units and provides supported accommodation for homeless and vulnerable young people from across Cornwall. Mr Davies advised that there is a waiting list of 40-50 young people and approximately 3% of their residents come from the St Austell area.

Members thanked Mr Davies for his presentation and congratulated YMCA Cornwall on their excellent work helping, housing and supporting vulnerable young people.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to YMCA Cornwall for funding towards their "Your Help, Their Future" housing project.

St Austell, St Piran's Event

Ms Fox advised that the St Piran's Event in March was a huge success and drew in a large number of people to the town. She advised that there was a childrens' ride and face painter which kept the children entertained and was well received. Ms Fox stressed that funding for the 2026 event is very challenging and due to this uncertainty, Mebyon Kernow has agreed a one off £300 donation towards the event.

She advised that she is hoping to have a craft fayre in the Market House and activities in Fore Street. The main parade and speeches will be in White River Place.

Members thanked Ms Fox for her presentation and expressed their full support for the continuation of the St Piran's Event in the town centre.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to St Austell, St Piran's Day Event for funding towards the March 2026 event.

Farming Mother

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to The Farming Mother CIC for funding towards the purchase of books and learning resource.

St Austell Library Support Association (SALSA)

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to SALSA for funding towards their Father Christmas and Reindeer Community Christmas Extravaganza on Monday 22nd December 2025.

St Austell Old People's Welfare Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Old People's Welfare Committee for funding towards their Christmas Party.

Councillor Young left the meeting

CC/25/37) Cornwall Council Highways Improvement Programme

The Town Clerk explained that £75,000 has been allocated to the Cornwall South Community Area Partnership for community highway improvement schemes and Town and Parish Councils have been asked to nominate one scheme for consideration.

The Clerk further advised that he had taken the opportunity to ask the three Cornwall Councillors and Town Councillors prior to the meeting for some suggested schemes and that the following had been received:

- Creation of pedestrian crossing, Brockstone Road
- Package of mixed waiting restrictions, Daniels Lane, Bucklers Lane and Stennack Road, and Dennison Avenue
- Package of mixed waiting restrictions, Sandy Hill and Bird Sanctuary
- Verge improvements, Boldventure
- Two mobile speed signs, whole of St Austell
- Active travel corridor, A391
- Crossing at Tregonissey Lane End
- Improvements to Robartes Place and Slades Road

It was **RESOLVED** to support Councillor Rowse's suggestion that a package of mixed waiting restrictions at Sandy Hill and Bird Sanctuary should be put forward to Cornwall Council for consideration.

CC/25/38) Poltair Café

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the tenant of the café in Poltair Park has advised of her intention to cease operating the café after the 2026 season.

She added that the operator has indicated that trade is difficult during term time and during the winter months it is not viable to be open. The Deputy Town Clerk confirmed that a report will be brought to Members in due course about the options available to the Town Council.

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

CC/25/39) Youth Council Working Group

Councillor Preece advised that the working group had met three times and had reached out to the two secondary schools and made contact with the Camborne Youth Council. The group feel that the age range for the Youth Council should be Year 9-11 (13- to 16-year-olds) and that the policies and conditions of operation are being looked into. Young People Cornwall have offered The House as a suitable meeting venue for the Youth Council. The Working Group are likely to recommend that the Youth Council are provided with the Town Council's agendas to consider and provided with specific projects of interest to young people eg: an upgrade of a park.

Councillor Preece advised that they were 1-2 meetings away from presenting a report to the Town Council.

CC/25/40) Projects Update

The Town Clerk and Deputy Town Clerk provided an update as follows:

Poundland banners

Both banners are in situ and looking really good. A minor repair has been carried out following a small tear. The finger post sign will be replaced shortly.

Holy Trinity Church – Piazza

The piazza was completed in time for Remembrance Day and is to a very high standard. Funding has been obtained for the design of phase 2 at Holy Trinity which will focus on the grounds of the south side of the church.

The Meadows, Pump Track

The Meadows Pump Track is due to be completed on Wednesday and is likely to attract users from across Cornwall. There will be a soft opening and then an official opening event in the spring.

Town Revitalisation and Improvement Programme Funding

The status of the five projects within this funding programme are:

- **Priory Car Park.** Directional signs erected. Project complete.
- **Old Fire Station.** Contract let for visual improvement to the site

- **Railings at the Baptist Church.** Contract let for the refurbishment and installation of planters on the railings outside of the Baptist church.
- **Slope from Studio 4 to White River Place Toilets.** Contract let for a number of large planters on the pedestrian slope.
- **Design for Holy Trinity Church Grounds** (phase 2) – design nearing completion.

CCTV

The Town Council has had 5 additional cameras installed across the town, making a total of 25 cameras which are monitored almost 24/7 from Newquay Police station. The mobile camera is currently assisting a social housing provider.

Young People Cornwall (YPC)

Town Council representatives attend the YPC steering group meetings on a quarterly basis. They have had some positive exposure on regional television from Children In Need which recounted a story from a young person whose life was turned around through the help of YPC. YPC also ran the park games across the Town Council's parks over the summer which resulted in a number of young people engaging with YPC. The Deputy Town Clerk will invite Nick Smith to a Town Council meeting early next year for an update.

ASB

Shoplifting continues to be a problem which is keeping the security guards busy on a daily basis. Getting the public to report ASB to the Police is still a problem, but without the logs, the police are unable to act on the issues/target problem areas.

The Town Council is funding the security guards, in partnership with the BID and with the hotspot funding 70 hours (2 x 35 hours) of patrols are currently being carried out per week. It is hoped that more hotspot funding will be made available post March 2026.

Inspector Trevivian has returned from his secondment and has made it clear that his team will be targeting those individuals who are persistently causing trouble in the town.

Footpaths

The Town Council's grounds staff continue to cut 6km of footpaths across the town on behalf of Cornwall Council. On average each footpath is cut approximately 3 times per year.

Poltair Park

A fledgling community group has expressed an interest in a new skateboard park for Poltair Park. The Operations Manager is in regular contact with the lead individual and is looking for funding opportunities.

CC/25/41) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee is scheduled for 23rd February 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.49pm.