St Austell Town Council Youth Council

Minutes of meeting held on Tuesday July 14, 2026 at 3.30pm at The House, Carlyon Road, St Austell

Present: CC, JC, JM, Ao'R, LR, AR, LS, ZW

Apologies

Apologies were received from HW and MT.

YC/26/17) Minutes of last meeting on June 16, 2026

Agreed unanimously

YC/26/18) Matters arising not covered in the agenda

Josh asked a question about the Youth Club at The House closing. Other members said they didn't think that was the case **(To be checked and followed up)**

Alannah asked about play equipment being removed from parks. Cllr Preece explained about the helter skelter being removed from Poltair Park and replaced and clarified that a previous question about play equipment concerned a play area in Treverbyn Parish **(Check on progress with contacting Treverbyn Parish about this)**

YC/26/19) Feedback from Operations Manager

Cllr Preece presented the response from Steve Skinner on the request from the Youth Council to place bug hotels (boxes) in locations around the town and to improve goalposts in Poltair Park.

He explained that it was recommended that any bug boxes be placed above ground on trees as there had been issues with boxes on the ground being vandalised/damaged.

Cllr Preece said that SS had said that bug boxes would cost £50 each. It had also been recommended that £200 could be spend on extra wildflower seeds to be planted at sites across the town. SS had suggested that the wildflower meadow at Bethel Park could be extended.

Cllr Preece explained that the goalposts could be fixed as part of ongoing maintenance so there would be no additional cost to do this.

Alannah suggested that schools could be approached to get students to make some bug boxes as part of their design technology lessons/clubs.

Chelsea said that in Year 9 students did make bird boxes and bug hotels/boxes as part of their classwork.

Josh suggested that if the bug boxes were made by students in schools then they might not be as durable as those bought commercially.

Josh left the meeting at around 3.45pm

Zoe suggested some areas near Poltair School which could be locations for bug boxes. Aurielle suggested some locations near Penrice but also raised concerns that bug boxes could be hit by balls etc if located around sports fields/parks. Aurielle also backed Bethel Park as a good location.

Chelsea suggested Mevagissey Park, but Cllr Preece explained that Mevagissey is outside the parish area.

Cllr Preece highlighted Linear Park as a possible location as there is already wildflower planting and rewilding there. He suggested writing to the schools to see if they would be interested in making bug boxes for community use.

Alannah proposed buying 4 bug boxes and for the Youth Council to write to Penrice and Poltair Schools about making bug boxes.

Seconded by Chelsea. Agreed 7-1.

Chloe proposed that Bethel Park wildflower area should be used for wildflower planting. Agreed with 6 in favour, one against and one abstention.

YC/26/20) Code of Conduct

Cllr Whitehouse explained about the code of conduct and that copies would be given to Youth Councillors to sign at the next meeting.

Chloe asked about code of conduct and social media. Cllr Whitehouse explained that it was similar to that which town councillors agree to – not to post anything offensive and not to post anything that would bring the Youth Council into disrepute. He explained there would be more details and discussion at the next meeting.

YC/26/21) Skateboard Park

This item was withdrawn and deferred to the next meeting

YC/26/22) How to get wider consultation back to Youth Council/Feedback from School Parliaments

Aurielle said that there had been no time during School Parliament meetings to feedback from the Youth Council.

Cllr Preece said that Town Council reps would raise issue with schools when they next meet to ensure that there is opportunity to share information between the two organisations.

Chelsea suggested a survey could be sent out to students at schools

Aurielle said that at Penrice tutor group time did give opportunity for students to raise issues for the School Parliament and this could be used for the Youth Council as well.

Alannah said a suggestion box could be placed in schools for students to put ideas for the Youth Council.

YC/26/23) AOB

Chloe said that many children and young people did not like the equipment replacing the helter skelter in Poltair Park.

Cllr Whitehouse explained that consultation was carried out in the library with different suggested equipment put forward and the 'Bird's Nest' which has been chosen was the most popular among those who took part in the exercise

Zoe said that there was graffiti on the railway bridge which was offensive. Cllrs Preece and Whitehouse said they would raise this with the relevant people.

YC/26/24) Library

Cllr Whitehouse said that the library would be on the agenda at the next meeting. He asked if Youth Councillors could try and take some time before the next meeting to go to the library and note down any thoughts about it and, particularly, about the computers and connectivity. He suggested that they did not only consider their own needs, but also what might be needed by other children/young people using the library.

YC/26/25) Next meeting

It was suggested that it might be an idea to allow the new term to bed in first. Suggested Sept 22?

YC/26/26) Email addresses

Cllr Preece said that there had still been some issues with getting correspondence to Youth Councillors so it had been suggested to also send Agendas and letters to

Youth Councillors' school email addresses. All Youth Councillors provided their email addresses.

The meeting ended at 4.30pm