

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL CLIMATE AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 30TH SEPTEMBER 2019 at the Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, PL25 5DP at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Cohen, Jones, King, Lanxon, Oxenham, Pearce, Rees, Styles (Mayor), Thompson and Walker.

Also Present: Councillor Brown.

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

CE/19/01) Election of Chairman

The Town Clerk asked for nominations for Chairman. Nominations were received for Councillors King and Thompson.

It was **RESOLVED** that the election of Chairman should be undertaken by way of a secret ballot.

A secret ballot was undertaken with Councillor King receiving 6 votes and Councillor Thompson receiving 4 votes.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor King be elected Chairman of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2019/20 civic year.

CE/19/02) Election of Vice-Chairman

The Chairman asked for nominations for Vice-Chairman. A nomination was received for Councillor Lanxon.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Lanxon be elected Vice-Chairman of the Climate and Environment Committee for the 2019/20 civic year.

CE/19/03) Apologies for absence

There were no apologies for absence.

CE/19/04) Declarations of Interest

None.

CE/19/05) Dispensations

The Clerk advised that no requests for dispensations had been received.

CE/19/06) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

CE/19/07) Terms of Reference

It was **RESOLVED** that the Terms of Reference be noted.

CE/19/08) Plastic Free St Austell – Councillor King

Councillor King advised that Surfers Against Sewage have been sent the paperwork to enable St Austell to be designated “plastic free”. The group set up to oversee Plastic Free St Austell has dwindled but Councillor King hopes that things will improve shortly.

In answer to a question, Councillor King advised that in order to be designated as a plastic free business, the business needs to commit to giving up 3 single use plastic items.

CE/19/09) Summary of Cornwall Council’s Report on Climate Emergency – Councillor King

Councillor King advised that he had hoped for more information to be available from Cornwall Council, but this is not likely to be forthcoming until the Localism Summit on the 6th November.

During discussion, Members raised the following:

- Cornwall Council’s Overview and Scrutiny Committee are meeting shortly to discuss the monitoring of Climate Change;
- The recent Cornwall Council All Member Briefing webcast discussing climate change should be available to view shortly;
- A Planning document on climate change is being drawn up to support the local plan;
- Helston Town Council are due to speak at the Localism Summit on the 6th November

CE/19/10) Climate and Environment Action Plan

During discussion, Members raised the following:

- Praise for the Helston Climate Action Plan;
- The need for guidance on carbon accounting methodology;
- The need to engage and educate the public on the importance of climate change;
- The need to create an action plan to benefit St Austell as a whole not just St Austell Town Council;
- The need to encourage the improvement of house insulation and energy efficiency;
- The need to consult the public to obtain their views to inform an Action Plan;
- The need for stakeholders and climate change specialists to sit on any working group created.

The Town Clerk added that the Town Council has very little resource and no budget for climate change at the present time and suggested that Members should look at the bigger issues in the first instance.

CE/19/11) Working Groups

It was agreed that a community engagement event should take place during the first week of November at St Austell Library, possibly in conjunction with an on-line survey.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Deputy Clerk should investigate a suitable date and time for a community engagement event at St Austell Library during the first week of November.

CE/19/12) Climate and Environment Committee - Budget

The Town Clerk advised that there is no budget for the Climate and Environment Committee at the present time and agreed to speak to Helston Town Council about their budgetary provision.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Town Clerk should speak to the Town Clerk at Helston to ascertain what their budgetary provision is for the Climate Change Agenda.

CE/19/13) Project Update

The Clerk outlined to Members the existing climate and environmental projects that the Town Council has carried out so far, including:

- Over 250 trees planted in the last 2-3 years
- Recently planted horse chestnut tree (endangered species)
- More pollinators and permanent plants introduced
- Sponsorship sought to help fund improved maintenance of flower beds
- Working with SABEF/GI4G to increase wildflower and tree planting
- Identified additional sites for wildflower planting
- Created a grass cutting strategy
- Reviewing weed spraying options
- Installed bird boxes and bee hotels
- Introduced wildlife corridors on roadside verges
- Wildlife and wildflower areas created at The Meadows, Linear Park and Sandy Hill Park
- Tender specification for Poltair Café includes environmental considerations
- Water butt installed at Lostwood gardens
- Installed re-cycled plastic benches and planters at various locations
- Exploring machinery for annual cutting/gathering/composting of wildflower cuttings
- Improving litter and waste management to encourage less littering and control plastic pollution

CE/19/14) Dates of Meetings

To be confirmed.

The meeting closed at 7.45pm.