

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 2026 at Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.**

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

**In attendance:** David Pooley (Town Clerk) and Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk) and Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

**Also in attendance:** A Etheridge (interpreter).

**CC/26/01 Election of Chair**

The Town Clerk asked for nominations for Chair.

A nomination was proposed and seconded for Councillor Preece.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Preece be elected Chair of the Community Committee for the 2026/27 Civic Year.

**CC/26/02) Election of Vice-Chair**

The Chair asked for nominations for Vice-Chair.

- A nomination was received for Councillor Kimber
- A nomination was received for Councillor Hawken

Members undertook a secret ballot to elect the Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2026/27 civic year. The result of the ballot was:

Councillor Kimber – 6 votes  
Councillor Hawken – 5 votes

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Kimber be elected Vice-Chair of the Community Committee for the 2026-27 civic year.

**CC/26/03) Apologies for absence**

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

**CC/26/04) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Clemo declared a non-pecuniary interest in the grant application for Trewoon Pantomime Group by virtue of being the treasurer of St Austell Arts Centre which is used by the pantomime group.

**CC/26/05) Dispensations**

None.

## **CC/26/06) Minutes of the Meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

## **CC/26/07) Matters to Note**

The Clerk advised that neither Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) expression of interest had been approved due to applications for funding being vastly over subscribed and the wall works in Priory Car Park had commenced.

Annie Etheridge asked Councillors to be mindful when speaking to ensure that Councillor Nott is given the best possible opportunity to be involved in discussions. She advised that in order to achieve this, speakers should slow down their speech slightly and pause when recommendations/resolutions are proposed and seconded.

In order to assist the guest speakers present, the Chair advised that he would bring agenda item 10 forward to agenda item 8.

## **CC/26/08) Public Participation**

The Chair advised the members of the public present that he would allow them to speak under the agenda item relating to the skatepark.

## **CC/26/09) Carefree Cornwall**

The Chair welcomed Mari Eggins of Carefree Cornwall to the meeting. She provided an explanation of the history and role of Carefree Cornwall which exists to help and support young people in care and as they progress to adulthood. She advised that in Cornwall there were 650-660 young people in the 0-18 years old range in care which was an increase of 200 over the last 5 years.

Ms Eggins advised that Carefree Cornwall provide services on behalf of Cornwall Council to approximately 160 care leavers a year, manage 11 bed spaces in Newquay and St Austell and provide floating support for 80 young care leavers. They provide personal advisors for 18-21-year-olds and provide meetings at least once every 8 weeks to help with issues such as housing, education, finance etc.

Members expressed their gratitude for the excellent work of Carefree Cornwall. The Chair thanked Ms Eggins for attending the meeting and for the interesting presentation.

## **CC/26/10) Poltair Park – Skateboard Park**

The Chair welcomed Mr Russ Holbert from Maverick to the meeting.

Mr Holbert advised that he is a Director of Maverick and since 2007 they have built over 200 skateparks including Newquay's world-renowned concrete waves. He advised that he has had a look at the existing skatepark site at Poltair Park and believes that a modern, bespoke and inclusive spray concrete skatepark can be installed on the existing site which would be sympathetic to the nearby housing and surrounding landscape.

Mr Holbert explained the benefits of using spray concrete in that it provides a seamless riding surface, is low maintenance and durable, provides improved flow and ride quality and is quieter than other modular facilities.

Mr Holbert displayed images of different skateboard park designs and stressed the need for community consultation during the design phase, particularly with local users.

Mr Holbert concluded that if the Town Council wished to proceed, they would need to identify a preferred contractor, engage with the community, seek planning permission and then identify funding streams as funders are more likely to fund something that has community engagement and planning permission than just a concept drawing.

The Chair thanked Mr Holbert for his very interesting presentation and invited the public present to speak.

Three members of the public spoke in support of the skateboard park and made the following points:

- Praise for the newly installed pump track at The Meadows;
- A high-quality modern skateboard park would attract new people into St Austell and due to the park's proximity to the town could indirectly create footfall into the town centre;
- Modern sporting facilities such as a skateboard park reduce ASB;
- Provides young people with something to do;
- A commitment to helping work up a project.

Members thanked Mr Holbert and the public for their enthusiasm and support for the creation of a new skatepark at Poltair Park. They felt that on the back of the success of The Meadows Pump Track, the creation of a new skateboard park in Poltair Park would be a very positive addition. As well as potential users, Members suggested that the newly formed Youth Council could play an integral part in the design and consultation process.

It was **RECOMMENDED** that:

1. The Town Council supports in principle the creation of a new Skatepark at Poltair Park;
2. The Town Clerk be authorised to explore how to take the project forward and report back to Members in due course.

*\*\*Councillor Taylor left during the next item\*\**

### **CC/26/11) Community Committee – Terms of Reference**

The Clerk advised that following the merger of the Climate and Environment Committee with the Community Committee, a revised Terms of Reference for the Community Committee has been put drafted for approval. The Clerk added that if approved, the Committee would be re-named "Community and Environment Committee"

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Terms of Reference for the Community and Environment Committee.

### **CC/26/12) Small Grants Scheme**

*Friends of Doubletrees*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to the Friends of Doubletrees towards their new playground equipment.

*Regenerative Food and Farming CIC (Gleaning Cornwall)*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £259 to Regenerative Food and Farming CIC (Cleaning Cornwall) to purchase a new laptop.

*\*\*Councillor Clemo reiterated his interest and abstained from voting on the next item\*\**

*Trewoon Pantomime Group*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Trewoon Pantomime Group towards their 2027 Pantomime - Sleeping Beauty.

**CC/26/13) Community Engagement Policy**

The Town Clerk advised that a draft policy for community engagement reflecting previous policies but in a format recommended by the National Association of Local Councils (NALC) was recommended for adoption.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Community Engagement Policy be approved.

**CC/26/14) CASA – People’s Emergency Briefing**

The Town Clerk advised that Councillor Nott had requested that the CASA event showing the information film People’s Emergency Briefing be an approved duty and the employment of a sign language support worker be authorised subject to a budget ceiling of £500.

It was **RESOLVED** that the CASA event on the 6<sup>th</sup> June 2026 be an approved duty for Councillor Nott and he be permitted to employ sign language support for the event subject to a budget limit of £500.

**CC/26/15) Events Schedule**

The Deputy Town Clerk outlined events provided and planned for the 2026 calendar year. She explained that due to limited staff resource not all events could be managed by the Town Council. Some events were managed by other organisations and supported either financially or in kind and it was important to ensure that the Town Council’s involvement was manageable and sustainable.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that Easter Fun Day and Crazy Golf events in April had been very successful. The Mayor Making Ceremony in May was once again well received and the Pump Track exhibition and opening ceremony had proved really successful leading to requests to repeat the event annually. Members discussed the recent Eat Festival and the potential learning points from the event. Members were generally very positive and considered there was a good vibe in the town centre during the event. The use of Biddicks Court, the walkway past Chi Austel and the need for seating were all discussed. It was explained that it was hoped to get feedback from the organisers and local traders in due course.

In June climate awareness and plant swap events were planned at the library and the Cornwall Festival of Children’s Literature would take place at various locations across the town including the library.

Cornwall Armed Forces Day was due to take place on the 20<sup>th</sup> June and the Town Council staff will manage the road closure for a large parade of military personnel, veterans and cadets. Because of limited staff availability in July and August it is hoped to engage Young People Cornwall to undertake some games in parks sessions during the school holidays.

Other events in the pipeline included a "Then and Now" exhibition of historical and present day photographs of St Austell, a children's Halloween event, the annual Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service, a Schools' Christmas Concert and various Christmas events at the Library. St Austell BID plan to run town centre Christmas events as well as in previous years.

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that requests had been received for a volunteers day and a proms in the park event featuring local brass bands. In order to keep these manageable it was suggested that the volunteers event could be run by the library and the proms event by the Council in conjunction with Councillor Kimber.

Members thanked the Deputy Town Clerk for her hard work in relation to events throughout the year.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the schedule of events as set out with the volunteers day run by the Library and the proms in the park event managed by the Deputy Town Clerk with support from Councillor Kimber.

### **CC/26/16) Projects update**

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

**CCTV.** The Town Council, in partnership with Newquay Town Council manage a CCTV service from Newquay Police station. The Town Council owns 25 cameras across the town centre and the monitoring is currently on summer monitoring hours which is almost 24/7. The Town Council owns a mobile camera and this is currently at a location to assist Ocean Housing with an ASB hotspot. Grant funding from the OPCC for additional cameras has been successful but has not yet been progressed.

**Young People Cornwall.** The Young People Cornwall (YPC) meetings are held quarterly which officers and members attend. The work of YPC remains a very important service to the town and the wider area. YPC recently supported the Pump Track Opening Event and facilitated the summer games in the parks last year.

**Youth Council.** The first Youth Council meeting has been completed successfully with a good contribution from young people. Two more meetings are scheduled before the schools break up for the summer holidays. It is hoped that representatives of the group will attend the July Council meeting.

**ASB.** There are a few new faces and a number of old faces around the Town of which the Police and agencies are aware. The Priory Toilets have been vandalised on a few occasions which has resulted in them having to be closed for a few days at a time. Shop lifting is also still a problem across the town. The security guard OPCC hotspot funding which allows 70 hours of patrols will be withdrawn in September. Cornwall Council has been asked for the temporary/emergency accommodation figures but to date these have not been received.

**Grounds Maintenance.** The grass cutting rounds have started and the summer bedding plants will be planted out shortly. The grounds team assisted with the Mayor Making Event and Pump Track Opening Event at the end of last week and have been reactive to some ASB incidents in the parks (broken glass) and some small library maintenance jobs.

**Armed Forces Day – Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026.** The County RBL is organising and overseeing the event with assistance from the Town Council on the parade road closure requirements. Due to the heightened national security risk assessment, the costs to the Town Council for the event will be higher than anticipated and will be funded from the events budget.

**Trinity Street Road Closure.** The Deputy Town Clerk referred Members to the e-mail received from the Cornwall Council Street Works Team in respect of the essential safety works due to be carried out in Trinity Street for a period of 2 years commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2026. She advised that in order to accommodate a large freestanding scaffolding construction and maintain safety, Cornwall Council's Highways Officers have stipulated that Trinity Street should be converted into a one-way road running from south to the north for the full duration of the works. The one-way system and diversion will run as follows:

- Traffic south to north up Trinity Street
- Left down Truro Road (clear way) to Edgcumbe Triangle
- Left at Edgcumbe Triangle to Penwinnick Road
- Left at Mevagissey Roundabouts up South Street

The Deputy Clerk advised that St Austell BID and Mr Coles have requested that access to the Burton House Service Yard is permitted from the Bodmin Road/Truro Road direction as well as from the south, but this has been declined by Cornwall Council's Highways Team and Classic Builders on safety grounds.

The Town Councillors expressed a view that the traffic management for the project should be managed in accordance with the advice of the highways experts due to the potential safety issues. Concern was however expressed about the displacement of bus routes and Members asked that clarification be sought.

**Devolution – Library/The House.** Discussions with Cornwall Council on the devolution of the two buildings are progressing slowly.

**Clifden Road Car Park.** The Community Link Officer has confirmed that Cornwall Council has no desire to devolve Clifden Road Car Park to the Town Council.

### **CC/26/17) Dates of Meetings**

Due to time constraints Councillors noted the next meeting dates and the Chair deferred consideration of the remaining agenda items and adjourned the meeting.

The meeting closed at 8.05pm.