

**MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 6th JULY 2026 at Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.**

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

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

**Also in attendance:** Councillor Hamilton and A Etheridge (interpreter) and four members of the Youth Council.

**CC/26/18 Apologies for absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hawken and Kimber.

Councillor Taylor advised that she needed to leave early.

Councillor Preece took the opportunity to welcome Josh, Aurielle, Jabez and Henry, members of the newly formed Youth Council, to the meeting.

**CC/26/19) Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Clemo declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Imerys Singers), by virtue of the organisation using the Arts Centre as a venue to perform of which he is a Trustee and agenda item 9 (Sea Cadets) by virtue of his daughter being a member.

Councillor Hamilton declared an interest in agenda item 9 (Sea Cadets) by virtue of being involved with the organisation.

**CC/26/20) Dispensations**

None.

**CC/26/21) Minutes of the Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026**

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2026 be signed as a correct record.

**CC/26/22) Matters to Note**

Further to minute number **CC/26/10** The Clerk advised that he had met with Mr Holbert from Mavericks to discuss the procurement process and now has a number of tender documents for review.

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Armed Forces Day was a success on Saturday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2026 (**CC/26/16**) and that a number of Town Council staff and contractors were in attendance to oversee the road closures.

**CC/26/23) Public Participation**

None.

## **CC/26/24) Youth Council**

The Chair asked Members of the Committee and the Youth Council to introduce themselves.

The Chair explained the governance arrangements for the Youth Council and asked each Youth Council member to advise why they had volunteered to sit on the group.

During discussions, the young people advised that they would like to purchase some bug hotels, pollinators and refurbish the goal posts at Poltair Park and asked if they could draw on the Youth Council's budget to do this.

During discussion, Members thanked the Youth Council members for their update and supported their proposals.

The Clerk confirmed that the Youth Council has a budget of £1,000 and suggested that the Operations Manager costs up the purchase of bug hotels, pollinators and the refurbishment of the goal posts for discussion at the next Youth Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Operations Manager costs up the purchase of bug hotels, pollinators and the refurbishment of the goal posts for discussion at the Youth Council meeting on the 14<sup>th</sup> July.

## **CC/26/25) Cornwall Council – PSPO Renewals – Dog Controls**

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has four dog related Public Spaces Protection Orders (PSPO) for renewal and has consulted key stakeholders, including Town and Parish Councils for their views.

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that Poltair Park is the subject of a dog exclusion order, but it would be hard to enforce as there is a public footpath running through the park. He advised that it would be helpful to keep the dog exclusion order in force to enable enforcement should it be needed.

It was **RESOLVED** support the Public Spaces Protection Order renewals as outlined.

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

### *Gunners Kids CIC*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of their outreach work in St Austell.

### *Imerys Singers*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of room hire, travelling expenses to support local charities and musical accompaniment fees.

### *Pondhu School*

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 towards the cost of purchasing new football and netball kits.

### *St Austell Sea Cadets*

Councillor Hamilton advised that the Sea Cadets, after a lot of fundraising and grant assistance from the Town Council, purchased a mini-bus at the beginning of the year but it has left them with very little funds.

The club would like to upgrade the use of the minibus by purchasing a tow bar and trailer to enable them to transport boats and equipment for boating and other activities for the young people. Councillor Hamilton added that the Sea Cadets play an active role in the community and recently participated in the very well received Cornwall Armed Forces Day parade and always support the annual Remembrance Day parade.

A proposal to award the Sea Cadets £250 was lost.

A proposal to award the Sea Cadets £500 was carried 8 votes for, no votes against and no abstentions.

It was **RESOLVED** to award the St Austell Sea Cadets £500 towards the purchase of a tow bar and trailer.

### *St Austell Canoe Club*

It was **RESOLVED** to award St Austell Canoe Club £250 to upgrade their kayak store.

### **CC/26/27) Eden Geothermal Liaison Group**

Councillor Hamilton advised that if there were no volunteers from the Committee, he would be happy to be nominated.

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Hamilton be nominated to attend the Eden Geothermal Community Liaison Group meetings.

### **CC/26/28) Cornwall Destination Agenda**

The Clerk advised that Visit Cornwall entered voluntary liquidation in 2025 and since then Cornwall Council and partners have been working together to shape a future model for a new sustainable destination organisation.

The group leading on the project have suggested that the new organisation could be funded through a four-tiered membership scheme, but it requires funding in the meantime to keep the existing website and social media presence running over the next few months whilst the changes take place. In addition, it is hoped that a Business Improvement District can be set up to manage the new organisation, but this will take 2-3 years to set up.

Private businesses have pledged funding to help plug the gap and all Town and Parishes are also being approached for contributions.

During discussion concerns were expressed about funding something that might not be sustainable but Members felt that on balance to provide a one-off contribution towards the setting up of a new organisation to replace Visit Cornwall is a positive for Cornwall's greater good.

It was **RESOLVED** to contribute a one-off grant in the sum of £500 towards the setting up a new organisation to replace Visit Cornwall.

### **CC/26/29) Cornish Language Policy**

The Clerk advised that it would be a positive for the Town Council to adopt a Cornish Language Policy and would support Cornwall Council in their recent efforts to keep the Cornish culture and identity alive.

During discussion, it was suggested that the Policy could also be translated into Cornish.

It was **RECOMMENDED** to approve the Cornish Language Policy.

### **CC/26/30) Climate Action Plan**

It was **RESOLVED** to note the updated Climate Action Plan.

### **CC/26/31) Projects Update**

#### *CCTV*

The Clerk is still struggling to get more CCTV cameras at Polkyth due to connectivity. Enerveo has been chased to see if a solution can be found. A grant has been obtained from the OPCC for the additional cameras.

#### *Young People Cornwall*

Young People Cornwall remains an important local service and has agreed to facilitate the After School Games in the parks during July and August utilising the Town Council's trailer of games.

#### *Anti-social behaviour*

Priory toilets have been severely hit over the last 4-6 weeks with over £1500 worth of damage which has led to long periods of closure for repair. The Police are putting a business case together for the OPCC to extend the Hotspot funding for street marshals until 2028. No further details are known. The temporary/emergency accommodation figures have not been received from Cornwall Council so the Clerk will chase.

#### *Grounds Maintenance Service*

The bedding plants have been planted out and the grounds team have resumed the grass cutting round with the 6<sup>th</sup> cut underway. A full report on the grounds maintenance service is due to be considered at the Council meeting on Monday 13<sup>th</sup> July 2026.

#### *Trinity Street closure*

The partial closure of Trinity Street after some minor teething problems appears to be working better than expected and Classic Builders have a dedicated staff member in White River Place to answer any queries. The BID has advised that footfall is down, but Priory Car Park is not showing any adverse impact at the present time.

Arising from the above, concern was expressed with regard to the parking at the top end of Truro Road close to the Edgcumbe Triangle.

## *Library*

Cornwall Council has commissioned a second survey of the library building but due to a lack of resource within the property team at Cornwall Council, negotiations have stalled.

### **CC/26/32) To consider excluding the Press and Public**

It was **RESOLVED** that under Section 1 (ii) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press be excluded from the meeting for the next agenda item in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

### **CC/26/33) Poltair Café**

It was **RESOLVED** to:

1. Note the departure of the current tenant with effect from September 2026;
2. Authorise the Town Clerk to enter into a new Tenancy at Will, on a 6-month trial basis on condition that the café is regularly open and marketed well with assistance from the Town Council.

### **CC/26/34) To re-admit the press and public**

It was **RESOLVED** to re-admit the press and public.

### **CC/26/35) Dates of Meetings**

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee meeting is on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September 2026.

The meeting closed at 19:23