MINUTES of the EXTRAORDINARY MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 9th JULY in The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Clemo, Cohen, Gray, Hamilton, Lanxon, Marshall, Nott, Preece, Stephens and Thompson.

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

Also present: Annie Etheridge (Interpreter to Councillor Nott).

C/26/22) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Kimber, Lingham, Rowse, Taylor, Whitehouse and Young.

C/26/23) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

None.

C/26/24) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/26/25) Minutes of Meeting held on 11th May 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/26/26) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that further to minute number **C/26/18** the helter skelter in Poltair Park has been taken down and the new piece of play equipment is due to be installed in August/September.

The Clerk added that correspondence has been received from South West Water and Dowr Glan (**Minute Number: C/26/29**) which will be discussed at the Council meeting on Monday 13th July 2026.

C/26/27) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that he had prepared his announcements list for the Council meeting on Monday 13th July 2026.

C/26/28) Public Participation

There were no members of the public present.

C/26/29) 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 remainder of the business of the meeting in view of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

C/26/30) Office/Depot Accommodation

The Clerk provided background information on the Town Council's office/depot accommodation and the discussions held to date with regard to its future accommodation needs when the lease at the Stable Block expires.

The Clerk explained that within the last few days, a tender opportunity has arisen for the Mount Charles Social Club which due to its central location in the parish, size and the condition of the building, grounds and parking is an opportunity that needs serious consideration.

The Clerk offered Councillors Gray and Nott the opportunity to explain their alternative proposal which had been circulated to Members.

Councillor Gray advised that their suggestion was not a proposal but a request not to rush into a tender for the Mount Charles Social Club but to create a Working Group to look at alternatives such as the Market House.

Councillor Gray put a proposal forward that a Working Group be set up to consider alternative buildings or sites.

Following a review of the sales brochure of the Mount Charles Social Club site and a discussion on the financial implications for the Town Council, Members raised the following:

- Sites like this do not come up very often and that the Town Council should take the opportunity and put a tender in for the site;
- The advantages of the office and grounds team being co-located on one site;
- The potential for the Town Council to allow the community to use the building as a meeting space or for events/parties;
- Having its own freehold premises would be a financially better solution for the Town Council;

Members agreed that the suggested tender price and overall budget for the purchase, refurbishment, running costs and maintenance of the building put forward by the Town Clerk was reasonable and realistic and that a tender for the site should be submitted in the sum of £175,050 (one hundred and seventy five thousand and fifty pounds).

Councillor Gray withdrew his proposal for a Working Group to be set up.

It was **RESOLVED** unanimously to authorise the Town Clerk to submit a tender for the Mount Charles Social Club in the sum of £175,050 (one hundred and seventy five thousand and fifty pounds), stressing the community benefits that the Town Council would wish to bring to the site.

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Clerk, in consultation with the Mayor, would issue a press release if necessary at an appropriate time.

C/26/31) To consider re-admitting the press and public

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

C/26/32) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on Monday 13th July 2026 and Monday 1st September 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.27pm.