MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on MONDAY 10th AUGUST 2026 in The Stable Block, Pondhu House, Penwinnick Road, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5DP.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bull, Cohen, Gray, Hamilton, Kimber, Lanxon, Lingham, Marshall, Nott, Preece, Stephens, Taylor, Whitehouse and Young.

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

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

The Mayor welcomed everyone to the meeting.

C/26/49) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bullock, Clemo, Hawken and Thompson.

C/26/50) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

- Councillor Hamilton advised that he had received a dinner when giving a talk to St Austell Bay Rotary Club.
- Councillor Nott declared an interest in agenda item 15.
- Councillor Stephens advised that he had received tickets to a production of Frozen at Par.

C/26/51) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/26/52) Minutes of Meeting held on 13th July 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th July 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/26/53) Matters to Note

The Clerk advised that Councillor Bullock had completed his acceptance of office form and requested to be appointed to the Community Committee (soon to become the Community and Environment Committee).

It was **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bullock should be appointed to the Community and Environment Committee.

C/26/54) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor advised that his Mayoral engagements had been quiet over the last few weeks, but he had attended an Active Cornwall Leadership course with the Deputy Mayor which was interesting. He added that on Saturday he is due to judge the Bake-Off competition at the Market House and attend a Stage Theatre Art production of Frozen.

Councillor Taylor arrived to the meeting

C/26/55) Public Participation

There were no members of the public at the meeting.

C/26/56) Cornwall Council Streetlight Initiative – (Final Phase of dimming/switch off)

The Clerk advised that Cornwall Council has finalised its final phase of dimming/switching off of streetlights in various locations across Cornwall and referred Councillors to the interactive map on Cornwall Council's website. He advised the following:

- The purple dots indicate that the lights will be switched off from midnight to 5am Sunday to Thursday and dimmed on Friday and Saturday between midnight and 5am.

- The pink dots indicate that the lights will be switched off from midnight to 5am seven days a week.

- The streetlights in St Austell town centre will not be affected.

The Clerk advised that Redruth Town Council has objected to the switching off/dimming of lights in their town. He added that the switching off/dimming of streetlights appears to run against the Police initiative to end violence against women in the evening/night-time economy (Project Night Eye).

Arising from a question, the Clerk confirmed that in early June he had received a draft of the proposals from Cornwall Council but was asked not to share it. At the beginning of August Cornwall Council advised that the public facing map had been finalised.

During discussion, the following comments/issues were raised:

- Disappointment that Town and Parish Councils and the public were not formally consulted on the matter;
- The severe ASB in Charlestown and Carlyon Bay;
- The potential for doorbell cameras not to work if they are recording in the darkness;
- The potential for more thefts and burglaries in residential areas that will be in darkness;
- Darkness is good to help people sleep better and is better for the environment;
- Concern for the safety of people walking home after a night out or walking to and from work (shift workers);
- Concern for the safety of vulnerable people.

It was **RESOLVED** to object to the streetlights being switched off or dimmed in St Austell and the surrounding areas as indicated on the final map due to the well-known ASB and crime issues in this area and the strong likelihood that ASB and crime will increase as a result of the additional periods of darkness. Members were particularly concerned about the safety of vulnerable people including women and children.

This was carried by 10 votes to 2

It was **FURTHER RESOLVED** to instruct the Clerk to write to Cornwall Council to complain about the lack of transparency and inadequacy of the consultation with Town and Parish Councils and the public in relation to this initiative and to seek an apology.

This was carried unanimously

C/26/57) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Planning and Regeneration Committee meetings held on the 18th May 2026, 15th June 2026 and 20th July 2026 be noted.

The Clerk advised that further to Minute P/26/43 the hearing date for the licence application relating to 4 Fore Street has been set for Wednesday 26th August 2026.

It was also **RESOLVED** that Councillor Bull should represent the Town Council at the hearing.

C/26/58) Community Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Community Committee meetings held on the 1st June 2026 and 6th July 2026 be noted and the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein be approved.

C/26/59) Finance and General Purposes Committee

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the Finance and General Purposes meeting held on the 22nd June 2026 be noted and the **RECOMMENDATIONS** contained therein be approved.

Councillor Kimber declared an interest in a payment and left the meeting

C/26/60) Schedule of Payments – 1st May 2026 to 2nd July 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments totalling £307,767.44 and the transfers between bank accounts amounting to £7,985.49 for the period 1st May 2026 to 2nd July 2026 be approved.

C/26/61) Schedule of Payments – 3rd July 2026 to 31st July 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments totalling £124,471.09 and the transfers between bank accounts amounting to £150,000 for the period 2nd July 2026 to 31st July 2026 be approved.

C/26/62) 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/26/63) Communication Support

To assist with communication support for Councillor Nott, it was **RESOLVED** that the use of local signing interpreters be authorised for:

1. Council meetings;
2. Community and Environment and Finance and General Purposes Committee meetings;
3. Pre-approved duties such as training and civic events (up to 4 of each per annum).

C/26/64) Office accommodation/depot

The Clerk advised that he had still not received written confirmation of the acceptance of the Council's bid for Mount Charles Social Club despite chasing the estate agents on a number of occasions. Members referred to inaccurate social media posts relating to this site and the need to address the misinformation. The Clerk undertook to update Members, to issue a press release and to update Treveth Holdings as soon as he had written confirmation that the Council's offer had been accepted.

C/26/65) To re-admit press and pubic

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

C/26/66) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on Tuesday 1st September 2026 and Monday 12th October 2026.

The meeting closed at: 18:52