MINUTES of the MEETING of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL held on TUESDAY 1st SEPTEMBER 2026 in Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Brown, Bullock, Cohen, Gray, Lanxon, Lingham, Marshall, Nott, Preece, Rowse, Stephens, Taylor and Young.

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

Also in attendance: Councillor Jack Yelland (Cornwall Councillor)

C/26/67) Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Bull, Clemo, Hamilton, Hawken, Kimber, Thompson and Whitehouse.

Councillor Rowse advised that he needed to leave the meeting early.

Councillor Yelland (Cornwall Councillor) tendered apologies for Councillor Ashton (Cornwall Councillor).

C/26/68) Declarations of interest and gifts or hospitality received

None

C/26/69) Dispensations

There were no requests for a dispensation.

C/26/70) Minutes of Meeting held on 10th August 2026

Councillor Young advised that both he and Councillor Lingham were present at the Council meeting on Monday 10th August 2026.

It was noted that the word "Monday" should be deleted before the word "Tuesday" in minute number **C/26/66.**

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the meeting held on 10th August 2026 be approved and signed as a correct record.

C/26/71) Matters to Note

The Clerk referred to page 3, **Minute Number: C/26/57** (Booze Bay, 4 Fore Street, St Austell) and advised that Councillor Bull represented the Town Council at Cornwall Council's Licensing Act Sub Committee on Wednesday 26th August 2026 but despite putting the Town Council's case across strongly, the application was approved with the Police conditions.

Councillor Brown suggested that a note of thanks be given to Councillor Bull for her excellent representation of the Town Council's strong objection at the Cornwall Council Licensing Act Sub Committee. He added that he will ask Councillor Bull to give her reflections at the next Planning and Regeneration Committee meeting.

The Clerk referred to page 4, **Minute Number: C/26/64** (Office accommodation) and advised that Solicitors have been instructed for the purchase of the Mount Charles Social Club and authorised to undertake searches.

Arising from a question, the Clerk advised that a full structural survey will be undertaken as part of the due diligence process.

C/26/72) Mayor's announcements

The Mayor provided an update on his activities as follows:

- Attended the Lostwithiel Town Council Mayor Making Ceremony
- Mayor's Civic Service in Bodmin
- Arts Event in Gorran
- St Austell Pride Event – organised by the Town Team
- Holy Trinity Church fundraising event
- Open Day Event at the Light and Life
- An evening of canoeing with the St Austell Canoe Club
- A performance at The Arts Centre
- A production of Frozen in Par

He added that he will be in attendance at:

- The St Austell Show and Shine Car event on Saturday 5th September - organised by the Town Team;
- "Meet The Mayor" Event on Saturday 19th September, 10am to 1pm at St Austell Library where the Cornwall Councillors will also be in attendance.

C/26/73) Public Participation

None.

C/26/74) Member Questions

None.

C/26/75) St Austell Police update

PC Chris Wallbank and Helen Toms, Community Safety Officer provided a comprehensive Police update covering the following topics:

- The composition of the St Austell neighbourhood team and their remit
- The Booze Bay Licensing application in Fore Street
- The work being done to tackle drug dealing
- Public Space Protection Orders (PSPO) and what they mean

Helen Toms took the opportunity to thank Steve Skinner and the grounds team for offering to put up the refreshed PSPO signage in the town.

During discussion, Councillors raised the following:

- Graffiti at the Asda underpass and the difficulties encountered trying to report it to the Police
- Disappointment that the security guards have been cut in White River Place

- Concern that the streetlights will be switched off/dimmed in areas outside of the town centre in St Austell
- Reassurance that police patrols take place outside of the town centre and that patrols will be increased in these areas when the Police numbers are back up to strength.

Members thanked PC Wallbank and Helen Toms for their comprehensive update.

Councillor Rowse left the meeting

C/26/76) Poltair Park accessibility and wheelchair swing

The Clerk advised that following receipt of an independent accessibility inspection and report and advice from an independent RoSPA Playground Inspector, his recommendation to Councillors is not to instal a wheelchair swing in any of the Town Council's public parks. He explained that to be used safely they can only be used under supervision and when not in use have to be kept locked to prevent mis-use. The Clerk added that Councillor Hamilton had visited the wheelchair swing in St Blazey and read out a statement expressing his concerns.

The Operations Manager advised that a wheelchair swing is not compliant with the BS EN1176 standard for childrens' playgrounds and expressed concern with regard to the lack of ground clearance and impact attenuation in particular.

During discussion, Councillor Taylor expressed her strong objection to the Clerks' recommendation and the advice received from a ROsPA inspector and the Town Council's Officers.

Other views expressed were as follows:

- The views of potential users of a wheelchair swing have not been obtained
- The need for sensory items and social mixing within parks
- Concern that a wheelchair swing would cause segregation of the user from other users of the park (as identified by a Councillor in another setting)
- The potential to form a Working Group to identify how the Town Council's play areas can be enriched with multi-sensory opportunities for all
- The potential to obtain lottery funding

It was **RESOLVED** that a Working Group be formed comprising of Councillors Bullock, Gray, Lingham and Taylor to explore the opportunities to extend the play equipment in the Town Council's parks to provide a multi-sensory environment which is as fully accessible and inclusive as possible.

C/26/77) Standing Orders

The Clerk advised that he had reviewed the current Standing Orders with the NALC Model Standing Orders and had made some suggested changes as outlined by the tracking.

Councillor Brown advised that he had a number of strong concerns and comments on the draft Standing Orders and suggested that this item be deferred and referred to the Finance and General Purposes Committee to enable full consideration to be given to the document.

It was **RESOLVED** to defer the consideration of the Standing Orders and refer the draft document to the Finance and General Purposes Committee on Monday 28th September 2026.

C/26/78) Dispensation Procedure

It was **RESOLVED** to approve the Dispensations Procedure as set out.

C/26/79) Anti-Fraud, Theft, Bribery and Corruption Policy

It was suggested that the words "or have acted otherwise illegally" be taken out of the last sentence of paragraph 5.5.

It was **RESOLVED** that subject to the above amendment, the Anti-Fraud, Theft, Bribery and Corruption Policy be approved.

C/26/80) External Audit Report – 2025/26

The Clerk advised that the Town Council has been given a clean bill of health by the External Auditor for the 2025/26 financial year.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the External Audit Report for the 2025/26 financial year.

C/26/81) Members appointed to outside bodies update reports

Cornwall Planning Partnership

Councillor Brown advised that he is a member of the Cornwall Planning Partnership and was invited to comment as an individual on the Planning Protocol Review and Future Engagement Survey. The survey is now open to the public and the link has been sent to all Councillors.

CALC

He added that at the last meeting of CALC the Articles of Association were approved and the group was advised that the Cornwall Local Councils Conference on the 6th October has sold out.

CALC Larger Council's Group

Councillor Brown provided an update on the last Larger Councils CALC meeting where presentations were provided on:

- National Emergency/Terrorism
- The new Cornwall Tourism organisation
- Cornwall Flood Forum

A discussion also took place on the Exeter University job cuts affecting the Penryn Campus and the possibility of creating a CALC "Medium" Councils Group to benefit those Town and Parish Councils who do not fit into the "Small" or "Larger" Council Group.

Young People Cornwall – Steering Group

Councillor Gray praised the work of Young People Cornwall and their excellent outreach work.

Friends of the Old Bridge

Councillor Gray added that a "Friends of the Old Bridge" group has been set up which has carried out a clear up of the riverbank and obtained a grant in the sum of £10,000 from South West Water.

Town Team

Councillor Gray advised that the Town Team is organising a Show and Shine Event on Saturday 5th September 2026 where it is hoped around 120 vintage cars will be on display in the town centre.

Cornwall South Community Area Partnership (CAP)

Councillor Lanxon provided an overview of the last meeting of the Community Area Partnership which took place on 22nd July and advised that Councillor James Mustoe was re-elected Chair and Councillor Jake Bonnetto re-elected Vice-Chair. The next meeting of the CAP is in Fowey on the 28th October 2026.

Councillor Taylor left the meeting during the next item

C/26/82) Cornwall Councillor update reports

Councillor Yelland advised that Councillor Ashton had asked him to advise the Town Council that the white lines are due to be refreshed at Victoria Road and that he had engaged with the residents of Thornpark Road who are concerned about ASB and litter.

Councillor Yelland provided an update of his projects:

- Discussions with Cornwall Council about the lack of Section 106 contributions and affordable housing at the Treveth development at Penwinnick Road;

- Overnight pedestrian safety works on the double roundabout on Penwinnick Road;

- Re-assurance that the Town Council will still be consulted on Planning Applications when the national planning reform legislation comes into force but the Cornwall Councillors will be less able to call an application in.

- Two highways schemes have been approved. No waiting lines at the entrance of Fore Street and two short stay parking bays – one at High Cross Street and one at Duke Street.

- Attendance at Cornwall Council's Leadership Programme run by Active Cornwall.

- Discussions with the White River Place Manager about the cleanliness of White River Place since the budget cuts.

Discussions are also taking place with Cornwall Council about the confetti that gathers outside the Chi Austel office after a wedding.

- Funding provided to a Community Land Trust to provide funding for housing and the Arts Centre for signage

- A report due to be considered by the Cabinet on the tender process for the Extra Care facility at the Karenza site

- Discussions with Cornwall Council regarding the poor condition of two Cornwall Council owned buildings occupied by Baby Bugs and Stepping Stones Nurseries.

- Voted for "no confidence" in SWW at a recent Cornwall Council meeting

Arising from the above, Councillors asked about the overdue re-surfacing at Highfield Avenue, the lack of affordable housing within the Treveth development at Penwinnick Road and the discussions regarding the Bodmin Road/Menacuddle Well junction.

Due to time constraints, it was agreed that the private report should be considered next

C/26/83) 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/26/84) Poltair Park – Safety Surfacing

It was **RESOLVED** to authorise the Town Clerk to let a contract in the sum of £23,000 to the contractors already working at Poltair Park for urgent safety surfacing repair works.

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

C/26/85) Planning and Regeneration Committee

It was **RESOLVED** to note the Planning and Regeneration Committee minutes dated 17th August 2026.

C/26/86) Schedule of Payments

It was **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments, totalling £26,064.53 and the transfers between bank accounts amounting to £1,153.42 for the period 1st August 2026 to 21st August 2026 be approved.

C/26/87) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next Town Council meetings are due to take place on Monday 12th October 2026 and Monday 14th December 2026.

The meeting closed at: 8.01pm.