

MINUTES of ST AUSTELL TOWN COUNCIL COMMUNITY AND ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE held on MONDAY 14th SEPTEMBER 2026 at Chi Austel, White River Place, St Austell, Cornwall, PL25 5AZ at 6pm.

Present: Councillors: Bullock, Cohen, Clemo, Hawken, Lanxon, Lingham, Preece (Chair), Stephens, Taylor, Thompson and Whitehouse.

In attendance: Sara Gwilliams (Deputy Town Clerk), Steve Skinner (Operations Manager).

CC/26/36 Apologies for absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hamilton, Nott and Young.

Councillors Lingham and Thompson advised that they needed to leave the meeting at 7pm.

Councillor Bullock arrived to the meeting

CC/26/37) Declarations of Interest

Councillor Preece declared an interest in agenda item 7 (Small Grants Scheme) (St Austell Community Land Trust Ltd) by virtue of being a Member of the Labour Party and knowing a number of the Directors and Steering Group Members of the Trust.

CC/26/38) Dispensations

None.

Councillor Lanxon arrived to the meeting

CC/26/39) Minutes of the Meeting held on 6th July 2026

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of the meeting held on the 6th July 2026 be signed as a correct record.

Arising from the above, the Chair advised that at the last Council meeting it was suggested that the Police be invited to attend Town Council meetings on a quarterly basis and suggested that the Community and Environment Committee would be a suitable meeting for them to attend.

It was **RESOLVED** that the Police be invited to attend the Community and Environment Committee on a quarterly basis to provide an update on Policing matters in St Austell.

CC/26/40) Matters to Note

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Town Council's response to the Public Spaces Protection Order has been submitted to Cornwall Council (Minute No: CC/26/25) and an invoice is awaited in respect of the Town Council's agreed contribution towards the Cornwall Destination Agenda (Minute No: CC/26/28). The Deputy Town Clerk added that the Poltair Café tenant finished on Friday 11th September and the new tenant will take over in October half term. The new tenant is hoping to re-brand the café and the Town Council will assist with the marketing/PR.

CC/26/41) Public Participation

None.

CC/26/42) Small Grants Scheme

In order to assist the member of the public present, the Chair agreed to bring the following item forward.

St Austell St Piran's Event

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that since the application was submitted to the Town Council, additional funding totalling £400 has been awarded by two of the three Cornwall Councillors. Ms Fox provided a short presentation on the event planning so far. Members agreed unanimously that the St Piran's Event should be supported due to the positive impact it has on the community learning about Cornish culture/music and the town centre businesses.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £500 to St Austell St Piran's Event towards the cost of putting on the 2027 St Piran's Event.

Cornwall Performing Arts CIC

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Town Council has supported the St Austell Zombie Walk and Halloween Workshop in previous years and that the BID is providing the publicity and security support for this year's event. During discussion, Members expressed concern that the Market House is not fully accessible and no other financial contribution have been secured. Members expressed their support for the event but agreed that unless the whole event is fully accessible in future years, this would be the last year a grant is awarded. Members noted the request for £550 but agreed a grant of £250.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to Cornwall Performing Arts CIC towards the cost of putting on the 2026 Zombie Walk and Halloween Workshop.

St Austell Library Support Association (SALSA)

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that SALSA is a self-funding support association for the library who enable most of the events that take place by providing funding and volunteer support. The funding requested is for fold away benches that can be used for various workshops and events which would make it easier for the volunteers to manoeuvre and set up as the current chairs are quite heavy.

It was **RESOLVED** to award a grant in the sum of £250 to St Austell Library Support Association towards the cost of purchasing fold away chairs.

Councillors Cohen, Hawken and Preece declared an interest in the next item by virtue of being members of The Labour Party and left the meeting

Councillor Stephens assumed the Chair

St Austell Community Land Trust Limited

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that St Austell Community Land Trust Limited has been set up with Noah Law MP as the Director and Chair. The aim of Land Trust is to create affordable housing for local working people and families in the town and that the funding requested is for Phase 1 of a 3-Phase plan. The Deputy Clerk advised that the Town Clerk has written separately to the MP's office to advise that the Town Council would be unable to enter into a Community Share Agreement as it conflicts with Government guidance to local Councils on the security and liquidity of investments.

During discussion, general support was expressed for the project and a suggestion was put forward that the grant application is referred to full Council to consider a larger grant.

A proposal to refer the application to full Council was not seconded.

It was **RESOLVED** that a grant in the sum of £250 be awarded to St Austell Community Land Trust for funding towards their Phase 1 project at Truro Road.

Councillor Whitehouse abstained from voting on this item

Councillors Cohen, Hawken and Preece returned to the meeting

Councillor Preece, reassumed the Chair

CC/26/43) The House

The Deputy Town Clerk advised that the Town Clerk has successfully negotiated acceptable Heads of Terms with Cornwall Council for the transfer of The House to the Town Council and Solicitors have been instructed.

The Terms agreed include a clause that enables Cornwall Council to re-coup 2.5% of the cost of the repairs and maintenance of the surfaced access area to The House from the Town Council. Members expressed their gratitude to the Town Clerk for negotiating this element of the Heads of Terms to a more acceptable position.

The Town Council's Solicitors are awaiting the draft lease from Cornwall Council's Solicitors.

CC/26/44) Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service – Sunday 8th November 2026

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the event planning so far for the Remembrance Day Parade and Church Service. She advised that this year's route has been jointly agreed with the Royal British Legion which will see the parade start and finish at St John's Methodist Church. The church service this year will be jointly facilitated by Holy Trinity Church and St John's Methodist Church. The Town Council will publicise the changes nearer the time.

CC/26/45) CCTV Statistics

The Deputy Town Clerk provided an update on the CCTV service, the mobile camera and the funding obtained from the OPCC.

She explained the technical difficulties with regard to the installation of additional cameras at Polkyth but hoped a resolution will be found soon.

It was **RESOLVED** to note the CCTV statistics for the period January 2026 to August 2026.

CC/26/46) Climate Action Plan

Members reviewed the updated Climate Emergency Action Plan 2026 and raised the following matters:

- The support/joint working with Climate Action St Austell (CASA)
- The potential for photovoltaics panels at Mount Charles Social Club
- The recent demonstration of battery operated strimmers
- When the Open Spaces Strategy will be reviewed

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

CC/26/47) Projects Update

CCTV

During the summer months, the monitoring hours are almost 24/7. The winter monitoring hours will be in operation soon (if not already) which will see a slight reduction in the monitoring hours but the service provided remains a comprehensive one in comparison to other towns.

Youth Council

Four members of the Youth Council attended the last Community and Environment committee where funding was approved for bug hotels. The bug hotels have been received and are likely to be placed in school grounds and local parks. The next meeting of the Youth Council is due to take place on Tuesday 22nd September 2026. The Town Council's website has been updated to include agendas and minutes for the Youth Council meetings.

Anti-Social Behaviour

A number of youths are engaging in ASB across the town which is taking up a lot of time within the Police and Cornwall Council's Community Safety Team.

OPCC hotspot funding for the additional security guard hours will finish at the end of the month. A report is planned on the way forward for the Finance and General Purposes Committee at their meeting later in the month.

Grounds Maintenance

The grass cutting rounds have resumed after the dry spell as well as reactive jobs as and when they come up. An interim report on weed control will be produced for the October Council meeting. There is some bamboo encroachment at Linear Park onto some adjoining properties which will be removed in the autumn.

Events

The Deputy Clerk advised that the Proms in the Park event went well with lots of people suggesting that it could be an annual event.

Events being worked on include a Halloween event at the library, a schools Christmas concert at St John's Methodist Church, a potential craft event in the town centre for Christmas and a number of Christmas events at the library.

Trinity Street

The Trinity Street closure/one way system appears to be working reasonably well with queuing generally only at peak times. Another public update on the project from the contractors is due to be issued shortly. There is a dedicated liaison officer in White River Place to assist with queries. The BID has advised that footfall appears to be down but Priory Car Park has not seen an adverse impact so far.

Library

The Heads of Term have been agreed but a part on the newly installed boiler has failed. The Clerk has agreed with Cornwall Council that once the boiler is working properly and a warranty has been received, the freehold transfer to the Town Council can proceed.

Poltair Park – Skateboard Park

An update on progress with this project will be reported to the Finance and General Purposes Committee later in the month.

Cornwall College

The Town Clerk and the Mayor are due to attend Cornwall College shortly to officially launch a project for Level 3 Art, Design and Photography Learners which tasks them with producing "*an original piece of contemporary artwork that communicates what St Austell means to its people and represents its identity within the Mayor's Chambers.*"

CC/26/48) Dates of Meetings

It was noted that the next meeting of the Community Committee meeting is on Monday 19th October 2026 (if required) and 23rd November 2026.

The meeting closed at 7.15pm.