Minutes of the Meeting of the Community & Environment Committee, St Ives Town Council held in the Cornerstone Greta Williams Room on Thursday 16th July 2026 at 7.00pm.

PRESENT
Chair – Councillor MacNamee
Vice Chair – Councillor Wells

COUNCILLORS

Arthur	Harris T	Ryall J
Evamy M	McNamee S	Smith L
Fuller J	Parkinson-Evans M	Viney P

IN ATTENDANCE
Councillor Kennedy

OFFICERS

Town Clerk, Deputy Town Clerk, Premises and Operations Manager, Head of Finance

C&E.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Councillor L Smith

C&E.02 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

RESOLVED – that Cllr McNamee be elected Committee Chair for the Council year 2026-27.

C&E.03 ELECTION OF COMMITTEE VICE-CHAIR

RESOLVED – that Councillor Wells be elected Committee Chair for the Council year 2026-27.

C&E.04 CHAIR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

RESOLVED – that Councillor Kennedy be APPROVED as substitute for Councillor Smith.

C&E.05 MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chair signs as a true and correct record the minutes of the meeting of the Committee held on 26th February 2026.

C&E.06 PUBLIC SPEAKING

Rodent infestation
A resident from the Warren raised concerns about the level of rats in the local area and their impact on the town. They described issues relating to food waste and commercial and public litter bins. They thanked the Council for its assistance and support to date but urged that more be done as a matter of urgency.

Gates at Trewyn Gardens

A resident asked whether gates could be looked at Trewyn Gardens and it was confirmed that this was scheduled to happen in the next week for the Summer period. They raised concerns that the gates would not prevent anti-social behaviour unless a third gate was installed. It was acknowledged that the actions would not physically prevent access but was designed to deter some and security guards would also carry out patrols before locking. The demolition of the derelict shelter and additional gate were being explored.

The resident thanked the Council for their assistance to date.

C&E.07 UPDATE FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

None

C&E.08 DECLARATIONS OF COUNCILLOR/ OFFICER INTERESTS

None

C&E.09 REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

C&E.10 CLERKS' UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered the officers' update report.

RESOLVED – that the report be NOTED.

REPORTS FOR DECISION

C&E.11 Committee Work Programme

The Committee considered a quarter 1 update report on the committee's work programme. It noted that it was still early in the year, but further investments had been made at Richmond Park and Trewyn Gardens. Recently Barnoon Cemetery had also been devolved. The continued development of the voluntary sector forum was also noted. The Committee referred to a report later on the agenda on the condition of devolved play parks. It was agreed that more detailed actions should be included in the planned work programme to reflect their investment needs.

RESOLVED – that subject to the addition of more specific actions in relation to playground improvements, the Q1 update report on the 2026-27 Work Programme be NOTED.

C&E.12 Playpark Investment and Safety Update

The Committee considered a report on the condition of play equipment in play parks. A detailed annual safety inspection report for Penbeagle park noted a number of very low and low risk failures, which were managed operationally. However, it also noted a high-risk failure of the junior multi play unit, which had been the subject of some in-house repairs but was in need of replacement. In addition, it noted that two play parks due to be devolved were also in poor condition. A playpark reserve had been established but this would not be sufficient to provide for full replacements within one year. This required external match funding to be raised.

The Committee expressed concern about the status of some of the equipment and endorsed the strategy of prioritising the replacement of junior multi play units at Penbeagle park and, once devolved, Ayr Field. It was noted that both the fencing and roundabout at Penbeagle were in poor condition but were not flagged as high risk currently, unlike the multi-play units and replacements must be made on a safety-first basis.

Councillors Arthur and Fuller requested that they be involved in future discussions about park investment.

RESOLVED – that the Committee, NOTES the approach taken to play provision and the annual inspection report for Palemon Best playpark and to prioritise replacement of the junior multi-play equipment for both Ayr and Penbeagle, to be funded from the playground reserves in 2027 and for grant funding applications to be made to fund any additional scheme costs.

C&E.13 PUBLIC BENCH INITIATIVES

i) Talking Benches
ii) Bench QR codes
iii) Bench request on Town Council land.

The Committee considered several bench initiatives as set out in the report. It agreed that they were positive proposals and resolved to approve them with some conditions, as detailed in the resolution.

RESOLVED – that the Committee:

i) SUPPORTS the Talking Benches initiative and APPROVES the installation of a talking bench at an agreed location and in a suitable colour other than red to be sponsored by a member of the public and with the bench policy waived to permit an application to be considered in advance of others on the memorial bench waiting list.
ii) SUPPORTS the proposal to site QR codes on selected benches providing links to mental health advice and assistance, subject to consultation with the relevant relatives of existing bench dedications.
iii) APPROVES a request for the installation of a new public bench, adjacent to Kelly Gardens and the Cornerstone entrance, in order to improve the public realm and prevent fly tipping and with the final location and implementation agreed in consultation with the area Highway Manager and relevant businesses.

C&E.14 YONKERS YOUTH TEAM UPDATE REPORT

The Committee considered an update report from the Youth Engagement Team, Yonkers. Clarification was sought on details on the recent award of revenue funding to deliver youth services. It was confirmed that as the Yonkers team would be based part time in the bus and this would become a hub for some activities, these would be the priority for funds from the revenue grant. However, the team would be engaged in activities with children and young people across many sites in the parish. The funding award was conditional upon young people being involved and consulted in final funding decisions and this would also shape where they were delivered.

RESOLVED – that the Committee NOTES the report and commends the team on their recent progress and programme of activity.

C&E.15 CIVIC EVENTS

The Council received updates on civic events which were planned across the Council year. Detailed arrangements in relation to the forthcoming Knill were considered and the launch of the star awards welcomed.

i. May Day Celebrations 2026/27
ii. Knill 2026
iii. Star Awards
iv. Mayor's Dinner
v. Remembrance and Lanterns of Peace

RESOLVED – that the Committee NOTES the report

C&E.16 WILDLIFE CONCERNS IN ST IVES

The Committee considered recent concerns raised by members of the public in relation to wildlife and animal welfare. They included a recent seagull attack, the continued selling of hollow plastic rings which could endanger seals, and dog welfare during hot weather. It was noted that the Council had adopted an animal welfare charter and a review of the charter, together with signage and better public information, were possible areas for action. It was resolved that a small task and finish group be convened to consider these in more detail.

[Councillor Ryall gave apologies and left the meeting.]

RESOLVED that the Committee SUPPORTS the formation of a small task and finish group to review the animal charter and consider other awareness raising measures, comprising Councillor Evamy and Councillor Fuller.

C&E.17 ALLOTMENT POLICY

The Committee considered amendments to the adopted allotment policy. It was explained that several changes responded to operational issues which had arisen and were not covered by the existing policy, for example notice periods and the keeping of animals on site. An amended tenancy agreement had also been drafted which reflected the changes. The amendments would require Council adoption, following consultation with the allotment association. Concern was expressed about the waiting list for allotments and officers set out a number of possible solutions being explored and within the Committee work programme.

RESOLVED – that the Committee APPROVES the proposed amendments to the allotment policy and associated tenancy agreement and RECOMMENDS them to Council for adoption, subject to consultation with the Allotment Association.

C&E.18 WASTE AND PEST CONTROL

The Committee considered a detailed report on waste management issues and increasing numbers of rats in town. It also detailed the roles and responsibilities of public bodies, residents and businesses. It was accepted that the Town Council had no statutory responsibilities (except as a landowner). However, only by working in partnership and taking a lead locally could the issues be addressed. The Council would therefore need to determine how much it wished to invest and engage in this area of activity.

Councillor Kennedy provided a verbal update on a recent visit from Cornwall Council officers and the relevant Cabinet Portfolio Holder. They were expressed surprise and concern about the extent of the waste management challenges. The visit had prompted an initial response from Cornwall Council including an agreement to

- Ask SWW to inspect its drain network
- Review the provision of metal bins, in response to a partnership proposal from the Town Council and BID
- Write to food businesses reminding them of their waste obligations and scope for possible prosecutions.

The Committee welcomed this as positive, but agreed that more was action was needed. It was proposed that a task and finish group be established to consider a range of actions.

[During the debate, the councillors Arthur, Van Staeyn and Parkinson-Evans left the meeting].

RESOLVED – that the Committee NOTES the report and appoints a task and finish group to develop an action plan on waste and vermin control.

C&E.19 BARNOON CEMETERY

The Council was now the freehold owner of the cemetery site and the Committee considered a report on some of the issues, for example a lack of historic records, the outcome of headstone testing as well as the need to agree the long-term management plan, informed by public consultation. The on-going site maintenance would be carried out as part of the Service Level Agreement with CORMAC but, subject to a tender process later in the year. Proposed improvement and development measures were supported by the Committee.

RESOLVED – that the Committee

i) NOTES the report and the site management issues, immediate actions to be taken and its responsibilities as lead Committee including overseeing the service level agreement with the bereavement service.
ii) APPROVES the principles set out in the site management plan with a view to their further development through community consultation
iii) REQUESTS that Council appoint a Barnoon lead councillor champion
iv) Seeks to recruit volunteers to a friends group to work on the development of the management plan
v) Supports work to improve site and burial records including scope for digital mapping.

C&E.20 TREWYN GARDENS

The Committee received an update on physical improvements for the gardens. In addition, it reviewed a detailed tree report including proposed management arrangements, pruning, some removals and future planting.

It noted the need to implement the recommendations, in order to secure the garden's long term health and sustainability. It was agreed that public consultation was essential and the proposals would also be subject to a planning application.

The Committee RESOLVED to support the recommendations of the tree survey and proposed planting scheme, and their development into illustrative material in order to undertake consultation with the tree officer and community, submit a planning application and implement the proposals.

C&E.21 CLIMATE EMERGENCY ACTION PLAN

The Committee considered a draft annual action plan and noted it had not been updated for the last Council year, due to the loss of momentum in the cross sector working group. Councillors Evamy, Fuller, Kennedy, McNamee and Wells had already been nominated to the working group for the Council year 2026-27.

RESOLVED – that the Committee APPROVES the action plan as a working draft, to be considered at a newly convened Climate Action Working Group and works towards re-energising a cross sector approach with community and business sectors.

C&E.22 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE CONTRACT

The Committee considered an update on the scope of the grounds maintenance activities covered under a Service Level Agreement with CORMAC. It was noted that the tendering thresholds for service contracts was likely to be reached, during the financial year, and it was necessary therefore, to advertise the above threshold contract.

Work had begun on drawing up a typology of sites and defining the services within each site against which competitive bids could be assessed objectively. This was a large piece of work, which would need to be concluded prior to the next meeting of the Committee and so delegation was required.

The Committee RESOLVED to

i) NOTE the pricing structure for the 2026-27 Service Level Agreement with CORMAC and the need to formally tender the service during the financial year
ii) APPROVE the key principles of the tender and proposed approach to site and service standards, in order for the full tender pack to be fully developed by officers and
iii) NOMINATE up to three members of the Committee to be part of the document sign off and evaluation panel.

C&E.23 FINANCE REPORT

The Head of Finance provided details set out in the Finance Report.

It was RESOLVED that the Committee NOTES the report and actions therein.

C&E.24 CORRESPONDENCE & CONSULTATIONS

None

C&E.25 Exclusion of the Press and Public

RESOLVED – that, it was not necessary to exclude the press and public from the meeting as no further discussion was required in relation to a confidential tender evaluation.

C&E.26 NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING:

12th November 2026

Meeting ended at 21:24 Chair Councillor McNamee