



Calstock Parish Council

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Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, 20-01-2026

Minutes of Calstock Parish Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, held on Tuesday 20 January 2026 in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900

Those present were:

Councillors with voting rights: Richard Newton Chance (Chair); Phil Spurr, Ben Marley

Community members with voting rights: Peter Bloomfield, Pete Thompson

Others: Kate Goodman, Janine Falle, Andrew Brown, Jo Tytherleigh, Sara Rock (Tamar Grow Local, present via GoogleMeet for item 7).

Staff: Clare Bullimore, Clerk (minutes).

1. Apologies

Jim Wakem (Cllr), Alison Freshney, Mark Warwick (Cllr).

2. Public Participation

All participated in the meeting.

3. Declarations of interest

None

4. Approve minutes of last meeting 16-12-2025

Proposal/resolution: the minutes of the meeting held on 16 December 2025 be approved.

Proposed: Phil Spurr; seconded: Ben Marley.

5. Matters Arising:

- EV charging points: Cornwall Council responded to say there has been no progress since the last enquiry because they are undertaking a procurement process for a new charge point operator
- Nature recovery equipment on order from Tamar Valley National Landscapes.
- Emergency Plan to incorporate Flood Wardens – Clare to progress with Ward Members and Communities.

6. New Correspondence/Clerk's Information:

- "Death Sentence for Bees" – correspondence to Andrew Brown shared by the Clerk to the Committee: to note
- Footpath – Newton to Metherell – Clare reported that a structural engineer visited the site last Wednesday. Cornwall Council are awaiting the results of that report with costings and will not comment further until they have received it.

7. Promoting Local Produce: Sara Rock, Tamar Grow Local (online); Jo Tytherleigh, Local Producer and volunteer Director at TGL <https://meet.google.com/okm-nrrw-wsd>

A discussion was held different ways of showcasing and promoting local produce. It was agreed that rather than hold an event more publicity could be made of existing sources of local produce such as Tamar Grow Local and local produce markets.

8. Drip Drip - Rights for the River Tamar: Ken Finn

Ken Finn explained about giving the rights to a river as other councils across the country have done. It was agreed a working group would need to steer it. This would be a good progression for Drip Drip who has collated evidence and data and now need to move forward.

Richard and Ken will attend a Tamar Partnership Catchment meeting next week and discuss this and feedback at the next ECE meeting.

9. Renewable Energy options

Richard explained that the Full Council approved solar panels on workshop and chapel – Richard and Clare to progress this

Richard asked the Committee to consider field next to allotments (referred to as Crow Lane site); he presented findings from the feasibility study and information from the Tamar Community Energy (the presentation can be found at the end of the minutes). He outlined the three options for the site as being:

- The Parish Council run the development finding the funding for the installation and benefitting from the revenue – this may be a more riskier option but may give the Parish Council more revenue and control who benefits from it
- Set up a Parish Energy Community and make the development part of a wider scheme with shared proceeds – this will be slower and more complicated to deliver
- Tender for a private equity development which would be a quicker process and little risk but a smaller return for the Parish Council

There was some discussion about dual use of the site, leaving some areas within the field for rewilding and the possible of extending the allotment site.

Proposal/resolution: it was agreed to pursue options on Crow Lane for PV generation with an initial preference towards a mixed tenure on the site. Proposal: Phil Spurr, seconded: Peter Bloomfield– all.

10. Town Farm Field – feedback and progress

Janine reported that the steering group are hoping to officially open on 01 April. One of the main It was agreed, as a compromise that dogs be allowed on short leads in the orchard and not allowed in the wild area. There was a request for a poo bin and Clare will source this.

Further considerations include

- an Amphitheatre (a landscaper has offered to come up with a design at no cost);
- a community vegetable garden although concerns had been mooted about contamination (arsenic and mercury) so one consideration is to trial a raised bed;
- there is a desire for somewhere for kids to meet: the landscaper will be asked to design and cost up a simple structure on the recreational ground adjacent to Town Farm Field.

Clare reported that all items from FiPL have been ordered and are progressing with thanks to the steering group and volunteers for their help with this: the orchard and fruit trees are in and the remaining hedges and standard trees are planned to be planted in the next couple of weeks.

Pete reported that more aggregate is required for the surface area by the pedestrian bridge that was recently repaired.

Proposal/resolution: to allow money to continue to be spent on improvements on Town Farm Field in line with the Parish Council's Financial Regulations. Proposed: Richard Newton Chance; seconded: Ben Marley – unanimous.

Richard wished the committee's thanks to be expressed to Pete, Janine, Richard Greaves and all others who are moving the project forward.

11. Andrew Brown information:

- Hedge laying events and other workshops being held at Newton Farm will be advertised on the Parish Council website and Facebook pages.
- Sewage – live record of sewage spills, 10-01-2026 – to note

12. Review of cost centre income/expenditure to date

The income and expenditure was noted – Clare explained money has been spent on Town Farm Field but the FiPL grant is yet to be claimed because the work has not yet been completed.

The meeting finished at 2020.

Signed: Date:

Renewable energy

Options

So far

- Feasibility study funded by Good Growth Fund
- Completed by Dartmoor Energy with tender guide for action
- Simple schemes for Albaston Chapel and Calstock workshops approved and funded from Capital Pot - will go to tender soon
- More complex scheme for Crow Lane field possible
- Talk from Kate Royston - Tamar Energy Community
- Plymouth Energy Community apparently has done more

Our drivers

- Our strategic plan identifies seeking New energy generation possibilities, especially on Council land under Reducing Impact
- Renewable energy generation at any scale will help us off set our impact and contribute to meeting Cornwall's net zero plan
- Benefitting our local community - especially through potentially helping those struggling with the cost of living - Improving Health
- Making sure whatever we do has positive impacts on Nature Recovery

Options for Crow Lane

- CPC run the development and find the funding and take the proceeds - risk all ours and a massive undertaking, but would be a massive earner and give us control over who benefits
- Set up a Parish Energy Community and make the development a part of the wider scheme with shared proceeds - slow and more complicated, especially over governance but would tie together a whole array of generation into one scheme with potential benefits to the wider community
- Tender for a Private Equity development which would be quick, but cedes ownership and control - smaller return for CPC but with little or no risk
- Quote from National Grid £120k for connection - £630k estimate for install

Options for Crow Lane

1. Leave as is rented out to farmer for grazing
2. Rewild completely with public access as per Pleasure Piece?
3. Manage as wild flower meadow with wild margins with public access
4. Install PV array in such a way as to leave space for rewilding margins
5. Extend allotments to part of the field as mix with 2 and 3 above

Options for energy community

- Renewable energy (solar/wind/hydro) installed/connected to individual domestic properties/meter points
- As above connected to non-domestic buildings incl. community buildings, church, school, college which can help improve sustainability of community buildings
- Sharing of energy via an Energy Local Club (see <https://tresoc.co.uk/project/energy-local-totnes/>).
- This is presently the only way that a local community can benefit from reduced tariffs from local generation
- Larger scale renewable energy generation (solar/wind/hydro) delivering greater community benefit (subject to grid constraints) ie PV on Crow Lane
- Potential for hydro-energy as heat or power e.g. to support water sourced heat pumps which can be very efficient - mine sourced?

Big questions

- Community Energy seems attractive, but - time and energy?
- To generate or not to generate on Crow Lane
- Look at going it alone?
- Sources of funding: What will GB Energy actually deliver? Wait and see?
- Look at private equity as a way of getting there soonest and with least input from us?



**St Ann's Chapel
Allotment
Gardens**

