



Calstock Parish Council

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A meeting of the Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, Tuesday 17 March 2026

Minutes of the Calstock Parish Council's Environment and Climate Change Committee held on Tuesday 17 March 2026 in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.

Present:

Councillors: Richard Newton Chance (Chair); Ben Marley, Jim Wakem.

Community members with voting rights: Peter Bloomfield, Gill Court, Pete Thompson.

Community members (others): Andrew Brown, Alison Freshney, Kate Goodman, Janine Falle.

Staff: Clare Bullimore (minutes).

1. Apologies

Roger Harris, Mark Warwick.

2. Public Participation

All community members participated.

3. Declarations of interest

None.

4. Approve minutes of last meeting 17-02-2026

Proposal/resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 February 2026. Proposed: Ben Marley, seconded: Jim Wakem.

5. Matters Arising:

- Nature recovery equipment – Cut and Collect Grillow has been delivered.

6. New Correspondence/Clerk's Information/Committee Members' Feedback:

- Drip Drip People's Assembly – Ben Marley reported that this was a success with over 70 people attending. There was good engagement. Four key targets were agreed: engagement with younger people; rights for the river voted through; assisting with letter templates for people wishing to withhold payments for sewage charge; lobby parliament to nationalise the water services and generally raise awareness. A follow up meeting is scheduled later this week.
- Richard reported that the Council have appointed Reco Energy to install solar panels on the workshop and chapel

7. Town Farm Field – update

A soil test has been sent off to see if there is any contamination – the results of this will shape the Community growing project.

Some work will be undertaken to tidy the field up ready for a 'soft' opening on Good Friday.

Some materials on site are being planned to be repurposed and made into benches/tables.

It was agreed to purchase two picnic tables at circa £400 each.

Pete Thompson reported that the TCT has undertaken some maintenance on the path on the riverbank (Western side) – this is not the worst hit part of the path after the winter storms and further work will be carried out in the Autumn.

Pete also reported that an inspection of the bridge has been carried out with no issues reported.

8. Field next to allotments – further discussion, actions

Ben Marley reported on a Community Energy in Cornwall and Isles of Scilly event he had attended. He said it was useful and there were some good contact.

After discussion it was agreed that Richard will put an expression of interest in to Great British Energy and will complete the CEC Network Survey to try and secure support in progressing plans on the field. Ben explained about pv installations that are vertical and have panels on both sides to utilise solar energy and land space.

Clare to follow up with Dartmoor Energy on looking into EV contractors for car parks.

9. River Tamar and Drip Drip further action/support

Ben said if there are any summaries from the Drip Drip People’s Assembly he will send them to Clare to publish.

10. Review of Environmental Strategy and Supporting Policies/Procedures

Some comments about wording in the Environmental Strategy and duplication across the documents. Clare to re-present.

Thanks to Peter Bloomfield for writing the Hedgerow Management Plan.

11. Standing Item: Upcoming Events

Information disseminated about upcoming events – see below.

12. Standing Item: Review of cost centre income/expenditure to date

Noted.

The meeting closed at 1958

Signed: Date:

UPCOMING EVENTS – ANDREW BROWN REPORTED:

Saturday 11 April

11 April : B4 Symposium

10am -4pm

A free-living

honey bee project.

10:00 Norman Carreck – “What’s new in the world of bees?”

10:30 Dr Ollie Visick – “Do free-living honey bee represent an important genetic resource?”.

11.30 Coffee

11:50 Dr Ollie Visick – “Are free-living honey bees limited by nest sites”

12.45 lunch- choice of pasties.

13:30 Norman Carreck – “Biosecurity: Lessons from the Isles of Scilly”

14.00 - 16:00 Current B4 work, free living bees, biosecurity and biodiversity. This would be a round table discussion about how the community can get involved with observing and assisting with research into free-living honey bees.

The Symposium on Saturday 11th April is part of a two-day event. The first day is outdoors at Newton Farm, Metherell.

Friday 10th April - Newton Farm – Farm tour.

contact Andrew Brown andrew@aglbrown.co.uk for further details and an invitation.

2pm to 4pm.

The farm tour will cover wildflower meadow creation, a hedge laying demonstration, wetland creation, orchard creation and conservation grazing.

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/1Dv9i4wNAq/>

4pm to 6pm.

Filipe Salbany (Blenheim Palace) and Matthew Somerville (Bee Kind Hives) will demonstrate the installation of a log hive and a rocket hive.

This demonstration might help with the question: “are free-living honey bees limited by nest sites and what can we do to mimic ancient woodlands and their veteran trees?”

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1h6K_cS0m_w