



## Calstock Parish Council

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### Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, Tuesday 21 April 2026

#### Minutes of Calstock Parish Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Committee held on 21 April 2026 in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.

##### Those present were:

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

Community Members voting rights: Pete Thompson, Alison Freshney, Gill Court.

Community Members: Andrew Brown, Janine Falle, Kate Goodman, Ken Finn, Jana Osborne.

Staff: Pete Gadd (Outside Services Leader); Clare Bullimore (Clerk – minutes).

#### 1. Apologies

Peter Bloomfield.

#### 2. Public Participation

All people participated throughout the meeting.

#### 3. Declarations of interest

None.

#### 4. Approve minutes of last meeting 17-03-2026

Proposal/resolution: to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 17 March 2026.

Proposed: Jim Wakem, seconded: Ben Marley - approved by all those present at the last meeting.

#### 5. Matters Arising:

- Nature recovery equipment – Pete Gadd reported the Grillo is being used and is an asset to their work. Andrew has suggested applying for FiPL money to provide training for all the equipment to manage wildflower meadows. Clare to speak to Val Darwall to progress this.
- Environmental policies/procedures to revisit – progressing.
- EV charging points – Clare to contact Dartmoor Energy about contractors.

#### 6. New Correspondence/Clerk's Information/Committee Members' Feedback: Weed management from Cornwall Council

Parish and Town Councils were informed a few weeks ago that Cornwall Council plan to reintroduce glyphosate on areas that have become overgrown and that we have the option of opting out so long as we have a plan and schedule in place. The timescale to do this was very short. However, it was announced earlier that Cornwall Council has resolved to extend the deadline for councils to find alternatives and will review the allowance that had been suggested for parish and town councils. This was welcome news, given the original timescale.

The Committee were unanimous that they would be strongly opposed to the use of glyphosate.

#### 7. Drip Drip – update and any actions for the committee

Ken Finn reported the following actions from the Drip Drip People's Assembly

Guardians of the River: volunteers are being sought who will become 'guardians' of the River Tamar.

The guardians will be required to go to meetings and attend events to ensure the river is represented.

Ben Marley has volunteered to be a guardian which will be a useful Parish Council representative. Ken said they are hoping to expand and reach other Parish Councils and Richard will raise it at the TVL Partnership meeting to ask for their involvement.

Drip Drip are also advising people who wish to withhold their sewage payment to South West Water but recognise this is a sensitive issue for some with a degree of risk. They will offer advice on wording and the process by which people could omit payment but encourage them to put the money aside in case it is required to be paid back.

Ken reported that South West Water are working with Exeter University on developing AI tools to predict when a pollution event may happen and warn people not to use beaches or rivers ahead of the predicted spill. It was agreed that the money could be better spent on eliminating the spills in the first place.

Ken said that it appears that Anna Gelderd MP is supporting Labour's plans to increase regulations on water companies and would actually like to see the regulations go further.

It was agreed to put the Stop the Sewage Crisis petition to declare a vote of no confidence in South West Water on the Full Council agenda.

**8. Town Farm Field – update and discussion about change of use (planning)**

Janine Falle reported that Miracle Theatre would like to perform on 27 June 2026 on their trailer. Calstock Hall will provide the insurance and power will be required which Pete Thompson will support. will need power. Proposal/resolution: to support this venture. Proposed: Richard Newton Chance; seconded: Phil Spurr - unanimous.

Janine said they are also keen to start a community growing project with 5 raised beds and poly tunnels. Janine has costed the materials up and it will be £1250. Proposal/resolution: to support this venture and approve the costings. Proposed: Richard Newton Chance; seconded: Phil Spurr – unanimous.

The Outside Services to provide support with tools and trailers.

**9. Field next to allotments – expression of interest to Great British Energy submitted by Richard Newton Chance – next steps**

Richard has submitted an expression of interest for solar panels and allotment extension to the Great British Energy and requested funding of- £440,000 with the Parish Council to match fund £50,000. Clare to chase up the solicitor for land ownership.

**10. Projects/financial actions to request surplus money (2025-26)**

It was agreed to ask the Council to set aside money towards the solar array - £50,000.

**11. Upcoming events/information:**

- Screening of People's Emergency Briefing; Saturday 30 May 2026, 1600 – 1830, Tamar Valley Centre <https://www.nebriefing.org/> - Noted – hoping to show it at Calstock Arts as well.
- Tamar to Moor Community Partnership – Climate Adaption Tool – Richard to attend.

**12. Review of cost centre income/expenditure to date**

Noted.

The meeting closed at 1955.

Signed: ..... Date: .....