Calstock Parish Council
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Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, Tuesday 19 May 2026

Minutes of Calstock Parish Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Committee held on Tuesday 19 May 2026 in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.

Those present were:
Councillors: Richard Newton Chance (Chair), Ben Marley, Phil Spurr, Jim Wakem.
Community members: Andrew Brown, Peter Bloomfield, Kate Goodman, Gill Court.
Staff: Clare Bullimore, Clerk (minutes).

1. **Elect Chair**
   It was resolved to elect Councillor Newton Chance as Chair of the Committee.
   Proposed: Jim Wakem; seconded: Phil Spurr – unanimous.

2. **Nominate three members from the community with voting rights**
   It was resolved to appoint Gill Court, Kate Goodman, Peter Bloomfield as members of the community with voting rights – Richard Newton Chance, Jim Wakem – unanimous.

3. **Apologies**
   Alison Freshney, Pete Thompson, Janine Falle, Mark Warwick.

4. **Public Participation**
   Members of the public participated throughout the meeting.

5. **Declarations of interest**
   None.

6. **Review the Terms of Reference**
   It was resolved to recommend the Terms of Reference to the Full Council for approval.
   Proposed: Phil Spurr, seconded: Ben Marley – unanimous.

7. **Approve minutes of last meeting 21-04-2026**
   It was resolved to approve the minutes of the meeting held on 21-04-2026.
   Proposed: Ben Marley; seconded: Phil Spurr – approved by all those present at the last meeting.

8. **Matters Arising**:
   - Nature recovery equipment - Clare reported that the final pieces of equipment are due to arrive in the next couple of weeks.
   - EV charging points – progressing, Clare to ask Dartmoor Energy for a report for the next meeting.
   - A letter from Cornwall Council stating they are reviewing their position and acknowledging they failed to enable councils to consult with them and find alternatives was noted. Andrew asked if we would contact local land owners e.g. the National Trust, Ian Forest and the Duchy of Cornwall and reference the Good Neighbour Initiative which outlines good practice for spraying near residential areas.

9. **New Correspondence/Clerk's Information/Committee Members' Feedback**

- TVNL forum – Richard reported back on the Forum meeting he attended last week.

10. Review Environment and Climate Emergency Strategic Plan

The Strategic Plan had been disseminated. Richard asked for any suggested edits to be sent to Clare and Richard before the next meeting.

11. Drip Drip – update and any actions for the committee

Ben reported back on Drip Drip. They are currently contacting other agencies and councils to get support for the charter. The issue of the designated bathing water status was discussed and Gill agreed to look at the new criteria and for it to be discussed at the next ECE meeting.

12. Town Farm Field – update

It was reported that raised beds have now been installed. Some concern was raised about how the beds would be watered. A design for a water harvesting structure has been met unfavourable and there is also concern about the use of ditchwater and the viability of a bore hole – both options would use water that had been in contact with the ground which had shown traces of contamination when tested. It was suggested that ideas are presented to the ECE after some community consultation.

13. Crow Lane PV Proposals – next steps

Richard has sought advice from Dartmoor Energy for advice on planning requirements for PV installations. To carry out a full visual landscape assessment for a planning application will cost a lot of money and require external consultations. This should be budgeted for as and when any loans are applied for. The land would also require testing for contamination.

14. Upcoming events/information – Andrew Brown

Information had been disseminated before the meeting – included at the end of the minutes.

15. Review of cost centre income/expenditure to date

Richard explained the variance is misleading as the accounting system does not take into account the next precept contribution.

The meeting closed at: 2000

Signed: …….. Date: ……..

19-05-2026 - Environment and Climate Emergency – Additional Information/Events: Andrew Brown

1. Mention of NATURE festival I attended, 4TH MAY 9:30 - 4pm Rosuick Organic Farm, St Martin, TR12 7DZ https://www.wildlifegroundswell.org.uk/

2. Our Land, 9/10 July https://www.ourlanddocumentary.com/ Calstock Arts.

3. Any update on upgrade of Metherell WTW – work is ongoing.

4. If Not Now When 2026 Friday 24th - Sunday 26th July 2026 https://keepitwild.uk/if-not-now-when-2026/#:~:text=Building%20on%20the%20strengths%20of,in%20the%20nature%20recovery%20scene

5. B4 (Bees) https://www.b4project.co.uk/symposium

6. Anna Gelderd email and meeting 1/5/2026. Support for representation to select committee and support for research into free living honey bees.

Business and Trade Committee Commons Select Committee-

A) key points about imports are:-

1. 70% of queens are coming into GB via Northern Ireland. NI still has no bee inspector so they cannot be inspected on arrival.
2. As trade between NI and GB is free, nobody collects data on final destinations, so NBU cannot inspect them in GB.
3. Although they have TRACES certificates at source, SHB or tropilaelaps could be found at their source the day after they are sent, and there would then be no way to trace them in GB.
4. SHB is in southern Italy, and has been in Sicily recently. Firm in Malta that exports to NI breeds bees in Sicily.
5. Tropilaelaps confirmed in southern Russia and Georgia. Almost certainly in Ukraine (imports from Ukraine now banned) but is probably in Turkey and Belarus, which have been trading links with countries such as Romania from which we do import bees:- https://www.nationalbeeunit.com/diseases-and-pests/reports-charts-and-maps/imports-and-exotics/live-third-country-import-report
6. Note that no imports from Malta are shown on GB imports, so they are coming in via NI.
7. Note that number of samples into GB actually inspected is very low - large chance of something slipping through... Note 400 queens from Romania (see above) - no consignment or sample inspected.

Reference Norman Carreck, see B4 Project website; what's new in the world of honey bees.

B) Honey bees- Local research into free living honey bees.
Publicise/support citizen science project.
https://www.freebeesouthwest.co.uk/