Calstock Parish Council
Miss Clare Bullimore, Clerk to the Council,
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Environment and Climate Emergency Committee, Tuesday 15 September 2026

Minutes of Calstock Parish Council's Environment and Climate Emergency Committee held on Tuesday 15 September in the Tamar Valley Centre at 1900.

Those present were:
Councillors with voting rights: Richard Newton Chance (Chair); Ben Marley, Phil Spurr.
Community Members with Voting Rights: Peter Bloomfield, Kate Goodman, Gill Court.
Staff: Clare Bullimore, Clerk (minutes).

1. **Apologies**
   Apologies were received from: Cllr Jim Wakem, Andrew Brown, Janine Falle, Alison Freshney, Ken Finn.

2. **Public Participation**
   All members of the public were invited to participate in all agenda items.

3. **Declarations of interest**
   None.

4. **Approve minutes of last meeting 18-08-2026**
   It was **resolved** to approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 18 August 2026.
   Proposed: Phil Spurr, seconded: Kate Goodman – all present at the last meeting.

5. **Matters Arising**:
   Nuisance insects. Richard reported that the Council has agreed a budget of up to £3000 for bird/bat boxes – so far bird boxes @£825 have been ordered with a sonic tweet caller. A letter asking for a full survey has been sent to the MP, Cornwall Council and the EA. Andrew Brown has also purchased timber to use in workshops to enable people to make their own boxes and is running a session at Newton Farm on 18/19-09-2026. Gill suggested disseminating seeds of flowers that will encourage other predators such as moths. It was agreed to use the Calstock Cake Community Sessions to disseminate boxes, seeds and information.

6. **New Correspondence/Clerk's Information/Committee Members' Feedback**
   - Richard Newton Chance had contacted Anna Gelderd re Climate Crisis and received a favourable response, it was noted.
   - Richard Newton Chance had attended a Tamar Valley National Landscape Partnership Meeting. He reported that the TVNL are exploring funding opportunities including improvements at Kit Hill via Capital DeFRA funding; designating part of the Tamara Way as a National River walks programme; FiPL money for wildlife rich habitats; and general FiPL funding. Richard said other partners spoke about the health of the Tamar; the release of beavers and a local farmer explained how the dry summer had affected farming and there is an enthusiasm for regenerative farming.
   - Andrew Brown had disseminated a survey asking for evidence that gamebirds cause environmental damage
   - South West Water had communicated that the work to the proposed Gunnislake Fish Pass has been postponed until next year. Peter said there is continued local opposition to it.

7. **Town Farm Field**

- Gill and Phil talked through the plans that had been drawn up. There appears to be a clear direction for recreational activities/equipment to go in the playing field, leaving Town Farm Field for nature/wildlife projects.
- Phil will bring plans for the recreational space to the Recreations Committee to consider.
- There is funding available from FiPL for an access path but Clare is waiting to hear confirmation from the EA on whether they are planning to do anything to the raised path between the river and the playing field.

8. **Drip Drip Work**

- The article written by Andrew (edited by Richard) in the Tavistock Times, "Giving the Tamar a Voice" was noted
- Ben reported that a briefing paper has been drafted for Simmons & Simmons to move the River Rights forward. He also reported that more people have signed up to Drip Drip's work. One member has recently died but he had passed information to the producers of Dirty Business which may end up being used in another dramatization or may be used for prosecution. Drip Drip are trying to map and preserve reports of spills – the live data is useful but because it is live it isn't captured for ongoing analysis.

9. **Crow Lane PV Project GBE Update – Richard Newton Chance (deferred from previous meeting)**
Richard reported on the lack of communication and feedback from Great British Energy but is still hopefully our expression of interest will be considered, although Local Authorities seem to be favoured. If successful, a grant from them will help with the funding for a planning application.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk will terminate the current lease with farmer in January (when the lease is renewed).

10. **Review Cost Centre and Reserves**

- Request from Outside Services Team to use money for hedge-laying (£1000 plus the £854 from reserves) – it was **agreed** that the Environmental reserve of £854 can be used for hedgelaying plus a further £1000 and that this should be reflected in the precept each year

11. **Date of next meeting**

- National Emergency Briefing Screening: Tuesday 29 September 2026, Tamar Valley Centre, 1830 (Full Council and Committee Members only)
- Committee Meeting: Tuesday 20 October 2026

Meeting closed at 2000

Signed: …… Date: ……..