

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Saint Ives Town Council  
held at the Town Hall, St Ives on Wednesday 10 December 2014**

**Present:**

**The Town Mayor:** Councillor B C Luter

**The Deputy Town Mayor:** Councillor I N Jackson

**Councillors:**

J D Ablewhite  
A B Ayers-Wilson  
J W Davies  
N J Dibben  
T Drye  
P Edey  
D F Hodge  
P Pope [from Item C169.2.3]  
D Richardson  
D Rowe  
P A Smith  
Mrs D Townsend

**Absent:** M Smith

**In Attendance:**

**Town Clerk:** A Melnychuk

**Deputy Town Clerk:** J Morris

**PRAYERS**

The Town Mayor's Chaplain said prayers prior to the commencement of the Meeting.

**C164.0 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

**Councillor J D Ablewhite** – Pecuniary Interest in C181.0 as his wife is employed by the Town Council

**Councillor A B Ayers-Wilson** – Pecuniary Interest in C181.0 as an employee of the Burleigh Hill Community Centre.

**Councillor D Richardson** – Pecuniary Interest in C181.0 as an employee of the Corn Exchange

**Councillors J D Ablewhite and J W Davies** – Non Pecuniary Interest in C190 as Members of Huntingdonshire District Council

The Town Clerk reminded Members that it was unnecessary to declare an interest in matters concerning external bodies on which they served as Council representatives.

**C165.0 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence had been received from Councillors M M Collier (Personal reason) and I P Dobson (ill health).

**RESOLVED:** that the above apologies be received and accepted.

**C166.0 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

No persons present wished to address the meeting.

## **C167.0 MINUTES**

The Minutes of the Meeting of the Town Council held on 12 November 2014 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

## **C168.0 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were in receipt of details of the functions that the Town Mayor and Mayoress and Deputy Town Mayor and Deputy Mayoress had attended. The Mayor provided Members with an update with some minor amendments.

## **C169.0 COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **C169.1 Amenities Committee**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 26 November 2014 be received and the content noted.

### **C169.2 Norris Library and Museum Committee**

#### **Item N39.0: Norris Library Trust Status**

Consideration was given to the Recommendation from the Meeting that the Trust Status of the Norris Museum be clarified.

**RESOLVED C169.2.1** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Norris Library and Museum Committee held on 19 November 2014 be received and the content noted.

**C169.2.2** that the Council decides against seeking any change to the trusts created by the Herbert Norris legacy

***[Councillor D Rowe joined the meeting]***

**C169.2.3** that the Town Council remains the sole trustee of the Trust and exercises its powers as Trustee through the Norris Library and Museum Committee

**C169.2.4** that in order to properly identify the Council's exercise of its Trustee function, the accounts of the Norris Library and Museum are to remain separate from those of the Town Council.

### **C169.3 Planning Committee**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Planning Committees held on 12 and 26 November 2014 be received and the content noted.

### **C169.4 Personnel Committee**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Personnel Committee held on 19 November 2014 be received and the content noted.

### **C169.5 Property Committee**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Property Committee held on 19

November 2014 be received and the content noted.

**C169.6 Promotion and Publicity Committee**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Promotion and Publicity Committee held on 19 November 2014 be received

**C170.0 TOWN TEAM**

No report had been received from the Town Team.

**C171.0 ST IVES TOWN INITIATIVE**

The report received from the Town Initiative had not been circulated. The Town Clerk agreed to circulate the last set of minutes received to Members.

**C172.0 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

**RESOLVED:** that approval be given to the Orders for Payment from 1.11.14 to 30.11.14 amounting to £85,646.91.

**C173.0 BUDGET REPORT**

**RESOLVED:** that the Budget Report as at 30.11.14 be received and the content noted.

**C174.0 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

**RESOLVED:** that a Bank Reconciliation Statement as at 30.11.14 be received and the content noted.

**C175.0 POLICE MATTERS**

Members were in receipt of a Police Report dated November 2014 detailing criminal activity and anti-social behavior.

Members expressed concern at the high level of burglaries and drug-related crimes itemised in the report.

**RESOLVED:** that the Town Clerk contact the Police to seek information on what action the Force was taking to tackle these crimes.

**C176.0 CCTV**

No CCTV report had been received.

**C177.0 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

County Councillor Paul Bullen reported on several matters:

- **Street Lighting** – the Council had received numerous complaints from residents regarding the street light replacement project. They had been encouraged to contact Balfour Beatty directly or via their local County Councillor with any concerns.
- **Guided Busway** – the contractual dispute was still ongoing
- **New Bridges Causeway** – an engineer's report on the condition of the Causeway was awaited. Parking there might need to be banned in future for safety reasons.

- **Recycling Centres** – a review of recycling centres was to be conducted.

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Bullen for his report.

### **Town Bridge Lighting**

The Town Clerk reported that maintenance of the bridge lighting was the Town Council's responsibility and a solution to the current problem was being sought. Communications indicated that the fault lay with the cabling. A quotation from contractors was awaited as it is not clear currently who is responsible for the costs.

## **C178.0 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

District Councillor Jason Ablewhite provided a report to the Meeting:

- **Wind turbines** – following adoption of Supplementary Planning Document policy on wind farms, together with the cumulative impact of turbines on the district, the Environment Secretary had overturned a Planning Inspector's decision to approve a wind farm
- **The Octagon** - Councillor Ablewhite and a District Council colleague had agreed to meet with the 'Save the Octagon' group. Several commercial proposals were currently being considered and it was clear that considerable costs would be involved in any option selected by the HDC Cabinet.
- **Grounds maintenance award** – HDC had won the National Outdoor Groundsman of the Year Award
- **HDC Management** – the senior management team was now in place and discussions on devolution were continuing

The Town Mayor thanked Councillor Ablewhite for his report.

## **C179.0 REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Members were in receipt of report dated November 2014 which detailed concerns about rural road safety, the speed limit on Marley Road/Hill Rise and problems created by inconsiderate parking in the town centre.

**RESOLVED: C179.1** that the report be received and noted.

**C179.2** that a letter be sent to the Police and County Highways requesting that a solution be sought to the car parking problems in Market Hill.

## **C180.0 ROLLING PROGRAMME**

Members were in receipt of Rolling Programme as at 1 December 2014.

**RESOLVED:** that the Rolling Programme be received and the content noted.

## **C181.0 ESTIMATES OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE**

Members gave consideration to Estimates of Income and Expenditure for the 2015/16 municipal year. The budget proposal would amount to a 3.11% increase.

A discussion was held on the level of reserves and the proposal to seek a PWLB loan for the new grounds maintenance depot.

Views were divided as to whether reserves should be reduced and a Proposal was put, and duly Seconded, that a reduction ought to be made in the Staff Contingency budget of £2,500 and a vote was held.

**RESOLVED: C181.1** that no decrease be made in the Staff Contingency budget at the present time.

**C181.2** that a decision on the setting the Budget for 2015/16 be deferred until the next meeting.

#### **C182.0 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS AND EVENTS 2015/16**

Members gave consideration to the proposed Schedule of Meetings and events for the forthcoming year.

**RESOLVED:** that the Schedule of Meetings be received and adopted.

#### **C183.0 TOWN CENTRE HERITAGE LIGHTING**

Members were in receipt of correspondence from Balfour Beatty regarding the replacement of heritage lighting in the town centre. An assurance was given by them that no work would be commenced on lighting columns in the town centre without prior consultation.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

#### **C184.0 CYCLING ON THICKET PATH**

Members received notes of a meeting held on 6 November between representatives of Houghton and Wyton Parish Council and the Town and County Councils to discuss possible methods to discourage cyclists speeding along the pathway.

One possible solution had been the provision of signs requesting mutual co-operation between cyclists and pedestrians. It was considered unlikely that Sustrans would fund such signage in the short term and it might be that the Amenities Committee may possibly give further consideration to this. Comment was made that signage could be ineffective.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

#### **C185.0 CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAU**

Members gave consideration to a request from the Bureau for financial support in 2015/16.

Whilst appreciating the very valuable work undertaken by the Bureau, Members considered that any request for financial support should be submitted under the Council's grants procedure.

**RESOLVED:** that the Bureau be invited to submit a grant application in April 2015.

#### **C186.0 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Requests had been received for annual financial assistance from community groups in the town, as follows:

St Ives In Bloom	£2,200
Festival Events St Ives	£7,600
Carnival Committee	£5,000
Town Team	£6,500
Christmas Lights Committee	£8,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>£29,300</b>

**RESOLVED:** that a total of £29,300 be set aside in the 2015/16 budget for the above community groups and a decision made at a future meeting on the level of funding to be provided to each organisation.

**C187.0 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960  
EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting.

**C188.0 TOWN COUNCIL CLEANING CONTRACT**

Members gave consideration to quotations received for the cleaning of Council premises.

**RESOLVED:** that the quotation supplied by Atkins Gregory be accepted to provide cleaning services to the Town Council initially on a 3 months rolling basis.

**C189.0 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960  
RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

**RESOLVED:** that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and the Public be re-admitted to the Meeting.

*[Councillors J D Ablewhite and P M Pope left the Meeting]*

**C190.0 THE OCTAGON – HDC NEGOTIATION WORKING PARTY**

Members gave consideration to a report on the proposed formation of a Working Party to meet with Huntingdonshire District Councillors to investigate options that would meet the needs of the community and HDC.

**RESOLVED: C190.1** that the report be received and noted.

**C190.2** that a Working Party comprising the Town Mayor plus Councillors MM Collier, NJ Dibben, D F Hodge and PA Smith be formed as proposed.