



# St Ives Town Council

## Twinned with Stadtallendorf

Town Clerk: Alison Benfield BA (Hons) FSLCC

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### The Town Mayor and Members of St Ives Town Council

You are hereby summoned to attend an **Extraordinary Meeting** of St Ives Town Council to be held in the **Town Hall** on **Wednesday 22 June at 7.00 pm.**

**Philip Truppin**  
Locum Town Clerk

### AGENDA

- C48.00 APOLOGIES**  
To receive and note apologies for absence.
- C49.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**  
To receive Declarations of Disclosable and/or Non-disclosable Pecuniary Interests as set out in Chapter 7 of the Localism Act 2011 and the nature of those interests relating to any Agenda item.
- C50.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**  
A maximum of 15 minutes is permitted for members of the public to address the Council in accordance with the Town Council's approved Public Participation Policy.
- C51.00 CO-OPTION**  
To consider applications for co-option to the Town Council (copies herewith).

**Co-option Statement – Simon Brignell**

Please see below for my statement on why I believe I would be suitable as a councillor for St. Ives.

I started working in St. Ives in 2007 as an IT professional. I'm now a commercial catering equipment engineer and have lived here since 2016.

Noticing an increasing lack of NHS dentists in the area, I founded a dentistry business in Huntingdon in 2021. Our campaign group has heard from hundreds of residents in St. Ives who have not been able to get an appointment with an NHS dentist and cannot afford to go private. The campaign has been featured in The Hunts Post, BBC Radio Cambridgeshire, and I am scheduled to give talks to local groups.

I want to work alongside our communities to ensure that their voices are heard on local matters whether they be about jobs, transport, or even access to NHS dentistry. The POWI campaign that opposes the new Envar incinerator at Woodhurst is a great example - many residents in St. Ives have highlighted the environmental impact of such a project, yet they feel unheard. Again with the ever-building problem of traffic moving through St. Ives, they see housing projects going ahead but remain unheard when it comes to concerns regarding these important questions of supporting infrastructure. Many are also struggling with the cost of living crisis and want to see long-term solutions.

If we're committed to "levelling up" St. Ives, both in terms of wealth and infrastructure, the council needs to prioritise a long-term plan to tackle these and other issues by cooperating with both local communities and businesses. Feedback from the grassroots is invaluable and I believe I can assist in these tasks.

If selected as a councillor, I would ensure that local voices have the power to affect positive change within their communities and St. Ives itself, and I would act in their best interests.

I can confirm that I am eligible according to the criteria and that I am not subject to any disqualifications set out in the vacancy notice.

Many thanks for your consideration,

## **Co-option Statement - Martin Gill**

I have lived in St Ives since 1994 when I was posted to RAF Wyton as part of my Army career in The Royal Corps of Signals. I have now retired from army life and work as an IT project manager. My partner is an NHS Sister. I am very keen to help St Ives to continue to prosper and remain as one of the best places to live in the entire country.

I have always believed that our small town manages to regularly punch above its weight by putting on excellent events such as: regular Monday markets, Bank Holiday markets, specialist markets on Saturday's, carnival, Remembrance Day and Christmas lights events. The age-old adage of 'if you don't use it lose it' applies and I would dearly love to be in a position of influence to ensure such events continue.

I was an advocate of and championed the Guided Busway, which has proved an immense benefit to St Ives by bringing in extra footfall from Cambridge for our town of many independent shops to thrive.

I recently stood as a Huntingdon District Councillor for St Ives South Ward and received an impressive 727 votes, following which I received a letter of appreciation from our MP, recommending me to stand for civil office again.

I confirm that I am not subject to any disqualification as set out under Section 80 of the Local Government Act of 1972. In fact I continue to hold DV – Developed Vetting which is the highest level of Security Clearance from the UK Central Government.

I hereby apply for consideration to be elected as a St Ives Town Councillor.

## **Application for co-option onto St. Ives Town Council - Michael Gleadow**

I moved to St. Ives with my family in 1990 from Hertfordshire and after we looked at other towns and villages in the district we could see that St. Ives had the most to offer, being well placed for transport, employment, shopping and most importantly a great community spirit, which happily is thriving.

I believe I can bring a lot to the Town Council from my life long career experience in local government, in environmental health. I worked at 7 district councils and I had frequent contact with town and parish councils, on licensing issues and complaints from members of the public, for example about noise, rodent control and environmental issues. As such I know about the roles of different levels of local government.

Collaborative working and cooperation between these levels is very important to provide good services. Poor communication, misunderstandings and so on mean poor service to Council Tax payers who are our customers and entitled to expect a high quality service, this is something I believe I can contribute to.

It's also important for the health of local democracy that there are good relationships between each level of local government. Having councils appearing to be at odds with each other does not encourage residents to take an interest in the work of local councils, to vote or to become more involved.

I believe I can contribute to the Town Councils important role in promoting and improving the town, supporting local businesses and residents and being a voice on issues such as transport, traffic and flooding risks. Having good contacts and relationships with agencies, like the Environment Agency and Highways Agency is important and what my approach would be.

I confirm my Eligibility and there are no Disqualifications.

## **Statement for St Ives Town Council - Gilly Jackson**

I wish to be considered for co-option for one of the vacancies on the St Ives Town Council. My commitment to the town is shown by my resume below, and this experience over the past twenty years will allow me to contribute as a team member amongst other town councillors.

I grew up in St Ives, attending local schools. My husband and I met at school, and after 30 years away, living in London then Buckinghamshire then Surrey, in 2000 we returned to live in St Ives.

I have had a very rewarding working life, in finance and sales, taking early retirement in 2005 from a 20-year sales and marketing career.

Then I threw my energies into working voluntarily for the town, as a committee member for the St Ives Civic Society, and I was a founder member of ACE – Action Corn Exchange – proud that the Corn Exchange reopened in 2010 for community use.

I was a Director of St Ives Town Initiative as chair of the events committee which organised the Riverside Festival with Regatta and Dragon Boat Racing. In 2009 I formed the independent group FESSt (Festival Events St Ives), a not-for-profit volunteer group which, with continued support from the St Ives Town Council, continues to hold up to 20 annual free events. I have been chairman from the beginning, but am now standing back whilst others take on responsibilities.

I have also been chairman of the organising committee for the hugely popular bi-annual Illuminated Boat Parade, but have now passed on that role for 2023. I remain a member of the Town Team.

Finally, I have a paid part-time role contributing editorial content for the free independent town magazine *St Ives NOW!* I enjoy this as it promotes local events, groups, and businesses and keeps me in touch with what is happening in the town.

So now I am ready for a new challenge, that of hopefully becoming a St Ives Town Councillor, and supporting the council as well as residents and businesses. I believe my experience outlined above will enable me to help the council do more to promote the town.

I confirm my eligibility and am subject to no disqualifications set out in the vacancy notice.

## **CO-OPTION APPLICATION – David McCandless**

I confirm that am eligible to be co-opted, and am not subject to any disqualification, to become a Town Councillor. I confirm that I am a British subject and over the age of 18. I am an ex-RAF officer, joined in 1961, commissioned in 1986 & retired in 2000 from RAF Wyton). I have been on the town's Electoral Register with my wife of 56 years as home owners since we moved from Somersham, in 1988. I have signed the Official Secrets Act, hold a current DBS Certificate and a clean driving licence since 1964.

On retirement from the RAF, I set up a successful database-design company. In 2000 I became an active member of the Huntingdonshire FSB and a volunteer member of the Branch Committee.

In 2009, I joined the Town's Community Speedwatch Group and remained in the Speedwatch scheme until 2014 when, with the late Town Cllr John Davies and 2 other unpaid volunteer directors, we founded a complementary, not-for-profit company called Community Roadwatch(UK) CIC (CRW) to help Parishes accurately quantify and identify speeding hotspots. With our experience and accurate data we have been able to advise/find ways of moderating any speeding using our sponsored Data Loggers & Speed Indicating Devices, the data from which have been used to justify several successful local LHI applications.

I am grateful to have received the full support of the Town Council for CRW's ongoing (apparently stalled) 'Make Sawtry Way Safer' speed limit reduction 2018 LHI project.

My life has been one of dedication to my country and my community. Now, having fully retired from business, I wish to play an active part in helping to make St Ives as great and as safe as it can be.

## Co-option Statement – Mathew Setchell

Thank you for providing the opportunity to be co-opted on to the council.

For those of you that do not know me. My name is Mathew Setchell I have owned a property within St Ives for over 10 years and have worked in and around St Ives for over 25 years as I IT engineer.

I'm passionate about the local community and where a can support the community I will.

I sit on a number of local groups:

St Ives Action Group "St Ives Flood Action Group"

Stop the floods flood action group

St Ives Eco Action

HCR FM community radio

On top of this other projects recently I have assisted in sending aid to the Ukraine / providing free consultation to local home owners to enable faster and more resilient internet connectivity. Signposting members of the public to others in the community that can provide information/ support.

I feel this knowledge coupled with the extensive knowledge both within the local community and the surrounding community enables me to help provide a wealth of support both to the council and to the residents and businesses of St Ives and should I be successful in being co-opted on.

If possible I would like to sit on the property and amenities committees as I feel my experience in infrastructure planning and support along with over 20 years' experience in helping organise and run events would be most beneficial in these two committees.

I confirm my eligibility and am subject to no disqualifications set out in the vacancy notice.

## **Co-Option to become Town Councillor Application. – Jen Spencer**

I am a suitable candidate having been voted in by public vote and filling the role previously (2016-2018), when I was also Deputy of Amenities. My health is considerably better than it was then so I will be able to return with the knowledge and experience I gained then and really hit the ground running.

My community involvement includes Memory Lane Singing Cafe, being one of the trio who set up the Dementia Friendly Community, I run the 'Thanked St Ives' facebook page (a place to encourage and thank kind deeds), and I am interested in eco initiatives (I attempted to implement such ideas during my previous term, so would be keen to get involved in these).

Personal attributes I can bring to the mix:

I believe in kindness and people.

I plant wild flowers.

I pick up litter.

I smile at strangers and compliment passers by.

I care about animals (and am often saying hello to dogs!) and volunteer at Wood Green.

I like to do things to cheer people up (hand out flowers, mystery snowmen, for example), but whilst appreciate there is fun to be had, I also am passionate about caring for people and the planet and take these things very seriously. I will stand for responsible spending of public funds, especially given the current Cost of Living crisis.

I think it is important to have fair representation and different points of view and types of people on the Council. Politics is in such a bad state and I want to bring it back to trust and supporting community.

I will care for the residents of our town – human or otherwise – and strive to make it a safe and enriching place for all.

I confirm that I am eligible according to the criteria and that I am not subject to any disqualifications set out in the vacancy notice.

## **Co-option Statement – Lisa Valla**

I would like to be considered to join your team as a Member of the Council.

I have lived in St Ives for almost 6 years. I am originally from a town that held the community at its heart but as an adult, I have not been lucky enough to live somewhere with that same sense of civic pride until I came to St Ives.

I moved to St Ives so that I could take on the post of headteacher at a local infant school.. During my time at the school, we rebuilt links with many groups within the community and created a school curriculum that put St Ives at the heart of the children's learning, so that they too grow up with the same civic pride as I see in the residents across the town currently.

As a headteacher for 13 years, I have experience of working within governing bodies and committees. I have worked hard to try and make a difference to children and their families, and during my time in this role I received an Inspiring person Award from the High Sheriff of St Albans.

I am a member of Calmtown and have been so since our very first meeting. As part of this I have supported the organising of events that have helped to bring members of the community together to discuss ways in which we can support each other's wellbeing.

My new role as a school improvement adviser has provided me with capacity to support my local community, which has been so welcoming to me and my family, and so I would cherish the opportunity to take on a role that would enable me to contribute to the town's future.

I am not subject to any disqualifications as set out in the information provided to me.