



ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL

Town Clerk – Matthew Price

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TWINNED WITH STADTALLENDORF

Issued: 23 February 2023

ANNUAL TOWN MEETING 6.00 pm on Friday 3 March 2023 in the Corn Exchange, St Ives

Parish electors are hereby called to attend the **Annual Town Meeting of St Ives** to be held on **Friday 3 March 2023** in the **Corn Exchange**, The Pavement, St Ives at **6.00 pm**.

Councillor Philip Pope
TOWN MAYOR OF ST IVES

AGENDA

- 1.0 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION FROM THE TOWN MAYOR**
- 2.0 MINUTES**
To agree the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 12 March 2022 (attached).
- 3.0 COUNCIL REPORT**
To receive verbal report on the work of the Council and Committees during the 2022/23 municipal year.
- 4.0 QUESTION TIME**



**ANNUAL TOWN MEETING
HELD AT THE CORN EXCHANGE
on Saturday 12 March 2022**

Present:

Town Mayor: Cllr P Hussain
Chairman: Mr Martin Collier

Panel Members: Cllr K Reynolds, Cambs County Council
Mr M Setchell, FLAG group
Cllr N Dibben, Neighbourhood Plan Group
Ms H Dye, Eco Action Group
Mrs N Sewell, Locum Clerk

In attendance: Members of St Ives Town Council
Members of the Public [40 signed in]
Administration Officer
Democratic Officer

Mr Collier opened the Meeting.

ATM01.00 WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

The Town Mayor welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

ATM02.00 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Annual Town Meeting held on 7 March 2020 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

ATM03.00 COUNCIL REPORT

The Town Mayor reported that the asylum seekers housed at the Dolphin Hotel appeared to be settling in and were receiving the necessary support.

The Admin Officer, Emma, had begun a project to collect clothing and supplies for Ukraine, donations could be left at the Town Hall.

The Chairs of Council Committees provided the following reports:

Property and Personnel Committees – Cllr J Pallant

The Property Committee is concerned primarily with the maintenance and upkeep of Council-owned properties, including lease and rental agreements where those properties are not occupied by the Council itself.

The properties are the Town Hall, Corn Exchange, Norris Museum, York House, Burleigh Hill Centre, Hill Rise Cemetery, Allotments, Grounds Maintenance Depot, Warners Park including the Pavilion, Slepe Hall Field and the old Mortuary.

There are 8 children's play areas which are the responsibility of the Amenities Committee.

The Committee has met 8 times over the past two years and has made the following decisions:

Chairman's
Initials

- To restart the Warner's Park Pavilion working group (this has been put on hold during the pandemic.
- To actively seek to re-let vacant offices in the Town Hall
- To consider the recent eco audit report and review the way the Council uses energy
- To replace all lighting with LED
- Engaged consultants to prepare a report on the changes needed to make the Council carbon neutral by 2030
- Replacement of the Corn Exchange roof, consultants engaged
- Carried out emergency repairs to the Town Hall roof
- Carried out drainage works to the Bus Station toilet

The Personnel Committee has responsibility for staffing – Town Hall staff, Norris Museum and the Grounds Maintenance and Farmers' Market teams.

Of recent concern has been the ill health of the Town Clerk and her long term absence. The Committee is grateful to the Amenities Manager for acting as an interim Town Clerk.

We have been joined by a new Administrative Assistant and a Locum Clerk appointed in September 2021. The Locum left to take up another post, the Amenities Manager is retiring and we are now recruiting a new Amenities Manager. In April 2021 a new Director for the Norris Museum was appointed.

A new post of Project Co-ordinator for the St Ives Cares Project has been created. Funded by the County Council's Innovate and Cultivate fund, St Ives Cares will continue the work done by the Community Hub during the pandemic.

Planning Committee and the Norris Trust – Councillor Nick Dibben

The Committee considers planning applications related to St Ives and makes recommendations to the District Council.

Last year's controversial application – the Envar incinerator – was discussed at a large public meeting. To date the application has not been determined.

Work has commenced on the creation of a Neighbourhood Plan. It is hoped that a draft will be available for consultation later this year. A local referendum will be held to enable residents to vote on the proposed plan. If agreed, the document becomes a legal planning document with which developers have to comply.

The Norris Museum, closed during the pandemic, has now re-started its exhibitions. As an accredited Museum it is now able to get on loan some high quality artefacts.

Amenities Committee – Councillor Philip Pope

The Committee is responsible for all Council facilities and has:

- Created a new play park at Knights Way
- Planted 420 saplings at Ramsey Road Cemetery
- Investigated the provision of outdoor gym equipment
- Looked at the provision of an appropriate memorial to the late Councillor John Davies

The Committee is grateful for the assistance of St Ives in Bloom with planting

Questions/Answers

- What resources have been provided for the Afghan refugees in the Dolphin? – *initially there were language difficulties but translators have been appointed to assist.*
- Will you be fitting solar panels on the new Corn Exchange roof? – *this was always our plan but concerns were raised by Conservation Officers on the original proposal. We will continue to investigate possibilities.*
- What provision are you making towards the Council gaining net zero? – *The Neighbourhood Plan will have a policy requiring all new housing to be carbon zero. There is now a planning requirement for developments to show net biodiversity gain.*
- Will developers be required to ensure water drainage is sufficient? – *The Council relies on expert advice from the Environment Agency, Natural England etc. It is noted that the Environment Agency is changing its strategy on clearing and maintaining ditches.*
- How will the referendum on the Neighbourhood Plan be promoted? – *We have featured regular articles on the Plan in 'The Bridge' magazine, we propose to leaflet and make use of social media. We would be happy to consider any suggestions from residents on increasing Council communications.*
- What is the Council's view on the Envar proposals? – *We have not discussed the revised application yet but will be reviewing the comments made in September to see if the new information changes our response.*
- Why was there no consultation about the new parklets and bike racks? – *The parklets were an HDC initiative. We are currently discussing with the County Council the possible extension of the cycle lane along The Broadway.*

ATM4.0**REPORTS FROM GROUPS****ATM4.1 Calmtown**

Councillor Philip Pope informed the meeting that Calmtown had been created in 2018, following an alarming increase in suicide amongst young males.

Its remit is to help out wherever it can to ensure that people know there is always another way and they had someone to talk to.

Community events have been held – Calmwalks, Calmcuppas, Yogathon, Meet the Streets, information days and movie screenings focusing on mental health. Calmcouch and Calmbench offers people a place to rest and speak with others.

Members have attended mental health first aid training sessions and hope to roll this out to a number of businesses and groups within the town.

Some initiatives had been delayed due to the pandemic but Calmtown is hoping to make great progress over the coming months. We are hoping to organise a Big Lunch street party during the Jubilee weekend.

We are grateful to Calmtown supporters and volunteers and the Town Council for its support.

ATM4.2 Eco Action Group

Ms Helen Dye informed the meeting that the group was formed two years ago.

It is noted that the District Council currently have no climate action plan but are working on producing one.

Some of the group's initiatives are:

- The Climate Café which meets in the Free Church on the third Saturday in each month at 10 am.

Chairman's Initials

- St Ives Against Rubbish (STAR) which arranges litter picks around the town
- The Repair Café to initiate a repairing and recycling culture in St Ives and to reduce landfill
- A Community Allotment – more volunteers are needed to help out
- Wildflower planting in the north of St Ives, with the assistance of St Ives in Bloom and the District Council
- A Bicycling Campaign to promote the Active Travel cycling initiative

ATM4.3 Flood Action Group (FLAG)

The Chairman, Mr Mathew Setchell, informed the meeting that the group was formed following the severe flooding in 2021.

One alarming discovery had been that local agencies were unaware of which areas they had responsibility for, the group was looking further into this.

There were areas of concern and improvements were needed such as dredging and clearing trenches. The Environment Agency was unwilling to dredge the river. It had been noted that the riverbank on Noble's Field was beginning to erode.

The group would continue to co-operate with local agencies to address these concerns and lobby for improvements.

ATM5.0 QUESTION TIME

- **Will the Council reinstate the chewing gum posters?** – The posters were an HDC initiative but, certainly, we could request their return. Cigarette end litter is a big problem, partly because some businesses cannot get consent to attach bins to listed buildings. The Town Mayor has agreed to speak to businesses in the town which are experiencing difficulties.
- **What is the procedure for reporting vehicles driving across the old bridge?** – Enforcement is the responsibility of the Police. Vehicles can be reported to them on the non-emergency phone line.
- **Will the Council do its best to ensure that representatives of the Police and the District Council attend the Annual Meeting in future?** – Invitations to them will be issued again next year.
- **Why is there inadequate parking enforcement?** – HDC has attendants in car parks but not on the streets. It had been agreed in principle that parking enforcement would be taken on by HDC but it is not known when this will come into force.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for attending.

The Meeting ended at 8.10 pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 3 March 2023

Chairman's
Initials