

**Minutes of a Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 9 September 2020 via Zoom**

Present:

Town Mayor: Councillor J Pallant

Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor P Hussain

Councillors: N Dibben, D Rowe, P Pope, J Davies, R Fuller, R D'Souza, L Davies, M King, A Ayers-Wilson,
Dr C Pegoraro, T Drye

In attendance:

Engie: Ms J Mills

Deputy Town Clerk: C Allison

Committee Clerk: S Rawlinson

The Town Mayor's Chaplain said Prayers before the Meeting.

C53.00 ST IVES – A PROSPECTUS FOR GROWTH

The Town Mayor welcomed Ms Mills of Engie to the meeting.

Ms Mills apologised for the late notification that Engie were not yet in a position to make a presentation to Council. They were currently looking at reports from the Combined Authority and others very closely to determine what any proposals meant for the future of the site. She agreed to make a presentation to Council when they had more specific information.

C54.00 C54.01 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor J Tiddy (Personal), A Dickinson (technical issues) and the Town Clerk.

C54.02 RESIGNATION

The resignation of Councillor R Bellamy was noted.

The Town Mayor stated that as a result of the above there were now several vacancies on some committees. Any members interested in joining those Committees should contact himself or the Town Clerk. There would be an agenda item on this in October.

C55.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

C56.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Item C53.00 – The Civic Society of St Ives had comments to make on the Engie report but they proposed to leave these until the presentation was given.

C57.00 MINUTES

The Minutes of the Meeting held on 8 July and the Extraordinary Meeting held on 22 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record. They would be signed by the Town Mayor at a future date.

C58.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that he had recently met with the Rotary Club of St Ives and received, on behalf of the town, a defibrillator which had now been mounted on the wall at the top of Priory Road.

He had also joined members of the Community Hub at a lunch hosted by Councillors Pope and Hussain and had enjoyed a very successful day judging the Carnival 'floats', ably assisted by the Deputy Mayor.

Chairman's
Initials

He noted that there were still several Members experiencing IT problems. He encouraged those Members to take advantage of the IT support service currently in place and to report any problems encountered to himself or the Town Clerk for investigation.

C59.00**TOWN CLERK'S REPORT**

The Deputy Town Clerk reported that the Community Hub continued to meet each Thursday. Use of the 'red hands' scheme had now ceased and residents had been informed of this via leaflet. Requests for support had decreased considerably since lockdown.

Staff were working partly remotely and partly in the office on a rota basis. The Town Hall was open to the public every weekday.

C60.00**REVIEW OF COUNCIL POLICIES, PROCEDURES, REGULATIONS AND DELEGATED POWERS**

The Standing Orders Working Party had reviewed a number of Council policies and procedures. Consideration was given to the adoption of these documents.

RESOLVED:

- C60.01** that the report is received and noted
- C60.02** that the Business Continuity Plan is adopted
- C60.03** that the Safeguarding Policy is adopted
- C60.04** that the Publication Scheme is adopted

Following an enquiry raised by Cllr D'Souza on the Contractor's Code of Conduct item relating to equality of access, it was **AGREED** that this item be referred to the Town Clerk for clarification and the Code be presented for consideration to the next meeting.

C61.00**ST IVES AREA TRANSPORT STUDY**

Members were in receipt of copy of the Study.

The Town Mayor highlighted the key proposals relating to St Ives which were:

- The introduction of a 20mph speed limit across the town centre
- A right turn ban for traffic from Needingworth Road onto St Audrey Lane
- Replacement of the roundabout at the St Audrey Lane/Somersham Road junction with traffic signals
- Changed priorities at the Ramsey Road/North Road, Globe Place/North Road, Broad Leas/Glove Place and West Street/East Street junctions

The Town Mayor invited Councillor Fuller, who was the Chair of the Steering Group which produced the report to provide further information to Members and respond to any queries.

Councillor Fuller reported that the Report would be going to the County Council meeting on 15 September. The main point was to tackle congestion around and through town although there were not any easy answers to the problem. He considered a larger strategic solution would be needed – potentially a northern bypass.

Traffic flows had been assessed to identify the problem areas and some suggestions had been sent to the Combined Authority for consideration. The Authority had agreed to fund the project with a half a million pounds budget.

The County Council was keen to pursue other options such as bus usage, walking, improved signage and cycling initiatives.

The project was not yet at the consultation stage. Proposals would be going initially to HDC and CCC seeking their support. There would be opportunities for Members and the public to have their say, at the present time he was seeking views on the headlined items for St Ives. He was happy for Members to email him with any proposals or suggestions they might have.

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Initials

Members raised the following points which Councillor Fuller took note of:

- Would preventing a right turn from Needingworth Road be considered a step backwards, considering public money was spent not so long ago in widening it?
- A bus bollard on East Street was looked at a few years ago, is this a viable option?
- Marley Road eastbound bus stops are mostly used by people getting off buses rather than waiting for them, unsure if this should be a priority
- Cycle parking was not mentioned
- Concerns have been raised by residents about the number of heavy goods vehicles using the A1123, will lorry routing be part of any scheme?
- Are there any considerations for improvements to traffic flow at the far end of Needingworth Road past Tenterleas and Meadow Close also the junction on the town side of North Road

Councillor Fuller responded that options had been looked at for the town end of Needingworth Road such as traffic lights and restricted turning. It was a fine balance to support traffic flow and maintaining access to the town centre. Sending additional traffic onto Meadow Lane roundabout would hold up the flow on Harrison Way. There were not many effective solutions to problems in that area which would not impact adversely on other areas.

On the question of the bus bollard, after lengthy consideration it was not considered a viable option.

HGV use of the A1123 was looked into by Highways and Highways England and it had been determined that the vehicles were predominantly local HGVs.

Cycle parking is being looked at separately by the County Council.

A traffic survey would be conducted in October which will provide better evidence on road usage for the Highways team to analyse.

The consultation date had not yet been set as the report needed to go to Cabinet and CCC before finalising. Councillor Fuller agreed to keep Members informed of any further developments.

C62.00

LOCAL HIGHWAYS IMPROVEMENT INITIATIVE

Consideration was given to four possible projects put forward for consideration:

C62.01 Chestnut Road – Proposal for double yellow lines

Members agreed that there were parking problems in this area which created difficulties for Residents and dangers to pedestrians.

RESOLVED: that a proposal seeking double yellow lines be put forward for consideration under the LHI scheme.

C62.02 The Quadrant – Proposal for speed bumps

C62.03 Meadow Lane – Proposal for crossing

Members considered that these two proposals were linked and that a raised crossing in this area would potentially solve both issues and make the area from Meadow Lane to Needingworth Road much safer for pedestrians.

RESOLVED: that a proposal seeking a raised crossing be put forward for consideration under the LHI scheme.

C62.04 Houghton Road/St Audrey Lane – Proposal for speed reduction/improved signage

Members considered evidence would be required in support of this proposal.

RESOLVED: that the Council seek permission from the County Council to site its Speed Indicator devices in Houghton Road to monitor traffic speed and provide evidence for a future LHI application.

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Initials

C63.00 LICENSING ACT 2003 – DRAFT STATEMENT OF LICENSING POLICY CONSULTATION
Members were in receipt of Licensing Policy Consultation document and agreed that no comment needed to be made on this.

RESOLVED: that the document be received and noted.

C64.00 HUNTINGDONSHIRE DOG CONTROL PSPO
Huntingdonshire District Council was seeking to renew its Public Spaces Protection Order which imposed a number of dog controls until 2023.

Members agreed that this be supported.

RESOLVED: that a letter in support of the extension of the PSPO be sent.

C65.00 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

C65.01 Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre

Members were in receipt of letter from the Chairman of HVC thanking Council for its recent grant and providing an update on the work of the Centre.

RESOLVED: that the letter be received and noted

C65.02 Extinction Rebellion

A letter had been received from Extinction Rebellion which requested the Council to plant wildflower verges.

It was noted that HDC had planted several such verges around the town and that there were plans for more. This was being done in consultation with local residents.

The Council's strategic plan contained a commitment to planting wildflower verges within parks and open spaces. Councillor Dibben agreed to respond to Extinction Rebellion informing them of the Council's support and future plans for wildflower planting.

RESOLVED: C65.02.01 that the matter be referred to the Amenities Committee with the Recommendation that they take it forward

C65.02.02 that Councillor Dibben respond to Extinction Rebellion

C66.00 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

RESOLVED: that the Schedule of Orders for Payment be received and noted.

C67.00 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliation Statement be received and noted.

C68.00 BUDGET REPORT

RESOLVED: that the Budget Report be received and noted

C69.00 POLICE REPORT

A report had not been received from the Police.

The Town Mayor agreed to contact the local Sergeant to request an update from her.

Chairman's
Initials

C70.00 **CCTV REPORT**

RESOLVED: that the CCTV report for April/May 2020 be received and noted.

C71.00 **COUNTY COUNCIL REPORT**

Councillor Fuller provided an update for both CCC and HDC.

Both Councils were still responding to the pandemic but were moving from the initial response phase into recovery. Both Councils had taken large financial hits as a result of the crisis, not all of which had been comprehensively recompensed by central government.

They were starting to consider the next year's budgets and there would be challenges with the reduction in business rates and council tax. The impact was likely to be severe and it would take many years to recover.

In response to an enquiry about the red barriers in town, Councillor Fuller stated that they were only a temporary measure and that the Council was looking at installing something more permanent, should the distancing measures continue, so that the town would be able to facilitate distancing while, at the same time, being more attractive. Planters had been considered.

The District Council was doing well in terms of its commercial estates portfolio and rental collection remained high. The main concern was with the loss of leisure centre income.

C72.00 **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor Davies reported that a Scrutiny Panel would be held the following day.