

**Minutes of a Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 14 April 2021 via Zoom**

Present:

Town Mayor: Councillor J Pallant

Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor P Hussain

Councillors: D Rowe, T Drye, M King, N Dibben, J Tiddy, C Smith, R Fuller, P Pope, N Wells, R D'Souza, J Parkin, C Pegoraro

In attendance:

Town Clerk: A Benfield

Deputy Town Clerk: C Allison [*Clerk of the meeting from Item C207.00*]

Committee Clerk: S Rawlinson

HRH THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH

The Meeting was preceded by a 2-minute Silence to honour the memory of the late Duke of Edinburgh.

The Town Mayor's Chaplain said Prayers.

COUNCILLOR JOHN DAVIES

Councillors Tiddy, Rowe, Pope, Drye and the Town Mayor gave personal tributes to the late Councillor Davies and shared their memories of him.

A 2-minute Silence was then observed to honour the memory of Councillor Davies.

C195.00 NEW COUNCIL MEMBER

Members welcomed the recently elected councillor, John Parkin, to his first meeting.

Councillor Parkin signed his Declaration of Acceptance of Office and stated that he looked forward to working with the Council.

C196.00 APOLOGIES

Apologies were received from Councillor A Dickinson (Personal) and from the Town Clerk.

C197.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations were made.

C198.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Agenda Item C207.00 – Information Board on The Waits

A representative from the Ouse Valley Trust stated that an experienced contractor, recommended by the County Council, had installed the other information boards on Ouse Valley Way. He hoped that consideration would be given by the Council to using this same contractor.

C199.00 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 10 March 2021 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor at a future date.

C200.00 COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members received and noted the following Minutes:

C200.01 Planning Committee held on 10 March and 24 March 2021.

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Recommendation

Consideration was given to the Recommendation that, should the siting of a new bus stop be approved by the County Council, CIL funding be used to pay for its installation.

RESOLVED: that agreement be given, should the proposal be accepted, for CIL funds to be used to pay for the installation of a new bus stop.

C200.02 Amenities Committee held on 24 March 2021.

C201.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were in receipt of Mayor's engagement list.

The Town Mayor informed Members that it had been confirmed that one of the two Council casual vacancies would be going to co-option. Information on the second seat would be obtained following closure of nominations on Friday.

C202.00 STAFFING OF THE TOWN HALL

Consideration was given to a report proposing that the Town Hall be open to the public on Monday, Wednesday and Friday between 10 am and 4 pm. The office staff would attend on a rota basis, partly working from the Town Hall and partly from home.

RESOLVED: **C202.01** that the report is received and noted.

C202.02 that the Town Hall Reception be open to the public from 10 am to 4 pm on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

C202.03 that a combination of office based and remote working be implemented for all Town Hall office staff

C202.04 that a review be undertaken after 6 months and 12 months to determine the effectiveness of the new system of working

C202.05 that a vote of thanks be given to all staff of the Town Council for their adaptability and flexibility

C203.00 RETURN TO FACE TO FACE MEETINGS

Consideration was given to a report on the way forward from 6 May when authority for Councils to hold virtual meetings came to an end.

There were several options put forward in the report:

- Continue to hold virtual meetings
- Create a temporary scheme of delegation to the Town Clerk
- Hold face to face meetings

The Town Clerk advised Members that if the Council failed to comply with legislation it could be taken to court or even subject to a judicial review.

Members suggested meetings with a quorum of six could be held face to face with other members contributing virtually following temporary suspension of the meeting or that meetings could be held in larger venues.

RESOLVED: **C203.01** that the Annual Meeting of the Council be brought forward to 5 May

C203.02 that a decision on face to face meetings be deferred until further information is forthcoming.

C204.00**MAYOR MAKING AND CIVIC SUNDAY**

Consideration was given to the Mayor Making ceremony and whether it should be a stand-alone gathering or combined with general annual Council business.

It was noted that Civic Sunday was scheduled for 18 July.

RESOLVED: that a combined Mayor Making and Annual Meeting be held on 5 May.

C205.00**APPLICATION FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE**

Consideration was given to a grant application from Cambridgeshire Search and Rescue for £670 to support a member in undertaking Trauma Risk Management training. It was noted that the organisation had a considerable level of financial reserves and was not locally based.

RESOLVED: that no grant be awarded and a letter sent informing the organisation of the reasons why.

C206.00**ST IVES TOWN CENTRE**

The Town Mayor reported on his work with HDC's Economic Development section on ways in which to support the town centre.

He had been involved in many discussions on the way forward as high streets had been badly affected by the pandemic. It was noted that the Combined Authority had funds to assist with the rejuvenation of market towns.

Many events were planned to boost the local economy and improve the environment in town centres. He would continue to keep members informed of developments.

[The Town Clerk left the Meeting]

C207.00**OUSE VALLEY WAY – NOTICE BOARD ON THE WAITS**

Consideration was given to the funding and siting of an information board on The Waits.

RESOLVED: **C207.01** that the report is received and noted

C207.02 that the information board is sited on the grass area of The Waits at the agreed position

C207.03 that £1,950 be taken from the Community Infrastructure Levy to fund the board.

C208.00**REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES****C208.01 Community Roadwatch CIC**

The campaign for improvements to Sawtry Way had been successful.

RESOLVED: that the information is received and noted.

C209.00**ROLLING PROGRAMME**

RESOLVED: **C209.01** that the Rolling Programme be received and noted.

C209.02 that an update report be requested from the Pavilion Working Party

C210.00**ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

RESOLVED: that the schedule of orders for payment be received and noted.

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C211.00 BANK RECONCILIATION

RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliation be received and noted.

C212.00 BUDGET REPORT

RESOLVED: that the Budget Report be received and noted.

C213.00 POLICE MATTERS

Councillor Pope relayed the response received from the Police Sergeant to questions from members:

- Police were aware of the recent incidents at the former Murketts in London Road. It was noted that the land was private property and the owners would be requested to have some security put in place. They would monitor when resources permitted.
- The individual posting offensive posters in the town centre had been arrested. It had been determined that this was an individual grievance and not a political campaign.
- The drugs dealing issues at the sub-station was being monitored.
- The person who reported vandalism in Warner's Park would be asked to report it directly to the Police.

C214.00 CCTV

C214.01 Consideration was given to the Council's contribution to funding of the CCTV system. A formal agreement would be sent to the Council shortly.

RESOLVED: C214.01.01 that the Council agree, in principle, pending receipt of the formal agreement to continue to support the funding of the CCTV system.

C214.01.02 that a letter confirming this be sent with a request for a breakdown of costs for the CCTV system

C214.02 Members were in receipt the Shared Service Monitoring Report.

RESOLVED: that the report be received and noted.

C215.00 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

No report was received.

C216.00 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

No report was received.

C217.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

This was not resolved as no in depth discussion on the Feasibility Study took place.

C218.00 DECARBONISATION FEASIBILITY STUDY

Members were in receipt of the findings of the recent study. It was proposed that, as the information was detailed and lengthy, a Working Group be formed to examine the report in detail and make a Recommendation back to Council in due course.

RESOLVED: that a Working Group be formed comprising Councillors Pallant, Dibben, Parkin, Rowe and Pegoraro

C219.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

As C217.00 above.

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Town Mayor:

Dated: