

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 8 March 2023 in the Town Hall, St Ives**

Present:

Town Mayor: Councillor P Pope
Deputy Mayor: Councillor N Wells

Councillors: S Mokbul, M King, A Thompson, C Morgan, P Hussain, L Valla, J Kerr, M Gleadow,
J Tiddy, M Burke

In attendance:

Locum Clerk: M Price
Admin Officer: A Childs
Democratic Officer: S Rawlinson
KICK: Louise McCoy
St Ivo Parent Forum: Rev Matt Finch

PRAYERS

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

PRESENTATIONS

KICK

The Operations Manager, Louise, of Kick Youth gave a presentation to the meeting about the work of the group.

Kick is a youth-based charity in St Ives which works in the town and throughout Cambridgeshire with schools and local authorities with the aim of helping young people aged 11 – 19 to improve their lives in engaging and exciting ways to enable them to achieve their full potential.

Members received a video presentation of a 'Day in the Life of Kick' which showed young people undertaking various activities with youth workers and detailing their community and referral based projects.

Parents and schools were regularly asked for feedback on what sort of projects they would like to see put in place.

All the programmes were granted funded and no fees were charged. Funding, however, was becoming more difficult to acquire and there were many projects the group would like to put in place, particularly a 'drop in' for 15-19 year olds.

More Kick trustees were needed and members were invited to contact Louise if they were interested in becoming involved with the group - louise@kickyouth.org.

The Town Mayor thanked the group for their interesting presentation.

St Ivo Parents Forum

Rev Matt Finch provided information on how and why the Forum was set up in February this year as the result of concerns expressed by pupils and teachers on the way that the Astrea Academy Trust operated within the school.

Now with over 400 members from varying backgrounds, the Forum is actively campaigning for the school to change for the welfare of pupils and for the overly strict disciplinarian and punitive measures to cease. Academic standards had been diminished by the reduction of the number of GCSEs and the practice of short-staffed classes having as many as 90 pupils viewing a scripted presentation.

The Forum and its objectives have attracted attention from local tv and radio media. Rev Finch asked the Council to support the group's concerns and to contact the School.

The Town Mayor thanked Rev Finch for providing this information to Members.

Chairman's
Initials

C158.00

APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors C Smith, M Mallol Wright and R Chapman (all Personal).

C159.00

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item C167.00 – Councillors J Kerr and P Hussain – non pecuniary interest as Directors of the Corn Exchange.

Agenda Item C167.00 – Councillor P Pope – non pecuniary interest as a Trustee of ACE Friends of the Corn Exchange.

C160.00

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Agenda Item C167.00 – The Chairman of ACE, Mr Dobson, addressed the meeting stating that there were two powerful local precedents for the placing of solar panels on listed buildings. Consent had been granted to All Saints Church, Huntingdon for panels to be installed and also to Kings College in Cambridge.

Expert planning advice had been offered to the Council by the University of Cambridge and also from the Planning Advisory Service of the Local Government Association.

Although the preliminary budget cost appeared to be high, he urged Members not to discard this proposal.

The organiser of Screen St Ives, Mr Zanconato, addressed the meeting. 24 panels for the roof appeared to be a token gesture and was not nearly enough to provide any significant benefit. He had concerns about the level of insulation to the walls and that double or secondary glazing was necessary. There was also no integration between the controls for the heating and air-conditioning system.

A representative of St Ives Eco Action Group, Ms Helen Dye, stated that the group was working to build awareness of climate change. HDC had recently declared a climate emergency and had produced a Strategy. Funding was available for such projects and she urged Members to consider placing solar panels on the Corn Exchange roof.

The Town Mayor thanked everyone for their comments.

C161.00

CO-OPTION

Members gave consideration to two applications for co-option. The Town Mayor invited the candidates to introduce themselves to Members and state what qualities they believed they could bring to the Council.

James Cantwell – stated that he believed the responsibilities of a Councillor were to be well informed and aware of the views of the community in order to influence how the community developed. He was keen on improving recreational opportunities in the town.

Andrew Riddell – a local pharmacist had grown up around the area and was very familiar with the community. He paid great attention to detail and had a natural respect for people and equality. He was keen to improve the music scene in St Ives and to work with on preventing anti social behaviour amongst young people.

In accordance with the Co-option Policy a ballot was held with both candidates receiving a unanimous majority vote.

The Town Mayor congratulated both candidates who would officially take up their seats at the April meeting of the Council.

Chairman's
Initials

RESOLVED: that James Cantwell and Andrew Riddell be co-opted to serve as Town Councillors.

C162.00

MINUTES

The Minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C163.00

TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor informed Members that the engagement list provided had been a draft and that a more comprehensive list would be presented to the April meeting.

He thanked Jane and Nicola for their hard work at the Community Fair held the previous Friday and also those who had attended the Annual Town Meeting that same evening. He thanked those who had formed the Panel at the meeting – County Councillor Reynolds, Sgt Andy Caruana, Councillor Mrs Gleadow, Mr Mathew Setchell, Councillor Michael Burke and MC Martin Collier.

C164.00

ELECTION OF TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Kerr and seconded by Councillor Valla that Councillor Philip Pope be nominated as Town Mayor. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Philip Pope be appointed Town Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

C165.00

ELECTION OF DEPUTY TOWN MAYOR

It was proposed by Councillor Hussain and seconded by Councillor Wells that Councillor Craig Smith be nominated as Deputy Town Mayor. There were no further nominations.

RESOLVED: that Councillor Craig Smith be appointed Deputy Town Mayor for the municipal year 2023/24.

C166.00

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Members were presented with the Minutes of the following meetings, which were received and noted:

C166.01 **Amenities Committee** – it was noted that the meeting scheduled for 22 February was not held.

C166.02 **Planning Committees** – held on 8 February and 22 February 2023.

C166.03 **Property Committee** – held on 22 February 2023.

The **Recommendation** that Council give consideration to installing solar panels on the Corn Exchange roof would be discussed at Agenda Item C167.00 below.

C166.04 **Personnel Committee** – held on 3 February 2023.

C166.05 **Appointment to Vacancies**

There were several vacancies on standing committees and groups. The following appointments were made:

Personnel Committee – Councillor C Morgan
Internal Audit Working Group – Councillor M Burke

The remaining vacancies – Norris Museum Trust (1); Personnel Committee (1); Property Committee (2) and Huntingdonshire Volunteer Centre (1) would be placed on the agenda for the April meeting when the newly co-opted Members might wish to give them consideration.

C167.00

CORN EXCHANGE ROOF – SOLAR PANELS

Consideration was given to the Recommendation from Property Committee (C166.03) that solar panels be installed on the Corn Exchange roof.

Chairman's
Initials

[Councillors J Kerr and P Hussain left the meeting during discussion on this item]

Reports had been received from Stockton Bradley and Cambridge Roofers. Additionally, representatives of several local groups had provided comments and advice.

The Town Clerk stated that this was a big decision to be made on behalf of residents and that Members should consider the usefulness and longevity of such a project whilst taking account of the technical reports which indicated the current status of the asbestos roof.

He advised that planning consent for panels on the asbestos roof might not be forthcoming and any appeal could delay works to summer 2025 if consent was eventually received. In the meantime, the roof would continue to decay.

RESOLVED: C167.01 that the meeting be briefly suspended to permit Mr Zanconato to provide statistical information on Corn Exchange energy usage

Mr Zanconato stated that energy consumption at the Corn Exchange averaged 3.5kWh to 4.5kWh. 24 panels would not provide sufficient energy for this. Covering the main roof area would provide a maximum output of 6,000kWh per month which would represent, at peak, 143% of daily needs. Excess energy could be exported to the Grid. Solar panels would reduce expenditure rather than be a positive money earner.

The Town Mayor thanked Mr Zanconato for providing these statistics.

RESOLVED: C167.02 that the meeting be reconvened.

Following a suggestion that a decision on the matter be deferred, the Town Clerk confirmed that this could present problems as any application for a Public Works Board loan would need to be made by 1 April.

It was proposed, and duly seconded, that works on the asbestos roof be proceeded with and that surveys and quotations be sought for the installation of panels on the new roof extension.

RESOLVED: C167.03 that works to the asbestos roof be proceeded with.

C167.04 that a survey of the roof extension be commissioned.

C167.05 that, following the results of the survey, quotations be sought for solar panels to be installed on the roof extension.

[Councillors J Kerr and P Hussain rejoined the Meeting]

C168.00

ROLLING PROGRAMME

The Rolling Programme was received and noted.

C169.00

ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of paid accounts was received and noted.

C170.00

BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT

The Bank Reconciliation statement was received and noted.

C171.00

BUDGET

The budget report was received and noted.

Chairman's
Initials

C172.00

CASH HANDLING

The Town Clerk informed Members that the Town Hall had now acquired a card reader linked to the Council's bank account. This would enable card payments to be made and would also be of assistance to the Town Mayor for charitable fund raising events.

C173.00

CCTV

The CCTV report was received and noted.

C174.00

POLICE REPORT

Members received and noted a report from Sgt Caruana.

C175.00

COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

Regular updates from County Councillor Reynolds were circulated to Members when received. Councillor Reynolds had also been providing feedback for residents to questions raised at the Annual Town Meeting.

C176.00

DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

The Chairman of HDC, Councillor M Burke, provided Members with an update:

- Local Plan – The Council had now launched its Local Plan which would set the planning agenda for the future.
- Potential garden waste charge – HDC was looking at a range of options and would consult with residents in due course
- The How/Thicket Path – HDC had not yet received the requested information to validate the planning application from developers. A Planning Contravention Notice was being prepared as well as a Tree Replacement Notice relating to the trees which had been removed.
- Budget had been agreed
- Climate Strategy now ratified by full Council
- One Leisure had seen an increase in admissions of 11,000 since 2022
- Oliver Morley had been appointed as Interim Managing Director
- Parking enforcement – HDC was funding new signage and road markings on behalf of the county, together with the ongoing costs of enforcement. The revised date for commencement of parking enforcement is October 2024.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 12 April 2023

Chairman's
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