

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 26 April 2023 in the Town Hall, St Ives**

Present:

Town Mayor: Councillor P Pope

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

In attendance:

Town Clerk: M Price

Admin Officer: A Childs

Hunt. District Council: S Caldbeck, P Scott

PRAYERS

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

PRESENTATIONS

Huntingdonshire District Council

Sam Caldbeck, the Regeneration Programme Manager at HDC, provided a PowerPoint presentation to Members at the beginning of the meeting. The presentation included a general update on the Market Towns Programme and the 'Masterplan', which refers to a recent consultation that was held across Huntingdonshire market towns including St Ives.

Feedback to the Masterplan in St Ives was more critical than other towns; although Sam mentioned that the residents had constructive criticism surrounding the topics about how to preserve our town whilst making new improvements. It was pointed out that St Ives had the highest level of engagement across all the towns that were being consulted in the Masterplan consultation.

The presentation covered examples of proposed ideas to the town including the Quay Side and Cattle Market; however he stressed that nothing is fixed at this date, and the staff working on this consultation are open to ideas and suggestions. Any future developments will be subjected to further consultation stages to make sure the appropriate improvements are made.

The Members were very interested in the presentation material and asked Sam Caldbeck and his colleague Pamela Scott various questions about the consultation proposals and local engagement.

The Town Mayor thanked the HDC staff for their interesting presentation.

C177.00 APOLOGIES

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors N Wells (HDC Work Commitment) and L Valla (Work Commitment).

C178.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Agenda Item C186.00 – Councillors J Kerr and P Hussain – non pecuniary interest as Directors of the Corn Exchange.

Agenda Item C187.00 – Councillor C Morgan – non pecuniary interest as a member of the Town Team.

Agenda Item C189.00 – Councillors R Chapman and S Mokbul – non pecuniary interest as a members of the St Ives in Bloom committee.

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Agenda Item C199.00 – Councillor M Burke – non pecuniary interest as a Trustee of Burleigh Hill Community Centre.

C179.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

C180.00 CO-OPTION

Recently elected Councillors James Cantwell and Andrew Riddell officially took up their seats in the Full Council meeting held on 26th April 2023.

The Mayor and fellow Councillors welcomed them in their new positions, and they confirmed their appointment as representatives for St Ives South Ward.

RESOLVED: that James Cantwell and Andrew Riddell be appointed as representatives for St Ives South Ward.

C181.00 MINUTES

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

C182.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

C182.01 The Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements list was received.

C182.02 Armed Forces Champion

The Town Council signed the Armed Forces Covenant earlier this year, which serves as an important document that links the Council with our Armed Forces. The Council wishes to appoint an Armed Forces Champion who can work with RAF Wyton and other forces in the area.

Interest was received (in order) from Cllr A Riddell, Mayor P Pope and Cllr J Cantwell. It was agreed that due to the Mayor's busy schedule and the new councillors' appointments that either Cllr A Riddell or Cllr J Cantwell would be best suited for the position.

Cllr M King proposed that one councillor serve as the Armed Forces Champion, with the second serving as a deputy. It was agreed that the primary role be assigned to the first councillor who expressed interest, which was Cllr A Riddell.

RESOLVED: the proposal was made and seconded. There was a unanimous vote.

that Cllr Andrew Riddell be appointed as the Armed Forces Champion, with Cllr J Cantwell serving as the Deputy.

C183.00 COMMITTEE AND GROUP REPORTS

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

C183.01.01 Amenities Committee – held on 22 March 2023.

C183.01.02 Amenities Committee – To agree that the Amenities Committee be re-named Facilities Committee.

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The Town Clerk stated there is a general consensus across other councils that the term 'Facilities' is more encompassing and allows greater flexibility to work on amenities projects and with property. Recent job listings, procurement, risk assessments and fact-finding are all now focused on Facilities.

RESOLVED: a proposal was made and seconded. The majority of Members were in favour with one objection. The motion was passed.

that the Amenities Committee be officially re-named Facilities Committee in all future meetings, documentation and correspondence.

C183.02 **Planning Committees** – held on 8 March and 22 March 2023.

C183.03 **Property Committee** – it was noted that the meeting scheduled for 22 March was not held.

C184.04 **Personnel Committee** – an emergency meeting was held on 27 March 2023.

C184.00

STAFF SUPPORT

Cllr J Kerr provided a verbal report to Members regarding recent unpleasant social media comments about the Grounds Maintenance Team and the Cemeteries. The material was very concerning; as the comments were made on a local discussion group, it is up to the group administrators to filter material as they so choose.

Cllr M Burke stated that the Cemeteries has recently adopted its own Rolling Programme which will serve as a proactive plan to help improve and monitor the Cemeteries, which could help to prevent future complaints.

Cllr J Kerr encouraged the Members to provide the Grounds Maintenance Team with support and positive feedback to counteract any negativity that has arisen during this difficult situation.

The Mayor thanked the Grounds Maintenance Team for all of their hard work.

Cllr P Hussain echoed these sentiments towards the Grounds Maintenance Team and also to other Town Council staff.

C185.00

CAPALC MEMBERSHIP

Cllr A Riddell recently attended a New Councillor Training session led by CAPALC, along with Cllr J Cantwell. He stated that the session was very helpful, contained useful material, and also served as good value for money. The training helped provide confidence to begin one's journey as a new councillor.

RESOLVED: a proposal was made and seconded. There was a unanimous vote.

that the CAPALC membership be renewed for 2023-2024.

C186.00

CORN EXCHANGE ROOF

The application for loan for works to the Corn Exchange roof was reviewed and discussed by Members. Cllr J Cantwell drew attention to Point 11 within the document and requested to see the tariff and repayment methodology. He requested a breakdown on this point. The Town Clerk agreed this will be circulated.

RESOLVED: a proposal was made and seconded. The majority were in favour, with three abstained votes. The motion was passed.

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the Mayor and Town Clerk signed the document.

that the Town Clerk will provide Members with a breakdown of Point 11 of the document.

C187.00 BANDSTAND

The Members reviewed the request from the St Ives Town Team for the installation of an electrical cable for the bandstand. Concerns were raised surrounding the location and safety of the cable, as well as hidden costs for additional procedures. It was proposed that this item be delayed to the next Full Council, with more information required about finances, health and safety.

RESOLVED: a proposal was made and seconded. There was a unanimous vote.

Cllr C Morgan will request a detailed report from the Bandstand organisers to report to next Full Council meeting.

that the agenda item be placed on the next Full Council agenda.

C188.00 2023/24 MEETING PLANNER

The Members reviewed the schedule for the upcoming municipal year's meetings (May 2023 – April 2024). Cllrs P Hussain and C Smith requested the schedule also be drawn up as a list for individuals with visual impairments.

RESOLVED: the original schedule was agreed and will be posted on the Town Council website.

the Democratic Officer will create a secondary schedule compiled as a list of all meetings in chronological order; to be distributed to Members and posted on the Town Council website.

C188.01 The Cllr Surgery dates and frequency were agreed.

RESOLVED: Following the meeting, the Democratic Officer will liaise with Members to create a rota spreadsheet for councillor attendance.

C189.00 CEMETERY GARDEN

C189.01 The receipt of funding was noted and it was agreed for St Ives in Bloom to make use of the space of land.

C189.02 Cllr S Mokbul provided a verbal report with the background information on the community garden. The funds have been given by the Royal Horticultural Society (RHS), and will be used to connect members of the community.

RESOLVED: A proposal was made and seconded. Most were in favour, with one objection and one abstained vote. The motion was passed.

C190.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME

The Rolling Programme was received and noted.

C191.00 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT

The schedule of paid accounts was received and noted.

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C192.00 **BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**
The Bank Reconciliation statement was received and noted.

C193.00 **BUDGET**
The budget report was received and noted.

C194.00 **CCTV**
The CCTV report was received and noted.

A suggestion was made that a brief synopsis would be better suited for future meetings.

RESOLVED: that the Town Clerk and Democratic Officer request a short summary of the CCTV report findings.

C195.00 **POLICE REPORT**
None.

C196.00 **COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**
None.

C197.00 **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**
None.

C198.00 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that in accordance with Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and by reason of the confidential nature of the remainder of the business, the Press and the Public be excluded from the Meeting.

C199.00 **BURLEIGH HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE CONSTITUTION DRAFT**

Cllr M Burke presented Members with a copy of the Burleigh Hill Community Centre Constitution Draft. There were some concerns raised because the Town Council lease the community centre but do not own it; therefore involvement with their constitution must be limited.

There were two proposals made:

- 1) To acknowledge the document and advise the community centre to designate people as they wish
- 2) To acknowledge the document

RESOLVED: the latter proposal was made and seconded. Nine were in favour, with two abstained votes and two objections. The motion was passed.

that acknowledgement of the document's existence was made.

C200.00 **PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC**

RESOLVED: that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and the Public be re-admitted to the meeting.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 11 May 2023

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