

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Planning Committee of St Ives Town Council
held in the Town Hall on Wednesday 12 July 2023**

Present:

Councillors: M Gleadow, C Morgan, J Kerr, J Tiddy, C Smith, A Thompson

In attendance:

Town Clerk: M Price

Democratic Officer: A Childs

PL19.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor N Wells (HDC Work Commitment).

PL20.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

PL21.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Councillor Cath Gleadow of Huntingdonshire District Council (HDC) spoke regarding **Agenda Item PL23.01: Planning Application 23/00123/FUL**; she acknowledged the challenges the district council have faced with the proposed development and stated that they are handling the majority of issues that have arisen.

There are concerns regarding the height of the fence as it borders the Thicket Path, which contradicts the 1 metre height fence regulations for all fences constructed alongside highways (the Thicket Path is considered a County Council highway). She also noted the material and appropriateness of the fence design. Being next to the Thicket and wooded areas, a metal fence is not aesthetically pleasant or fitting to its surroundings.

She stated that the district council are closely monitoring the proposed development, and its applications are being examined on a regular basis. She mentioned that the public have submitted several complaints about this application, and offered to provide any advice or information to those interested.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Gleadow for her comments.

PL22.00 MINUTES

RESOLVED: the Minutes of the Meeting held on 28 June 2023 were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Vice Chairman.

PL23.00 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Consideration was given to the following applications:

PL23.01 23/00123/FUL

Erection of 2.0m high metal fence to form an enclosure to an existing mooring platform (retrospective).

**The How Houghton Road
St Ives**

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RECOMMENDATION: Refusal

The committee noted that the fence has been erected against the majority of district guidance to date. It conflicts with heritage ethics within conservation areas, and decreases the aesthetic beauty of the area. The material and height of the fence are not desirable or suitable; it could potentially be scaled back to a reasonable height and a material more fitting to the environment, but ideally no fence at all would be erected.

The Council's view is that this will have an impact on the conservation area, despite the developer's documentation which states otherwise. This area has already experienced damage to the riverbank and cutting down of trees.

Concerns were also raised that this is a retrospective application; this has potential to set a dangerous precedent, especially regarding housing developers and conservation areas.

In summary, based on aesthetics, a lack of need, and concerns regarding retrospective applications related to conservation areas the Committee members strongly encouraged a refusal on this application.

PL23.02**23/00460/FUL**

Installation of external play area.

Aurora Fairway School Westwood Road**St Ives****RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

An excellent facility for the school. The equipment is of high quality and is all inclusive for children of various ages, skills and needs. It was agreed to be a very suitable addition to the school.

PL23.03**23/01081/S73**

Variation of condition 2 (Plans) of 23/00362/HHFUL.

59 Needingworth Road**St Ives****RECOMMENDATION: Approval**

The committee noted the variation of condition 2 (Plans) and it was agreed to be a reasonable request. No objections were made.

PL23.04**23/01170/TREE**

T1 Walnut in back garden: reduce laterally over neighbouring garden by approx. 2 m.

Owners of the neighbouring property are concerned about leaf and debris fall from the tree. The neighbouring garden is quite narrow and largely overhung and shaded by the tree.

13 Parkside**St Ives**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

As the tree is overgrowing onto a neighbouring property, this request should be permissible and would be considered necessary tree surgery.

PL23.05

23/01168/TREE

T1 Horse Chestnut at side of garden: Thin crown by approx 20% to allow more light through canopy. maximum cut diameter will be 50mm.

**9 Brigham Crescent
St Ives**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

This would be considered essential tree surgery which would allow more light to enter the garden area.

PL23.06

23/01154/HHFUL

Replacement of double glazed sash windows, replacement of roof tiles above north east elevation and repointing existing brick walls to north east and north west elevations.

**Elwyn House Merryland
St Ives**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Favourable feedback was provided by the committee; the property would be vastly improved and it would be very keeping of its historic character.

PL23.07

23/01155/LBC

Replacement of double glazed sash windows, replacement of roof tiles above north east elevation and repointing existing brick walls to north east and north west elevations.

**Elwyn House Merryland
St Ives**

RECOMMENDATION: Approval

Favourable feedback was provided by the committee; the property would be vastly improved and it would be very keeping of its historic character.

The meeting concluded at 7:19 pm.

Chairman:

Dated: 26 July 2023

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