

**Minutes of the Meeting of the Facilities Committee of St Ives Town Council  
held in the Town Hall on 28 June 2023**

**Present:**

Councillors: M Mallol Wright, R Chapman, C Smith, N Wells, J Tiddy, M King

**In attendance:**

Town Mayor: P Pope  
Town Clerk: M Price  
Democratic Officer: A Childs  
Facilities Manager: T White  
St Ivo Work Experience: B Wood

The Chair introduced Ben Wood, who is a student at St Ivo School and will be completing work experience at St Ives Town Council between 26-30 June 2023.

**SID PRESENTATION**

David McCandless, a director of Community Road Watch (CRW), spoke to the Committee about a proposed management of the St Ives speed indicator devices (SIDs) by his organisation. He stated that the CRW operate on donations to do what they do, which is to offer specialist assistance not available elsewhere and at no cost using their specialist kit. Sponsors include Mick George Group and Lottery funding. The organisation assists councils to quantify any speeding in the local areas. They use speed guns to identify speeders and write to them encouraging them to slow down and adhere to the speed limits.

Mr McCandless is an aero systems engineer with extensive experience of electronics and he has considerable knowledge in the intricacies of SIDs. He started curbside monitoring in 2009 when the father of Speed Watch, Colin Saunderson, asked him to join the Speed Watch team. His experience in speed-monitoring is quite extensive.

He stated that SIDs are effective if used properly; and mentioned that the device on Marley Road is much needed due to a history of speeding and traffic incidents.

*[The Mayor entered the chamber]*

He told the Committee that a dead SID is a dangerous SID, and this would not be the case if Community Road Watch were to manage the St Ives devices. He offered a service to get them programmed, situated in the right locations and at the right time. He suggested making the devices 'greener', for example solar panels on the Marley Road device. Residents serving as volunteers could change the batteries. He suggested the purchase of three-step stepladders and high visibility jackets for volunteers. The organisation could recruit volunteers, train and empower them to do the work and they would act as a part of a 'St Ives SID Support Team'. This recruitment and training would be done for a period of one year. Mr McCandless stated that this would input a sense of belonging and involvement in the local population. The team members would be trained to use complicated electronic devices which require programming (eg. USB containing tablets) that work alongside the SIDs. He suggested the purchasing of lithium batteries, which as opposed to the current lead batteries, are more expensive but are much lighter (easily replaced by volunteers) and last much longer.

The Chair thanked Mr McCandless for his presentation.

**F14.00**

**APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies were received from Councillor M Burke (personal).

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**F15.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Councillor R Chapman: Non-pecuniary interest in **Agenda Item F20.00** as a member of the St Ives in Bloom Committee.

**F16.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Mr Colin Saunderson wishes to raise two issues with the Committee. The first pertained to the bus shelter located at the Elm Drive bus stop on Ramsey Road. Back at the Town's Annual Meeting in March 2023, Mr Saunderson had asked something to be done about the bus shelter which has graffiti painted onto its front panel. He offered to take a clean panel from a redundant shelter to replace it.

Mr Saunderson was thanked for his kind offer, but the ownership of the bus shelter was unclear, whether it fell under Huntingdonshire District Council or St Ives Town Council. It is a grey area. In a similar past situation on Houghton Road, the former Town Clerk had raised money to get it fixed then it ended up being repaired by Cambridgeshire County Council.

The second issue of concern was regarding the railings at The Waits/Ramsey Road area. The railings have been demolished by a man from Ramsey Road with no driving experience or insurance. The police had been notified. He stated that the Motor Insurers Bureau should cover uninsured drivers.

The Chair thanked Mr Saunderson for his comments.

Councillor A Riddell wished to speak regarding the SIDs in St Ives. He encouraged the monitoring of speeding in proactive ways. He referred to a recent video which was taken of a vehicle speeding at the top of Kings Hedges that reached 62mph (CCTV) and a separate incident where another vehicle reached 50mph in the Town Centre (Market Hill area).

The Chair asked if the local police have received this information. Councillor A Riddell confirmed this; registration numbers have been given to the police off CCTV if the plate details are legible. He encouraged the public to be vigilant and use constructive measures to monitor speeding.

The Chair thanked Councillor A Riddell for his comments.

**F17.00 MINUTES**

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on 24 May 2023 be agreed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**F18.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME**

**RESOLVED:** that the rolling programme be received and noted.

**F19.00 BUDGET**

**RESOLVED:** that the budget report be received and noted.

**F20.00 SLEPE HALL PLANTER**

Councillor R Chapman explained that the planter at Slepe Hall field had been broken and had originally wished to request to plant flowers in a certain pattern, but updated the Committee that the works have already been done.

The Chair stated that the plants were put in because they had to be planted or would have perished. It was noted that we have repaired the planter, but it is still not finished. The plants have been laid and watered.

The Chair mentioned that the front of the planter needs a bit more attention. Councillor J Tiddy queried if the money for the planting came from the Town Council. The Town Clerk stated that there was no associated cost; it was entirely free.

**RESOLVED:** that the verbal report and update be received and noted.

## F21.00

### **PUBLIC EXERCISE EQUIPMENT**

Councillor R Chapman had asked in a recent Full Council meeting whether there would be any park equipment placed in Hill Rise Park. She wondered whether the Committee felt we still need a gym equipment area in any of the parks we own and suggested a survey to residents to find out what people would like and where it would be best placed.

Councillor J Tiddy stated that in the past there was a debate of where the equipment would be located. There was opposition to Warner's Park in the past, and the general consensus was then Slepe Hall field.

The Town Clerk and Chair urged the Committee to focus on the proposed survey. Councillor R Chapman suggested that the Council put forward a questionnaire to local residents – whether it is wanted and where it would be located.

Councillor J Tiddy explained it was important to examine the original discussion that took place approximately two years prior. The Chair questioned whether that was an internal discussion; Councillor J Tiddy responded that he believed something went out to the public on the subject.

Councillor R Chapman pointed out a questionnaire would be useful to see what people would want currently. The Mayor stated that Warner's Park had been ruled out, it was agreed for a time that the strip of land by the metal park which was discussed by the former Amenities Committee. They looked at whether HDC would grant the Town Council permission to put it at Burleigh Hill Park. It was then pushed aside and agreed not to proceed at that point. The Mayor encouraged this should be looked at and installed sooner than later; past feedback was that it should not be located at Warner's Park.

**RESOLVED:** the Chair proposed that we proceed with the survey. The Town Hall staff could assist with the implementation of of the survey.

that Councillor R Chapman provide the questionnaire content to the Town Hall office staff so the survey could be published.

The Mayor proposed that we contact HDC to ensure that the Town Council has the appropriate permissions to do so.

## F22.00

### **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.

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**F23.00****SIDS – COMMUNITY ROAD WATCH**

Councillor J Tiddy stated that it is an excellent idea and will help the community get involved. He queried the locations. The Facilities Manager stated that the location of the SIDs are already selected, and there is a list of lampposts in the system. The proposed SIDs management of the SIDs by Mr McCandless would cover all three devices in the town's area, with potential scope for these to increase in number in the future.

Councillor R Chapman queried if solar panel quotes would be available; the Facilities Manager stated that Mr McCandless would cover these. Councillor R Chapman also asked about insurance cover; the Facilities Manager replied that they are already covered by insurance.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor R Chapman proposed that Community Road Watch oversee the SIDs in St Ives moving forwards, as long as the Facilities Manager was in agreement. Confirmed. Councillor J Tiddy seconded this proposal. There was a unanimous vote.

that Community Road Watch be appointed as the overseers of the St Ives SIDs.

**F24.00****EDEN TREES SPECIALISTS QUOTE**

It was agreed by the committee that the quote from Eden Tree Specialists was the most affordable and best qualified to complete the work.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor N Wells proposed the work be assigned to Eden Tree Specialists, which was seconded by Councillor C Smith. There was a unanimous vote.

that Eden Tree Specialists be hired to complete the remedial works on Norris Road for £400.

**F25.00****STAFF MOBILE PHONES**

The Chair stated that the request seemed a reasonable one. The Town Clerk explained that there are currently 3 owned staff mobile phones: one for the St Ives Cares Coordinator and two for the Grounds Maintenance Team. The new request would allow the Cemeteries Officer and Facilities Manager to also have one, as well as an additional phone for the Grounds Maintenance Team.

Councillor R Chapman agreed that this should be approved; she felt the staff should not have to use their personal phones for business purposes. Councillor C Smith asked the Town Clerk if he wished to have one; The Town Clerk thanked him but said it was not necessary.

**RESOLVED:** Councillor R Chapman proposed the request be approved, which was seconded by Councillor J Tiddy. There was a unanimous vote.

that three mobile phones be purchased and allocated to the Cemeteries Officer, Facilities Manager and Ground Maintenance Team.

**F26.00****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.

The meeting concluded at 8:31 pm.

Chairman:

Dated: 26 July 2023

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