

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 14 February 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8:00 pm**

Present:

Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor J Kerr

Councillors: M Gleadow, M King, C Morgan, A Riddell, J Spencer, A Thompson, J Tiddy

In attendance:

Locum Clerk: L White

Six Members of the Public
Janet Reid, Canoeing Coach
Alex Wood-Davis – CPRLF

PRAYERS

In the absence of the Chaplain, the Deputy Mayor read a prayer.

PRESENTATIONS

A representative from British Canoeing provided a presentation about non-native invasive species in the waterways. A campaign has been launched with DEFRA and other bodies aiming to stop the spread of non-native invasive plants and animals. It was highlighted that some have been found in St Ives. It was asked that a sign be displayed on or around the slipway bridge which will hopefully reach casual boaters to make them aware. Local groups and organisations are already aware of advice and how to tackle it.

A presentation was received from Alex Wood-Davis of the Cambridgeshire & Peterborough Local Resilience Forum. Though currently hosted by police, the forum represents police, fire, and other bodies who would respond to civil emergencies. Alex noted that she is employed to develop community resilience and St Ives has been selected as one of the two pilot areas to be resilient in time of emergency. Examples of where this would be needed included long term power cuts, increased flooding, etc. She confirmed that St Ives has been chosen due to the active flood group already in place. It is hoped that the Town Council buy in along with as many diverse groups as possible.

C207.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr Cantwell, Cllr Chapman, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Pope (personal), Cllr Burke and Cllr Wells (HDC duties), Cllr Valla (work commitments).
Absent: Cllr Mokbul

C208.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Morgan C221.00 – Enderby Wharf.

C209.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Resident raised some concern on minutes from the last minutes and raised queries on items on the agenda items C210.00, C222.00 and C224.00.

C210.00 MINUTES

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meeting held on 10th January 2024 be signed with the amendment to correct the name of the co-opted councillor under item C181.01 to say 'Spencer'.

C211.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were in receipt of the Mayor's engagement list for January 2024. As the Mayor was not present, no announcement was received.

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C212.00 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

C212.01 Planning Committee – held on 10th January and 24th January 2024

C212.02 Personnel Committee – held on 17th January 2024

C212.03 Property Committee – held on 24th January 2024

C212.04 Facilities Committee – held on 24th January 2024

C213.00 RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

Following the earlier presentation from the Resilience Forum it was proposed by Cllr Kerr that a Resilience Committee be created to support the Resilience Forum in their work. It was asked whether this committee would mean 'ownership' of any plans, etc. This is to be looked into. It was suggested that instead the Town Council is an equal player with other groups.

RESOLVED: that a Resilience Committee be created with Cllr Kerr, Cllr Wells, Cllr Morgan, Cllr Burke, Cllr Riddell, Cllr Hussain, Cllr Tiddy as members.

C214.00 CO-OPTION

It was noted that there is currently a vacancy for the position of Councillor. This item is deferred until the March meeting.

C215.00 COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Councillors noted that there were some vacancies on some council committees. These were considered and filled as follows:

C215.01 Two vacancies for the Property Committee. Cllr Spencer to fill one vacancy.

C215.02 Two vacancies for the Norris Trust Committee. It was requested to check to see if Cllr Morgan is on the committee. Cllr Riddell has expressed an interest in becoming a member of this committee.

C215.03 One vacancy for the Facilities Committee. Cllr Spencer to fill.

C215.04 One vacancy for the Planning Committee. Position remains vacant.

C216.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME

Members were in receipt of the rolling programme. No comments raised.

C217.00 FINANCE MATTERS

C217.01 Members were in receipt of the orders for payment. No queries were raised.

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

C217.02 Members were in receipt of the Bank Reconciliation Statement. No queries were raised.

RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliation Statement be received and noted.

C217.03 With a limited number of signatories for the bank account, consideration for additional signatories was given.

RESOLVED: that Councillors M Gleadow, J Kerr and A Riddell become additional signatories for the bank account and payroll run.

C217.04 The application for a grant from COPE was considered by members. It was noted that there was a difference in the money they are requesting. Further concern was raised about grants being made too frequently and it was recommended that a policy/procedure for grants to be requested be put in place.

Motion 1: Cllr Thompson proposed that the application be turned down but ask them to resubmit with more detail and accurate figures.

Motion 2: Cllr Tiddy proposed that it be supported with a grant of £1,000, seconded by Cllr King.

Motion 2 was defeated.

Discussion reverted to the original motion 1 proposed by Cllr Thompson, seconded by Cllr Riddell.

RESOLVED: to turn down their application but ask that they provide more detail in their application and provide a report on how the spent the grant money from the previous year. Councillors noted the excellent work that the group do.

6 in favour, 2 abstention
Motion 1 was therefore carried.

C218.00 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES

None received.

C219.00 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS

None received.

C220.00 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS

Nothing to report.

C221.00 FLOODING AT ENDERBYS WHARF

Cllr Morgan noted that the flooding goes through the gardens at Enderby's Wharf between two and three times per year. Residents would like to see a dyke built to protect properties from the flooding and will be presenting a plan to the Environment Agency with the aim to get professional designs drawn up. It was noted that the properties are on a flood plain and the proposals may not be approved. It was also noted that the river has not been dredged in many years.

C222.00 BURLEIGH HILL COMMUNITY CENTRE

C222.01 Cllr Kerr noted that decisions made at the council meeting in June 2023 mean that the Town Council has control of the Burleigh Hill Community Centre, as formally registered as sole Trustee through the Charity Commission, though it had not been formally agreed to transfer over responsibility from the trustees. It was noted that the circumstances in how this has been handled has upset the trustees considerably and they have been subject to public criticism.

After a brief discussion it was suggested by Cllr King that an expression of regret for the actions and decisions made and the handling of the situation be sent to the Trustees. Cllr Thompson supported Cllr King's comments with the addition to note the regret for the harm which has been caused.

An additional discussion ensued around ensuring decisions are made based on professional advice received, where necessary, and that it is received in writing to avoid this type of situation in the future.

RESOLVED: following proposal by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Kerr that an expression of regret about the handling of the meeting be sent to trustees stating that the discussions should not have been in the public area, mistakes and misinterpretation of facts which may have occurred, and regret that the trustees were caused any unnecessary distress.

5 in favour

3 abstentions

Carried

C222.02 The option to hold a meeting with the Burleigh Hill Trustees was discussed.

RESOLVED: following proposal from Cllr Gleadow, seconded by Cllr Spencer that the Mayor and Deputy Mayor should meet with the trustees to discuss arrangements for the transfer of the running of the Burleigh

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Hill Centre. The details will then be brought back to full council to discuss the formal aspects.

5 in favour

3 abstentions

Carried

C223.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

To resolve 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.

Meeting closed at 9.29pm.

Locum Clerk left at 9.29pm.

C224.00 RECRUITMENT OF NEW TOWN CLERK

Members considered the recommendations made by the recruitment panel following recent interviews held for the position of Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: following proposal by Cllr Kerr, seconded by Cllr Tiddy with a unanimous vote to offer the role of Town Clerk on a permanent full-time basis to Libby White on SCP 50.

Meeting reopened at 9.45pm.

C225.00 PUBLIC BODIES (ADMISSION TO MEETINGS) ACT 1960 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND THE PUBLIC

To resolve that the confidential business having been concluded, the Press and Public be readmitted to the meeting.

The meeting concluded at 9:46 pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 13 March 2024

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