

**Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 13 March 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8:00 pm**

Present:

Town Mayor: Councillor P Pope

Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor J Kerr

Councillors: M King, C Morgan, J Spencer, A Thompson, J Tiddy, J Cantwell, L Valla, S Mokbul, M Burke, N Wells, R Chapman

In attendance:

Locum Clerk: L White

Democratic Officer: A Childs

5 Members of the Public

PRAYERS

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

C226.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received and accepted from Cllr M Gleadow, Cllr P Hussain and Cllr A Riddell (personal).

C227.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor N Wells – non pecuniary interest as a resident of The Broadway (**Agenda Item C233.00**).

Councillor S Mokbul – non pecuniary interest as a business owner of premises located on The Broadway (**Agenda Item C233.00**).

Councillor P Pope – non pecuniary interest as a resident of The Broadway (**Agenda Item C233.00**).

C228.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A local resident expressed concern that the minutes of the 8th February 2024 Extra Ordinary Meeting and the 14th February 2024 Full Council meeting were not a correct record of the meetings, describing them as vague and inaccurate. The resident offered written comments which clarified the content of specified agenda items, which are detailed in **Agenda Item C229.00** below.

The Chair of the Flood Action Group (FLAG) commented on the budget, stating it would be helpful if there was a figure provided for general reserves. It was mentioned that the general reserve figure was not stated in the budget document. Another comment was made regarding The Broadway project, encouraging collaborative thinking between the County and Town Council. The Chair stated that a large amount of money would be spent, and £200,000 would do much more work in other parts of the town.

The Town Mayor's Chaplain thanked the Council for reorganising the Annual Town Meeting to accommodate Maundy Thursday religious services and activities.

C229.00 MINUTES

The meeting was suspended for the Mayor and Town Clerk to review the resident's notes (per **Agenda Item C228.00** above).

The meeting recommenced with the Mayor asking if Members if they wished to accept the minutes in their current form, or accept the wording provided by the resident.

The Locum Clerk specified that if the amendments were to be accepted, that they would need to be amended manually before the signing of the minutes.

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Initials

Councillor M King proposed that the provided amendments be accepted, which was seconded by Councillor J Tiddy. The majority of Members were in agreement, with no votes of opposition and two abstentions.

The amendments are detailed below:

8 February 2024 Extra Ordinary Meeting

Agenda Item C203.00 Public Participation:

Resident asked questions of the council on the proposed budget and grants to be discussed within the meeting, specifically why the Council is asking for an extra £180,000 to agree for a recorded vote and what reserves are in place which was confirmed as £124,000.

14 February 2024 Full Council Meeting

Agenda Item C209.00 Public Participation:

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

RESOLVED: that, subject to the above amendments, the minutes of the Extra Ordinary meeting held on 8th February 2024 and the minutes of the meeting held on 14th February 2024 were agreed as correct record and signed by the Mayor.

C230.00 CO-OPTION

Two candidates were present and provided brief presentations about themselves and their desire to serve as councillors at St Ives Town Council.

C230.01 A vote was held and the successful candidate with a majority vote was Mr Martin Page. The Mayor congratulated him on his new role within the Council and thanked both candidates for their interest in the position. He encouraged the other candidate to reapply in future and welcomed potential collaborative community work.

RESOLVED: that Mr Martin Page be co-opted to the vacant Town Councillor position (South Ward).

C230.02 The Mayor formally welcomed Councillor Jacqueline Spencer and confirmed her appointment as representative for St Ives North ward.

C231.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were in receipt of the Mayor's engagement list for February 2024.

The Mayor announced that 2024 marks the 50th anniversary for St Ives Town Council, and its 150th anniversary as a borough council.

He also announced the upcoming Mayor's Ball to be held on 28 April 2024 and welcomed councillors to attend, as a group or as individuals. He also welcomed volunteers for assisting with the event.

C232.00 MINUTES OF COMMITTEE MEETINGS

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

C232.01 Planning Committee – held on 28 February 2024.

C232.02 Property Committee – held on 28 February 2024.

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Initials

Recommendation:

That Jackson Fire Ltd carry out the required repairs to the fire doors at the Town Hall at a cost of £40,653.00 plus VAT.

Councillor M Burke, Chairman of the Property Committee, detailed the decision from the Committee to contract Jackson Fire Ltd to carry out the required works to ensure the doors met legal fire and safety regulations. Due to the large cost associated with the essential works, the recommendation was brought to Full Council.

The Mayor noted that it had already been voted on at the Property Committee meeting on the 28th February 2024, but asked members for a show of hands of those who were in favour – it was unanimously agreed.

C232.03 Facilities Committee – held on 28 February 2024.

C232.04 Norris Trust Committee – held on 17 January 2024 and 28 February 2024.

C232.05 Personnel Committee – Extra Ordinary meeting held on 5 March 2024.

C233.00 BROADWAY PROJECT

The Mayor referenced Cambridgeshire County Council's public consultation on The Broadway and The Waits. County officers have expressed interest in holding a drop-in event in the town to answer any questions from members of the public. The anticipated date would be for the week commencing 25 March 2024.

The Locum Clerk suggested earlier in the week to avoid clashes with Maundy Thursday and Good Friday, and the timing of the event to run from afternoon until early evening to allow more people to attend outside of standard working hours.

The Mayor stated that the Town Council would support the County Council in holding a Drop In for the project and ensure proper advertising was shared. The Deputy Mayor referred to the upcoming Councillor Surgery session on the 16th March 2024, where councillors could share information about the consultation with local residents.

The Mayor proposed that St Ives Town Council be involved and work collaboratively with the County Council to accommodate the consultation drop-in event, which was seconded by the Deputy Mayor. A vote was held and members were unanimously in agreement.

RESOLVED: that St Ives Town Council contact Cambridgeshire County Council to work collaboratively in arranging the CCC-led consultation drop-in event in St Ives, with a date to be confirmed during the week commencing 25 March 2024.

C234.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME

Members were in receipt of the rolling programme. Councillor S Mokbul queried if the public lights owned by the Town Council are, or could be, included as part of the rolling programme. The Mayor replied that this request could be put forward to the Facilities Manager for future reporting.

RESOLVED: that the rolling programme be received and noted.

C235.00 FINANCE MATTERS

C235.01 Members were in receipt of the orders for payment. No queries were raised.

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

Chairman's
Initials

C235.02 Members were in receipt of the Bank Reconciliation Statement. No queries were raised.
RESOLVED: that the Bank Reconciliation Statement be received and noted.

C235.03 Members were in receipt of the Budget Report. Councillor A Thompson raised several budget queries related to overspend in the current financial year (2023-24) and the Council's plans for the next financial year (2024-25).

These pertained to cost centres including office equipment, operational insurance, audit fees, salaries and the Christmas lights. He also noted an underspend on salaries for the Norris Museum, which was clarified as being underspent due to grant funding which was allocated to cover officer salary costs.

RESOLVED: that the Budget Report be received and noted.

C235.04 Members were in receipt of a written request from the Finance Officer which asked Members to consider a change of bank for financial operations.

Under the current banking arrangements, the Town Council does not gain any interest on the account funds. The Locum Clerk stated it would be sensible to move some funds to a new CCLA bank account, where account holders have a property account – which is viewed as an asset – on a long-term basis with a potential income of £18,000 per annum through interest gained.

The Locum Clerk also recommended moving funds to Unity Trust, which is run completely online and has extensive experience working with Town and Parish Councils.

Of the £330,000 total funds currently held in Lloyds Bank, the Clerk recommended allocating £80,000 to Unity Trust and the remainder of the funds to CCLA.

The Mayor proposed that the Council take the Locum Clerk and Finance Officer's recommendations of where the money should be allocated, which was seconded by Councillor S Mokbul. A vote was held and members were unanimously in favour.

RESOLVED: that the funds in the current Lloyds accounts be allocated to new Unity Trust and CCLA bank accounts.

C236.00 **REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES**

None received.

C237.00 **COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

None received.

C238.00 **DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor S Mokbul stated that Marley Road is scheduled to be resurfaced at the end of March 2024, which was confirmed by the CCC highways officer a few weeks ago. The Mayor noted the positive collaborate work between the District and County Councils.

Councillor N Wells announced that Huntingdonshire District Council will be celebrating its 50th anniversary this year; the Council will be inviting the community to mark the occasion with them, with details to be confirmed.

Councillor M Burke discussed garden waste subscriptions. Stickers will be distributed to subscribers of the service to be placed on their bins. Those who haven't subscribed will have their green bins collected in June-July 2024. Thirty-five percent of residences have subscribed to the service; seventy percent of households had their green bins collected so this equates to half of the users subscribing to

the newly paid service. Councillor J Kerr noted that certain areas would have large wagons situated in public areas on scheduled days for those who hadn't subscribed to the service – it would be residents' responsibility to bring and dispose of their garden waste appropriately at these locations.

Councillor C Morgan noted that the residents of Enderby's Wharf do not own green bins. Councillor J Kerr advised that green bins could be ordered online from the District's website.

He also noted that the District Council had recently agreed its budget for the upcoming financial year, with a percentage increase of just over three percent.

Councillor J Cantwell queried the recent signage about town and its source. The Mayor responded that they are presumed to have been sourced from the County Council; there has been significant confusion surrounding these signs. Councillor S Mokbul stated that its reference of active travel and cycling routes implied a County influence; Councillor Cantwell noted the need for better communication between the Councils to avoid confusion and clarify the source of the materials to the public.

The meeting concluded at 9:12 pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 10 April 2024

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