

**Minutes of the meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 12th June 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8:00 pm**

Present:

Town Mayor: Cllr P Hussain
Deputy Mayor: Cllr J Kerr

Councillors: M King, C Morgan, M Burke, M Page, J Spencer, M Gleadow,
A Thompson, J Tiddy, N Wells, S Mokbul, L Valla

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Mrs Libby White BEM BA(Hons) FSLCC
Town Mayor's Chaplain
Four members of the public

PRAYERS

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

C24.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillor Chapman (personal), Councillor Pope (personal) and Councillor Cantwell (work commitments).

C25.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None

C26.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

The Chair of the Neighbourhood Plan working group briefly explained the purpose of the Neighbourhood Plan and once 'made' it becomes a legal document to guide planning applications.

Cllr Mokbul arrived at 8.03pm

Regulation 14 consultation has been completed and the Neighbourhood Plan has been updated. The version of the Neighbourhood Plan is now the submission version and it is requested that the Council approve it to be submitted to the Planning Authority. Two other documents to support it including a consultation statement and condition statement explaining why the document complies with local and national policies. The Chair is now stepping back from the working group. Any changes to be made by the Town Council. The Town Council's Planning Committee can now start using the document as the emerging plan.

A representative from the Civic Society noted that they are keen to support the Neighbourhood Plan, but have concerns over the plans for the centre of the town, as pictures included may provide confusion. A resident wanted to confirm that the vision document is standalone but feels that there are parts of the plan which are not clear and link to vision. The Chair confirmed that the resident's comments have been included in policy documents SI3.

Thanks were expressed by Councillors to the Chair for the work he has put into the plan.

C27.00 MINUTES

Members were in receipt of the minutes of Mayor Making 23rd May 2024 and the reconvened meeting 28th May 2024.

RESOLVED: that the minutes of the meetings were agreed as a correct record and signed by the Mayor.

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C28.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

Members were in receipt of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements list.

C29.00 NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN

Members were in receipt of an update regarding the Neighbourhood Plan, mainly discussed during item C26.00.

Councillor Mokbul stressed the importance of the Neighbourhood Plan and how it will shape the decisions made by the planning authority. It was noted that a new chair would be needed for the working group. There followed a lengthy discussion.

It was proposed by Councillor Mokbul that the document be accepted and referred to Huntingdonshire District Council for the plan to progress. In addition that the valuable comments be taken on board from Councillor Page. Seconded by Councillor Gleadow. Eleven in favour, three against.

Councillor Page proposed that he would provide a note with observations which can be considered as an addendum to the planning authority when considering the changes. Seconded by Councillor Riddell. Unanimous.

C30.00 EXTERNAL REPORTS

C30.01 Police matters

Councillors were in receipt of a report, which was circulated via email.

C30.02 County Council matters

It was unanimous to request both County Councillors to attend Full Council meetings when possible.

C30.03 District Council matters

District Councillors are keen to provide a report each month. It was noted that District Councillor Gleadow has been working with the Police on anti social behaviour at Warners Park.

C30.04 Other bodies

No further reports.

C31.00 REPORTS

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

C31.01 Planning Committee

Held on 22nd May 2024. Received.

C31.02 Property Committee

Held on 22nd May 2024. Received.

C31.03 Facilities Committee

Held on 22nd May 2024. Received.

C31.04 Personnel Committee

Held on 29th May 2024. Received.

C31.05 Finance and Policy Committee

Held on 5th June 2024. Received.

It was noted that Councillors would like an informal meeting to look at the ongoing strategy of the Council going forward.

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C32.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME

Councillors were in receipt of the rolling programme. It was asked whether the parklets are the responsibility of the Town or District Council. As this was not clear, it is to be brought back to Council.

C33.00 FINANCE MATTERS

C33.01 Councillors received an update on financial matters. The Town Clerk noted that the final part of the internal audit is due to take place shortly and that the year end process has taken much longer than anticipated. Once complete the Town Clerk will ensure that reporting on financial matters is much more detailed, prompt and relevant to the needs of the council.

C33.02 Councillors were in receipt of a request from Cambridgeshire County Council to maintain and adopt bus shelters and bins in the town.

RESOLVED: Councillor Riddell proposed rejection, seconded by Councillor Tiddy. Thirteen in favour, one abstention.

C33.03 Councillors were in receipt of a report regarding the purchase of office furniture for the Town Hall. The Town Clerk explained that there is currently nowhere secure to hold personal documentation and that there were some logistical issues with the layout of the main office.

RESOLVED: After brief discussion it was proposed by Councillor Kerr, seconded by Councillor Burke to purchase furniture at a total cost of £2,214.59 + VAT. One abstention.

C34.00 EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND 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. Unanimous.

Meeting closed at 9.25pm

C35.00 PERSONNEL MATTERS

A confidential report from the Town Clerk with comments from both the Personnel Committee and Finance and Policy Committee members was received by members. There followed a lengthy discussion considering the facts placed before them.

RESOLVED: After discussion it was proposed by Councillor Riddell, seconded by Councillor Mokbul that the Town Clerk has delegated authority to ensure staff who have not received the correct salary payments be paid accordingly and that they be given the option to receive in one lump sum or in a manner that they are happy with. Unanimous

After lengthy discussion it was proposed by Councillor Riddell, seconded by Councillor King that a letter be sent to seek overpayment in salary from 2023 and that should there not be a response within six weeks, to instruct solicitors.

Motion 2: Councillor Spencer proposed that the letter be run via solicitors before sending out. Seconded by Councillor Burke. Unanimous.

Motion 2 was therefore carried.

RESOLVED: that a letter written/checked by the solicitor be sent seeking reimbursement of overpayment of salary.

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C36.00 RE-ADMITTANCE OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

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

The meeting reopened at 9.53pm.

The meeting concluded at 9.54pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 15th July 2024

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