

**Minutes of the meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Monday 15th July 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8pm**

Present:

Town Mayor: Cllr P Hussain

Deputy Mayor: Cllr J Kerr

Councillors: M Burke, J Tiddy, N Wells, L Valla, A Thompson, M King, C Morgan, A Riddell

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Mrs Libby White BEM BA(Hons) FSLCC

No members of the public

C37.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Page (personal), Cllr Pope (personal), Cllr Kerr (personal), Cllr Chapman (personal) and Cllr M Gleadow (personal).

Absent: Cllr Cantwell, Cllr Spencer, Cllr Mokbul.

C38.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

C39.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None.

C40.00 MINUTES

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 12th June 2024, the extraordinary Full Council meeting held on 27th June 2024, the Property Committee meeting on 22nd May 2024 and the Facilities Committee meeting held on 22nd May 2024.

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the above meetings be accepted as a correct record and signed by the Chair.

Cllr Riddell arrived at 8.03pm

C41.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

C42.00 EXTERNAL REPORTS

C42.01 Police Matters.

Members were in receipt of an update from Sergeant Andy Caruana.

C42.02 County Council Matters.

The Town Clerk noted that County Councillor Reynolds will continue to send emails to try to keep the Town Council informed of what is happening. These are being circulated to Councillors as they are received.

C42.03 District Council Matters.

Cllr Wells and Cllr Burke noted work being undertaken by the District Council including support for Stepping Stones Nursery; the collection of unwanted garden bins following subscriptions to bin collections; extension of the shop front grant scheme until September 2024; and the launch of a Climate Hub providing resources, information and guidance for grants/funding opportunities. In addition, Huntingdonshire District Council have been supporting the East Anglia Energy Academy who are working with young people to help them into trades, but especially areas of renewable energy.

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C42.04 Other bodies.
No reports received.

C43.00 **REPORTS**

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

C43.01 **Planning Committee**
Held on 12th June and 26th June 2024. Received.

C43.02 **Estates Committee**
Held on 26th June 2024. Received.

C43.03 **Finance and Policy Committee**
Held on 3rd July 2024. Received.

C44.00 **ROLLING PROGRAMME**

Members were in receipt of the Rolling Programme.

C45.00 **FINANCE MATTERS**

C45.01 Members were in receipt of a verbal update on financial matters. The Town Clerk noted that the new Unity bank account is now open and signatories will be receiving confirmation in the post over the next day or so allowing them access to see the account and authorise payments. It was also noted that the year end documents have been sent to the external auditor with several queries already raised and dealt with.

The Town Clerk also noted that there are several areas of the budget where some figures may need to be revised. She noted that this is due to a lack of information available at the time the budget was being written. The next meeting will be the end of the quarter and a full report will be available.

C45.02 Members were in receipt of a report from the Facilities Manager regarding the proposed lease or purchase of a new works van.

RESOLVED: Cllr Valla proposed that the Council move forward with a lease with Commercial Vehicle Contracts and to sell the existing vehicle at a total cost of £39,370.22 over the three year lease period. Seconded by Cllr Thompson. Eight in favour, one abstention. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

C45.03 Members were in receipt of a report from the Facilities Manager regarding the proposed renewal of the printer contract.

RESOLVED: Cllr Valla proposed, Cllr Burke seconded that the Council accept the proposal and exchange the existing copier to a Xerox C8000 for the office at a cost of £749.99 + VAT per quarter, a saving of £ 5.64 per quarter. Unanimous. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

C45.04 To consider the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 year.

The Town Clerk asked for this to be deferred as she is still awaiting information. Eight in favour, one abstention.

C46.00 **MICHAELMAS FAIR**

Members were in receipt of a report from the Civic Officer regarding a proposed change to the giving of two pence pieces at the Michaelmas Fair.

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Motion 1: It was proposed by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Tiddy that the giving of money at the Michaelmas Fair be changed from two pence pieces to ten pence pieces.

Amendment to Motion 1: Cllr Riddell proposed that the amount be doubled to £32 in 10 pence pieces and that the money be spent from the Earmarked Reserves for Town Celebrations. Seconded by Cllr Wells. Unanimous.

Motion 1 as amended: Eight in favour, one abstention.

RESOLVED: To spend £32 from Earmarked Reserves for Town Celebrations on ten pence pieces for the Michaelmas Fair. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144)

C47.00 BANK CLOSURES

To consider the request from a resident regarding recent bank closures in the town.

There followed a lengthy debate following Lloyds Bank's announcement that the bank in the town centre will close in February 2025. Councillors noted the correspondence they have received from residents and were sympathetic to the concerns they raised. Councillors were aware that they do not have the power or influence to encourage Lloyds to remain open and having listened to the reason it will be closing, Councillors understood their perspective and that they will be looking to provide community support in a similar way to Barclays.

RESOLVED: To share as much information as possible with residents to keep them informed and to write to the new MP to make him aware.

C48.00 COUNCILLOR SURGERY ITEMS

To consider the surgery items from the last market.

The Town Clerk noted that comments are received from residents during Councillor Surgeries but it is not clear what then happens with the comments. After a brief discussion the Town Clerk noted that officers would be able to answer/respond to many comments on behalf of the Town Council and those which need decisions would be brought to Council for consideration.

RESOLVED: That the Town Clerk to ensure that the comments are distributed to the right person to respond to a query or bring to Full Council for consideration. Questions and answers potentially to be shared on the website and social media to help others who may be asking the same questions. That any forwarded to HDC be asked for a response within a certain time period.

C49.00 WEBSITE

Members were in receipt of a report from the Town Clerk to consider the current website provision and a new accessible website.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Wells to engage with Aubergine 262 Limited for a new website at a cost of £899 + VAT. Eight in favour, one abstention. (Local Government Act 1972, s.142)

C50.00 RENEWAL OF WORKNEST CONTRACT

Members were in receipt of a report from the Facilities Manager regarding the renewal of the Worknest contract.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Wells that the Town Council renew the contract with Worknest for the Town Hall and Grounds Maintenance Building and explore alternative providers for the year after, seconded Cllr

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King, at a cost of £3,650 + VAT. Eight in favour, one abstention. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

C51.00 DIGITAL INFORMATION SCREEN PROJECT

To consider the update on the Display Information Screen Project and approve the memorandum of understanding.

RESOLVED: Proposed by Cllr Riddell to accept the memorandum of understanding, seconded by Cllr Burke. Unanimous. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144)

The meeting concluded at 9.50pm

Town Mayor:

Dated: 11th September 2024

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