

**Minutes of the meeting of St Ives Town Council  
held on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8pm**

**Present:**

Town Mayor: Cllr P Hussain

Deputy Mayor: Cllr J Kerr

Councillors: M Burke, L Valla, A Thompson, M King, M Gleadow, M Page, J Spencer, S Mokbul

**In attendance:**

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

Three members of the public

**C52.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr Cantwell (personal), Cllr Wells (District Council commitments), Cllr Tiddy (personal), Cllr Pope (personal), Cllr Chapman (personal) and Cllr Riddell (personal).

**C53.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

Cllr Spencer declared a personal interest in agenda item C63.00.

Cllr Kerr and Cllr Hussain declared a personal interest in agenda item C60.07.

**C54.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

A resident in attendance mentioned that they are available to answer questions under item C60.07.

**C55.00 MINUTES**

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2024.

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

**C56.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Members were in receipt of the Town Mayor and Deputy Town Mayor's engagements list. The Mayor noted that August is quiet for council historically, though Town Hall staff and grounds staff work as usual. He expressed thanks to all staff and Councillors who were working on the council's behalf over the break.

The Mayor noted the resignation of Cllr Chris Morgan. He wished him well and expressed thanks for all the help he has provided.

The Mayor thanked everyone who helped and attended the Mayor's party on 6<sup>th</sup> September and gave thanks to the owners of the premises for putting on the function. He also gave thanks to everyone involved in Civic Sunday, especially the Civic Officer.

The Mayor congratulated St Ives In Bloom for obtaining a Gold Award with Anglia in Bloom.

**C57.00 EXTERNAL REPORTS**

**C57.01** No reports were received from District and County Councillors this month.

**C57.02** No reports were received from outside bodies, including those on which Councillors are representatives.

**C58.00 REPORTS**

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the meetings of the following committees:

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**C58.01 Planning Committee**  
Held on 15<sup>th</sup> July, 24<sup>th</sup> July, 14<sup>th</sup> August and 28<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – received.

**C58.02 Estates Committee**  
Held on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2024 – received.

**C58.03 Finance and Policy Committee**  
Held on 7<sup>th</sup> August 2024 – received.

**C58.04 Personnel Committee**  
Held on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2024 - received.

**C59.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME**  
Members were in receipt of the Rolling Programme. Cllr Burke expressed his gratitude to the amount of work which has been put in by the team.

**C60.00 FINANCE MATTERS**

**C60.01** Members received a brief verbal update on financial matters which was supported by documentation provided prior to the meeting.

**C60.02** Having raised concerns previously that the budget had a few areas of overspend against some, where spend was much lower than anticipated, members reviewed the budget and potential movement of money to other areas.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Valla, seconded by Cllr Spencer that the budget be amended as proposed by the Responsible Financial Officer with more checks to ensure no duplicated nominal codes are being used. £17,800 to be taken from St Ives Cares expenditure as the budget is too high, with this money being distributed between repairs and renewals for: 'Amenities' - £9,000, 'Open Spaces' - £5,000 and the remainder to 'Annual Planting' - £3,800.

**C60.03** Members considered the appointment of the Internal Auditor for the 2024/25 year.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Thompson proposed, seconded by Cllr Kerr to appoint Moore Stephens for 2024/25. (Financial Regulations 3.7)

**C60.04** Members considered the grant application from Relate. Cllr Thompson noted the amazing work they are doing but noted that the organisation has generous reserves.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Mokbul proposed that the applicant attend a meeting and apply in the next round, seconded by Cllr Gleadow. Nine in favour, one against.

**C60.05** Members considered the grant application from Magpas. Cllr Mokbul has questions for the applicant.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Mokbul proposed that the applicant attend a meeting and apply in the next round, seconded by Cllr Valla. Nine in favour, one abstention.

**C60.06** Members considered the possibility of hosting in house training for First Aid and Manual Handling and opening up to other councils.

**RESOLVED:** After various questions it was proposed by Cllr Mokbul,

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seconded by Cllr Burke that if there are places not taken by local councils to offer to local organisations. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

**C60.07** Members considered a report from the Town Clerk regarding a potential change of IT provision.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Valla proposed MSH based on the presentation provided at the previous Finance and Policy Committee meeting where the potential supplier had answered questions from councillors.

Meeting suspended to allow questions of MSH Support at 8.49pm.

Cllr Gleadow asked about business continuity – the proprietor noted that he has a team behind him to support the business and he has software used to monitor any potential issues.

Meeting reopened at 8.50pm

Cllr Thompson seconded Cllr Valla's proposal to go with MSH. Seven in favour and three abstentions. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

**C60.08** Members considered the bus franchising consultation from the combined authority. Cllr King has agreed to attend a drop in at Wisbech.

**C60.09** Members noted the amendment to the Annual Government and Accountability return for the 2023/24 accounts due to information which came to light after year end had been completed.

**C61.00 HIGHWAY MATTERS**

**C61.01** Members received a report from the Town Clerk regarding potential Local Highways Improvement Schemes for St Ives.

**RESOLVED:** To have a working party to bring back recommendations to Full Council for consideration. Members of the working party will be: Cllr Gleadow, Cllr Mokbul, Cllr Kerr and Cllr Page.

**C61.02** Members were updated regarding the community gritting scheme.

**RESOLVED:** Cllr Mokbul proposed that the opportunity be shared with members of the public, seconded by Cllr Kerr. Nine in favour, one abstention.

**C61.03** Members considered responding to CCC regarding the 20mph zone consultation. Cllr Gleadow provided an update on previous work carried out by the Town Council where two models were offered to the public: whole of the town or south of St Audrey's Lane. Public consultation was held in July/August 2023. The results of the consultation showed 41% support for the whole of town, results were that South of St Audrey's Lane there was 61% support and 29% against.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Gleadow to support the 20mph zone south of St Audrey's Lane, seconded by Cllr King. Nine in favour, one objection. (Local Government Ratings Act 1997, Part III, s.29)

**C61.04** Members received an update regarding the Active Travel Hierarchy consultation. It was requested that they make their own representations as individuals due to the tight deadline.

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**C62.00 COUNCIL ADMIN**

**C62.01** Members considered the closure of the office over the Christmas period.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Burke, seconded by Cllr Thompson that the proposal from the Town Clerk for the Town Hall to be closed from close of business on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> December until opening on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2025 be approved. Unanimous. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

**C62.02** Members considered the purchase of a Christmas Tree for Market Hill.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr King, seconded by Cllr Thompson that a 25ft Norway Spruce be purchased at a cost of £695 + VAT along with other Christmas Trees on behalf of other local councils. A proportion of the delivery and installation costs to be paid in the region of £200. Total cost of purchasing all Christmas trees before recharging is £4,025 + VAT. Unanimous. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144)

**C62.03** Members noted the letter of apology sent to a resident about errors with cemetery plot allocation from 2006.

**C62.04** Members considered a response regarding ecosystem and waterfowl health following receipt of a letter via the new MP.

**RESOLVED:** To put some signage up educating residents on the feeding of wildfowl at the Quay. Permission to be sought from the relevant authority.

**C63.00 OPEN SPACES**

Members considered quotes for tree surveys.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Page, seconded by Cllr Kerr to employ Hayden's Arboricultural Consultants to carry out a tree survey of all Town Council owned and maintained trees at a cost of £6,257.80 + VAT to include the survey, report and mapping. Unanimous. (Public Health Act 1875, s.164)

**C64.00 MEADOW LANE**

Members considered the request from Adlington Retirement Living. It was noted that it's potential development is outside boundary of the emerging Local Plan and in contradiction of the new Neighbourhood Plan.

**RESOLVED:** It was proposed by Cllr Hussain, seconded by Cllr Page to invite the developer to a Planning Committee meeting to discuss with members. Unanimous. (Town and Country Planning Act 1990, Sch 1, para 8)

**C65.00 ST IVES CARES**

Members received a report from the St Ives Cares Project Co-ordinator. The Mayor noted his thanks for all the work the St Ives Cares Co-ordinator does.

**C66.00 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 9.21pm

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**C67.00 PERSONNEL MATTERS**

Confidential matters relating to personnel matters were discussed and agreed.

**C68.00 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.

Meeting re-opened at 10.05pm

Meeting concluded at 10.06pm

Town Mayor:

Dated: 9<sup>th</sup> October 2024

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