

**Minutes of the meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 9th October 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8.03pm**

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,
J Cantwell, N Wells, P Pope, R Chapman

In attendance:

Town Clerk: Mrs Libby White BEM BA(Hons) FSLCC
Democratic Officer: Mrs Emma Bleazard
Eight members of the public

A presentation was received from Matthew Warren, Chief Fire Officer for Cambridgeshire Fire and Rescue Service. He discussed the issues the fire service is having with location of the fire station causing a delay in response times. They are looking to relocate the fire station to a building close to Aldi in St Ives, which will give easier access and response times. The old site will then be sold.

The Mayor thanked the Fire Service for everything they do for the town on behalf of the Council and Residents.

C69.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr J Tiddy (personal) and Cllr Riddell (personal).

C70.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr Burke declared an interest in agenda item C79.02 and Cllr Pope declared an interest in agenda item C78.03.

C71.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

None

C72.00 MINUTES

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 11th September 2024.

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

C73.00 TOWN COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Four applications were received for the vacancy of St Ives Town Councillor. Following a brief presentation from each candidate, members were given ballot slips and asked to vote for their preferred candidate. The voting was as follows:

Martin Gill	2
Sajjad Khan	6
Dai Rhys-Owain	0
Martyn Sibley	6

A fresh ballot was taken with the two candidates with the majority of the votes. The voting was as follows:

Sajjad Khan	7
Martyn Sibley	7

The Town Mayor exercised his casting vote and Mr Sajjad Khan was appointed.

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The Mayor thanked all the applicants and welcomed Mr Khan to the Council.

C74.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Mayor expressed his condolences that Mr Colin Sanderson, previous Town Councillor and active member of St Ives community, has sadly passed away.

C75.00 EXTERNAL REPORTS

C75.01 Members were in receipt of a report from District Cllr C Gleadow.

It was mentioned that the bus franchising consultation ends on 20th November and Councillors were encouraged to spread the word and ask residents for their responses.

C75.02 Members were in receipt of a confidential report from Sergeant Andy Caruana.

Cllr Spencer noted that she has attended Youth Theatre meetings.

Cllr Cantwell reported that he had recently attended the Patient Participation Group at the Grove Medical Practice. He asked to invite a Social Prescriber from the Surgery to give a presentation to Full Council at a future meeting.

Cllr Pope noted issues of anti-social behaviour from residents at Oliver's Lodge. He asked the District Council to be made aware that Oliver's Lodge is having a dramatic impact on the night time economy.

The Mayor mentioned that he and the St Ives Cares Co-ordinator are meeting representatives from the Grove Medical Practice at the Darby and Joan meeting at the Corn Exchange in November. This meeting is to discuss issues that older People in St Ives are experiencing with accessing GP support.

Cllr Wells confirmed that he attended a recent Needingworth Quarry liaison group and that there has been a change of ownership from Hanson to a smaller organisation.

C76.00 REPORTS

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

C76.01 Planning Committee

Held on 11th September 2024 – received.

C76.02 Estates Committee

Held on 4th September and 25th September 2024 – received.

C76.02.01 To ratify the decision by the Estates Committee to purchase new gazebos and storage facilities for the Farmers' Market.

RESOLVED: Cllr Burke proposed to accept the proposal, Cllr Mokbul seconded. Unanimous. (Food Act 1984, s50)

C76.02.02 To ratify the decision by the Estates Committee to delegate authority to the Town Clerk and Facilities Manager to seek a replacement piece of play equipment for the Burleigh Hill play area at a maximum cost of £30,000 and for it to be accessible to children with disabilities.

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RESOLVED: Cllr Burke proposed to accept the proposal, Cllr Mokbul seconded. Unanimous. (Public Health Act 1875, s.164)

C76.03 Finance and Policy Committee
Held on 4th September 2024 – received.

C76.04 Personnel Committee
Held on 18th September 2024 - received.

C77.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME
Members were in receipt of the Rolling Programme. There were no questions received. The Mayor thanked the Facilities Manager for doing a great job, with lots of work being completed.

C78.00 FINANCE MATTERS

C78.01 Members received an update on financial matters which was supported by documentation.

Cllr Gleadow noted that there are reserves of £22,000 for tourism, which he would like to see being used to increase footfall to the town.

C78.02 Members considered the grant application from Relate.

Meeting closed at 9.04pm. Claire Godward from Relate presented to the Council, about the work the organisation does and reasons for the grant request.

Meeting opened 9.12pm.

RESOLVED: Cllr Thompson proposed that the Town Council give the full grant requested of £800. Seconded by Cllr Mokbul. Unanimous. (Local Government Act 1972, s.137)

C78.03 Members considered the grant application from Magpas.

Closed meeting at 9.13pm, unanimous. Emma Sanders of Magpas to present to the Council.

Meeting opened 9.22pm. Unanimous.

RESOLVED: That Magpas complete the Town Council small grant application form in order to receive a grant.

C78.04 Members considered the correspondence received from the External Auditor and any recommendations received or responses required.

The Town Clerk commented that as expected it was commented on that the Town Council has stated 'no' to several boxes. It was noted that the AGAR had to be amended post submission, and that the Salix loan has been recorded incorrectly in previous years. The AGAR for 2022/23 also did not include all staff and salaries.

C78.05 The Town Clerk proposed that debit cards are set up for certain members of staff at the Town Hall. She explained that members of staff currently have to pay for items themselves and be reimbursed, which is against Financial Regulations. Currently there is one debit card in the Finance Officer's name.

The Mayor queried if petty cash could be used. The Town Clerk explained that this is not viable due to Lloyds bank closing.

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It was confirmed that receipts would still be requested.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pope and seconded by Cllr Thompson that debit cards be set up for the Civic Officer to a value of £250, for the St Ives Cares Coordinator to a value of £100, for the Town Clerk to a value of £1,000 and for the Facilities Manager to the value of £500. (Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

C78.06 The Town Clerk proposed that £350,000 be transferred from the current account to the CCLA Deposit Account now that the second part of the precept has been received.

The Town Clerk explained that the Town Council is not receiving interest on their money. Roughly £150,000 will be left in the current account. She proposes that transfers then continue on a monthly basis to better work the Council's money for the benefit of the Council.

Cllr Cantwell asked how much interest would be received. The Town Clerk estimated it would be approximately £2,000.

Cllr Pope commented that it is reassuring to see forward thinking from the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Spencer and seconded by Cllr Pope to transfer £350,000 from the current account to the CCLA deposit account. Unanimous.
(Local Government Act 1972, s.111)

C79.00 COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

C79.01 To consider and approve the revised Grant Policy and application forms.

Cllr Gleadow commented that he is glad to see the policy updated in a professional manner and commented that it should be sent out to the voluntary sector. The Town Clerk commented that it will be sent out in time for December. She mentioned that it includes that salaries will not be funded and that the different forms are now colour coded for ease of identification.

There was a discussion regarding whether small grants could be applied for again after two years of receiving a grant. Cllr Pope and The Mayor discussed that organisations should not be excluded from reapplying after two years of receiving a small grant, however this may need to be the case for community grants.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Pope that the grant policy be amended to include that if a grant has been received for the past two years, an organisation will then need to provide an advanced application for the next year. Cllr King seconded. Unanimous.

It was proposed by Cllr Valla that the grant policy is accepted and sent out in time for grant applications in December. Seconded by Cllr Thompson. Unanimous.

C79.02 To consider the running and funding of the Christmas light event.

Cllr Burke mentioned the huge support the Christmas Lights have received this year from the public and local businesses. He explained that an application for a grant missed the deadline as it was not his intention to run the event this year. After some persuasion in the new year he was asked to help and now there is a £15,000 shortfall in the funds required to put on the event, which is just to cover the minimum requirements to put the event on safely.

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He explained that an upgrade is required to infrastructure in Station Road to be able to take the lights to that part of the town centre which has been missed for years and that there are additional costs for providing lights at the Town Hall and for the Christmas tree, which is in the Town Council budget.

Councillors discussed that it would have been preferable for a grant application to have been received, but understood the situation at the time.

The Town Clerk suggested that a Council working party is set up for next year with the current members and Councillors, but it could not be set up this year in time for the event, therefore funding can be provided this year to enable the event to go ahead.

The Mayor asked for a vote to continue the meeting, which had exceeded the timings as set out in Standing Orders. Unanimous.

RESOLVED: Cllr Kerr proposed, Cllr Mokbul seconded that a working party be set up for next year with Cllr Burke as Chair and members be those already involved in the running of the event. It was proposed that money be released from Earmarked Reserves for Town Celebrations, to a value of up to £15,000 depending on further funds raised by the group. Unanimous, one abstention. (Local Government Act 1972, s.144)

C80.00 ST IVES CARES

Members received a report from the St Ives Cares Project Co-ordinator which was received.

Cllr Kerr requested that the St Ives Cares Coordinator be thanked for her report and her hard work.

C81.00 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 10.20pm.

C82.00 PERSONNEL MATTERS

Confidential matters relating to personnel matters were discussed and agreed.

C83.00 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 11.04pm.

Meeting concluded at 11.06pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 13th November 2024

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