

**Minutes of the meeting of St Ives Town Council
held on Wednesday 13th November 2024 in the Town Hall, St Ives at 8.05pm**

Present:

Town Mayor: Cllr P Hussain

Deputy Mayor: Cllr J Kerr

Councillors: M Burke, M Gleadow, S Khan, M King, S Mokbul, M Page, P Pope, J Tiddy

In attendance:

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

Seven members of the public

A presentation was received from:

Sergeant Andy Caruana from the police provided a brief presentation to members with information on incidents within the town since the last reporting. Speeding has been monitored recently. Knife crime is a high priority for the force district wide, with St Ives not really affected. There has been greater visibility of policing in the town centre, but he wanted to manage expectations that the visibility is not here to stay as funding is not guaranteed.

St Ivo Parents Forum presented to members explaining that the body is seeking positive change within the school. The school has started to engage with the Forum but they feel it is the Academy who is not engaging. The biggest concern is the Sixth Form, the school is in danger of losing the Sixth Form with numbers dropping considerably.

St Ives Town Team summarised the work the team does to promote the town and encourage visitors. They would like to book the English Civil War Society for 26th and 27th July 2025 but need some feedback about feasibility of the provision of the grant to secure the English Civil War Society. The Team understand that the Town Council is unable to actually formally decide the grants this evening. There is potential for displays in the Corn Exchange over that weekend and they would potentially use Slepe Hall Field if needed.

C84.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Cllr J Cantwell (work commitments), Cllr R Chapman (personal), Cllr A Riddell (personal), Cllr J Spencer (personal), Cllr A Thompson (personal), Cllr L Valla (personal) and Cllr N Wells (personal).

C85.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Cllr King declared an interest in agenda item C93.03.

C86.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

A resident noted that he is meeting with the Mayor of the Combined Authority to look at supporting the resilience of the town to move forward, with potential funding of a communications app and invited any Resilience Committee members to attend.

C87.00 MINUTES

Members were in receipt of the minutes of the Full Council meeting held on 9th October 2024.

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

C88.00 FORMAL WELCOME TO NEW COUNCILLOR

The Mayor formally welcomed Cllr Khan to the Town Council as a Councillor for the West Ward.

Chair's
Initials

C89.00 EXTERNAL REPORTS

C89.01 To receive reports from District and County Councillors.

District Cllr C Gleadow was in attendance and noted that the Local Plan was one of the biggest issues being dealt with by HDC presently. She expressed how important the work being undertaken is. HDC is also looking at both a Play Strategy and an Environment Strategy. There is a new green living wall to be finished this week at the bus station. There are changes to be made at Hill Rise Park. A few Town Councillors and the Town Clerk attended a walk around to understand the plans.

C89.02 To receive reports from outside bodies, including those on which Councillors are representatives.

Cllr King noted that she has attended a consultation about the bus franchising recently. Slides will be circulated to all Councillors.

C90.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The Town Mayor took the opportunity to thank everyone who in any way helped with the Remembrance Sunday parade.

It was noted that Murial Moore, longstanding, well known and respected resident of St Ives, had passed away. Her funeral is being held on 25th November.

The Deputy Town Mayor stressed the importance to Councillors about responding to Officer's emails and asked that they check correspondence regularly.

C91.00 REPORTS

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

C91.01 Planning Committee

Held on 9th and 23rd October 2024 – received.

C91.02 Estates Committee

Held on 23rd October 2024 – received.

C91.03 Finance and Policy Committee

Held on 6th November 2024 – received.

C91.04 Resilience Committee

Held on 4th November 2024. – received.

C92.00 ESTATES GENERAL PROPERTY AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE

Members were in receipt of the Estates General Property and Maintenance Update.

C93.00 FINANCE MATTERS

C93.01 Members received an update on financial matters which was supported by documentation. A question was asked about Earmarked Reserves spending which was clarified by the Town Clerk who suggested that as it is the period where the budget is being reviewed it would be prudent to have an informal meeting to look at finances to allow councillors to understand the nuances of the budget and finances.

C93.02 To note the receipt of the 2024/25 pay award. Councillors noted the increase in pay scale for council staff as stipulated by the National Agreement.

Chair's
Initials

C93.03 Members considered the community grant application from St Ives Town Team. It was noted that according to the Council's Grant Policy, grants are considered in December. However, it was noted that the Council could provide an indication whether the Council is supportive of the idea in order that the English Civil War Society be provided.

RESOLVED: To contact the Town Team to inform them that the Council is supportive of the event but no firm figure of funding will be available until after the next meeting in December.

C93.04 To consider allocation of income from CCLA Investments.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Mokbul and seconded by Cllr Kerr to support the Town Clerk's proposal to place income received from one or both of these accounts into Earmarked Reserves for Town Hall refurbishments, or another Earmarked Reserve of the Town Council's choosing. Unanimous.

C94.00 HIGHWAY MATTERS

C94.01 Members received a report from the Facilities Manager regarding the installation of speed indication devices.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Page and seconded by Cllr Gleadow to defer this agenda item until after the Highways Working Group meet, to discuss Local Highway Improvement options. Eight in favour, two against. Carried.

C94.02 Members considered a response to the A141 and St Ives Improvements Scheme Consultation. It was noted that there are no real benefits for the town. It was suggested that the Council need to raise a response, all Councillors are encouraged to respond as individuals.

RESOLVED: It was recommended that Councillors send their comments to the Town Clerk to compile a response by the Town Clerk for approval by Councillors. Unanimous.

C95.00 PLANNING

To agree that a working party be delegated to respond to the Local Plan on behalf of the Town Council.

Cllr M Gleadow noted that members of the Planning Committee had met with representatives of neighbouring parishes about proposals within the emerging Local Plan. Cllr Page summarised that the Local Plan is in the early stages and that they are looking at where the growth should be located. HDC is looking for feedback on how to distribute the growth. Only one site in the town itself is noted as being sustainable.

It was agreed that Cllr Mokbul, Cllr Khan and Cllr Tiddy join the current working party to respond on behalf of the Council.

RESOLVED: That the working party responds on behalf of the Town Council.

C96.00 ST IVES CARES

Members received a report from the St Ives Cares Project Co-ordinator and expressed their thanks for the work that has been done in this area.

Chair's
Initials

C97.00 NORRIS TRUST

Members received a report from the Town Clerk about the running of the Norris Museum Charity.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr King and seconded by Cllr Burke that the whole Council as sole trustee meet on a quarterly basis at the Norris Museum. Unanimous.

C98.00 TOWN COUNCIL ADMIN

C98.01 Members considered a response to the Government's consultation on 'Enabling Remote Attendance and Proxy Voting at Local Authority Meetings'.

The Government's consultation on remote meetings was considered by members.

RESOLVED: After discussion it was agreed that the Town Clerk respond on the Town Council's behalf to allow Councils to choose the best option for themselves as necessary. Unanimous.

C98.02 Council Committees

The following vacancies on committees were filled:

C98.02.01 Cllr Khan to the Planning Committee.

C98.02.02 Cllr Pope to the Personnel Committee.

C98.02.03 Cllr Pope to the Estates Committee.

C98.02.04 A vacancy remains for a representative for the Ouse Valley Trust.

C98.02.05 Cllr Khan as a representative for the St Ives Town Team.

C98.02.06 Vacancy remains as a representative for the St Ives Eco Action Group.

C98.03 To ratify the Terms of Reference for the Resilience Committee.

RESOLVED: It was proposed by Cllr Kerr and seconded by Cllr Burke to ratify the Terms of Reference for the Resilience Committee as presented. Unanimous.

Cllr Mokbul left the meeting at 10.06pm.

C99.00 BUDGET 2025/26

Members considered the first workings of the 2025/26 budget, which was presented to them by the Town Clerk.

The Town Clerk clarified to all members that the budget was just the beginning and it is anticipated that it will change considerably before approval in January.

It was agreed that an informal meeting be held where Councillors can get a deeper understanding of the budget and how it can be adopted, ready for further consideration at a later date.

Cllr Mokbul rejoined the meeting at 10.07pm

The meeting concluded at 10.16pm.

Town Mayor:

Dated: 11th December 2024

Chair's
Initials