**Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council**

**held at the Town Hall St Ives on Wednesday 10 April 2019**

**Present:**

The Town Mayor: Councillor Dr T Drye

The Deputy Town Mayor: Councillor D Rowe

Councillors: J Davies, A Dickinson, R Bellamy, N Dibben, R Fuller, L Davies, M King, Dr

 C Pegoraro, B Luter, J Pallant, R D’Souza, P Hussain, J Tiddy

**Absent:** Councillor P Pope

**In attendance:**

Mayor of Combined Authority: Mr J Palmer

Town Clerk: A Benfield

Committee Clerk: S Rawlinson

**PRAYERS**

The Town Mayor’s Chaplain said prayers prior to the commencement of the Meeting.

C234.00 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor A Ayers-Wilson (ill health).

C235.00 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

**Agenda Item C241.01 – Councillor J Pallant** – Other interest as his parent was an employee of the County Council Library Service.

**Agenda Item C243.00 – Councillor J Pallant -**Other interest as his wife was a member of the

Warner’s Park Pavilion Committee.

C236.00 MR JAMES PALMER

The Town Mayor welcomed Mr Palmer, the Mayor of the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Combined Authority to the meeting.

Mayor Palmer thanked Members for inviting him. He stated that he enjoyed visiting parishes as it provided a rare opportunity for him to engage across the county.

He informed Members that he had an initial budget of £20m from the Government to deliver on some projects which had eluded the City and County Councils. Extra funding had been received since and his office had received an additional £350m since he was elected.

His major projects at the current time were the new Metro which would travel to Alconbury; a feasibility study was being carried out on a third river crossing which would alleviate congestion. He was also looking at employment – currently there were more jobs than people in the area and there was a skills shortage. He was keen to expand the number of apprenticeships available.

The Master Plans for market towns across Cambridgeshire were progressing, several were already in place but were not implemented due to lack of funding. He hoped that they would come to fruition now.

Mayor Palmer indicated that he would be happy to answer any questions from Members.

Q: Where was the energy being focused on recruiting new apprentices?

A: There would be a central hub for Cambridgeshire and Peterborough instead of this being organized by separate authorities. It would be clear where young people and businesses should go to find information.

Q: What was the timeline for the third river crossing?

A: The feasibility study would be completed by March 2020 and he would be able to be more specific on timescale and location following that.

Q: What could be done within the next year to improve local bus provision?

A: Some extra funding had been provided but only on certain routes. In the long term this was unsustainable. The Metro was a long term solution. To aid in the medium and short term a task force would be set up to work closely with bus operators. He was looking at franchising also and continuing to put more pressure on operators to achieve improvement over the next year.

Q: How is funding achieved?

A: Generally by putting together sound feasibility studies and presenting the strong business case which the Government expected. He dealt regularly with the Treasury and investors. He was confident that the projects currently being developed would achieve funding when the time came.

Q: How could the Town Council assist him?

A: The Master Plan process was key. He relied on councils to bring forward projects. £50m was available to invest in business-based projects. He asked Members to inform him of any such projects needing help.

Q: When will the St Ives Master Plan happen?

A: They were currently phasing in Plans over different towns, he did not yet have a date for the St Ives Plan. He would investigate this further and inform the Council.

Q: Is encouraging cycling part of the strategy?

A: The evidence was that people would cycle to and from work up to a maximum of 4 miles. They were working on significantly greater distances than that. He would ensure that on the Metro route there would be cycleways within 4 miles of each station. The Council could make its own application to Sustrans. One area they were looking into was introducing electric cycles into Cambridge.

Q: Will the Metro system supplement the guided bus?

A: It will supersede the guided bus. With 12,000 new homes proposed for Northstowe traditional buses could not handle the capacity, the Metro system could.

Q: Would there be more electric car charging points?

A: He did not understand why these were currently the responsibility of local authorities. Some of the points in place were unsuitable for charging all vehicles. He believed that provision of charging points should be a commercial enterprise which would encompass a wider range of vehicles.

Q: Why is Cambridge considered the centre of the County when Huntingdonshire was developing rapidly?

A: That Cambridge has 5 science parks and is continuing to grow can not be ignored but his job was to make sure that the wealth created there was more evenly distributed around the County. Once good infrastructure was put in place and the Metro system was up and running, people would be able to travel to the science parks and pass through St Ives and other towns. Office space was much cheaper here than in Cambridge and new businesses could be attracted to the area boosting the general local economy.

 The Town Mayor thanked Mayor Palmer for attending and stated that he would be most welcome to

 visit the Town Council again at any time.

C237.00 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

No persons present wished to address the meeting.

C238.00 MINUTES

**RESOLVED:** that the Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council held on 13 February 2019 are confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Town Mayor.

C239.00 TOWN MAYOR'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Town Mayor reported that he had won the traditional Pancake Race in Huntingdon. As this would be his last full Council meeting as Mayor he took the opportunity to thank Members for all their support over the last municipal year.

C240.00 COMMITTEE REPORTS

The following minutes were received:

C240.01 Planning Committees

The minutes of the Meetings held on 13 and 27 March 2019 were received and noted.

C240.02 Amenities Committee

The minutes of 27 March 2019 were received and noted.

C241.00 APPLICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE

Consideration was given to applications for financial assistance:

**C241.01 St Ives Summer Reading Challenge - £600**

 **RESOLVED:** that the request for £600 for the Summer Reading Challenge be

approved.

**C241.02 5th St Ives Scouts - £750**

The request was for funding for a new laptop. Members considered £750 to be an

 excessive amount to pay.

 **RESOLVED:** that a decision on this be deferred pending discussion with the group on

whether they had other projects in the pipeline which would benefit a

 larger proportion of members.

C242.00 DEFIBRILLATORS

It was noted that the Town Clerk had met with SITI and the Rotary Club to discuss provision of defibrillators in the town centre. This was now a joint project going forward and further information would be provided to Members following the next joint meeting.

**RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

C243.00 WARNER’S PARK PAVILION

Members were grateful to Mr David Mead who had drawn up plans for the improvements to the Pavilion at no charge and whose input into the project had been invaluable.

Residents were keen to see the building restored and brought into wider use. The provision of a public toilet was considered especially important.

**C243.01 Suspension of Meeting**

It was resolved that the meeting be temporarily suspended to enable Mr Mead to speak

 about his designs for the Pavilion.

 Members were in receipt of Mr Mead’s first draft plan and he circulated copies of two

 alternative plans he had also produced to include external toilet provision.

 He stated that access to toilet facilities when the building was closed was of key

 importance and to this end he considered the toilet should have its own access and

 door. The facility should be unisex with baby changing facilities, be vandal proof and

 easily cleaned.

 In addition, the Pavilion should have its own toilet facility. The interior plan allowed for

 the provision of additional storage, internally and externally, an open plan multi use

 area and a kitchen. He had looked at extending the existing rear storage area but as

 this would place it close to property boundaries and trees it was considered that it

 should be left as existing but be re-fenced.

 Mr Mead stated that this was still a work in progress and he would be happy to take on

 board any proposals from members. Costings and funding were issues still to be

 worked on.

 The Town Mayor thanked Mr Mead for his work on the plans and his input to the

 project.

 The Town Clerk expressed concern at the positioning of the public toilet close to

 residential properties and that the third plan showing the toilet to the front of the

 building would be preferable. It was known that CCTV had wanted an additional

 camera in the Park and this would be able to view the toilet block to the front of the

 building.

**C243.02 Reconvening of Meeting**

 It was Resolved that the meeting be reconvened.

The Town Mayor asked the Working party to come forward with some ideas for funding the project, perhaps whether it should be again by public subscription. He thanked the Members of the Working Party for their efforts so far.

**C244.00 ORDERS FOR PAYMENT**

Members were in receipt of schedule of orders for payment.

 **RESOLVED:** that the schedule be received and noted.

**C245.00 BANK RECONCILIATION STATEMENT**

Members received the Bank Reconciliation Statement.

 **RESOLVED:** that the Statement be received and noted.

**C246.00 BUDGET REPORT**

Members received the Budget Report.

 **RESOLVED:** that the report be received and noted.

**C247.00 POLICE REPORT**

No report had been received.

**C248.00 CCTV REPORT**

The CCTV Report was received. It was noted that the upgrades to the system should be in

 place by May.

**C249.00 REPORTS FROM OTHER BODIES/MEETINGS**

 **C249.01 St Ives Town Team**

Members were in receipt of Minutes of the Meeting held on 26 February and

 Agenda for the Meeting on 26 March 2019.

 **RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

 **C249.02 Future Mobility and Energy**

Councillors J Davies, L Davies and D Rowe had attended a Seminar on 5 March.

 Several interesting points had been discussed. One of the key items was

 provision of electric charging points, WPS initiatives were growing nationally. It

 was noted that a new bus service in Sittingbourne was a cross between a

 traditional bus and a Uber service; each corner in the town was a bus stop linked

 to an app. Transport was from the pick up point to the front door. The

 attendees thought this a clever idea.

 Councillor Rowe agreed to present a written report to the next meeting along

 with any recommendations and suggestions for consideration.

 **RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

**C250.00 COUNTY COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor Fuller reported that he had chaired the first substantive A1123 and St Ives Area

 Transport Study. The Combined Authority Mayor’s office was funding the A1123 element and the County Council would be responsible for St Ives. There was a longer term package to come

 and he would advise Members at the appropriate time. Two elements of the proposals would

 be of particular benefit to St Ives and he would inform members of this when he was

 able to.

 **RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

**C251.00 DISTRICT COUNCIL MATTERS**

Councillor J Davies informed Members that he had a meeting planned with the Council’s

 Arboricultural Officer and the Operations Manager to discuss the increasingly frequent

 planning applications to remove trees. This was of concern to members of the Town Council’s

 Planning Committee. He intended to discuss the current policy on tree removal to ensure it

 was fit for purpose. He would report back to Members in due course.

 Councillor J Ablewhite expressed appreciation to the Council that the speed indicator devices

 were now in place and proving very effective. He was pleased at the successful outcome of the

 joint partnership working in this matter.

 Councillor R Fuller stated that the St Ives Master Plan would be launched in early May with the

 plans for St Ives, Huntingdon and Ramsey being launched simultaneously. The Town Mayor

 and Town Clerk would be invited to join the discussion group.

 **RESOLVED:** that the information be received and noted.

**C252.00 ROLLING PROGRAMME**

 **RESOLVED:** that the Rolling Programme be received and noted.

 Town Mayor: Dated: 9 May 2019