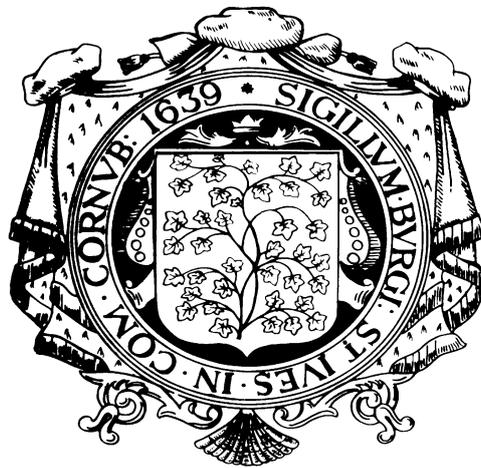


St Ives Town Council

Annual Report 2011/2012



Presented to

Annual Meeting of Electors

Tuesday 8 May 2012

7.00pm at the Guildhall, St Ives

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Mayor's Introduction

This report gives a brief overview of the work of St Ives Town Council during the year 2011/2012. It has been a busy year for the Town Council as town and parish councils throughout the county are having to accept responsibility for services previously provided by Cornwall Council.

In June we took over responsibility for tourist information and opened the Visitor & Information Centre. Councillors spent many hours refurbishing the premises to give the centre a brighter, more open appearance and since then we have seen many thousands of satisfied customers coming through the doors, which has enabled the town to continue to provide a vital service to the visitors on whom the prosperity of the town is so dependent. The V&IC is also a valuable resource to the local community with its ticket sales, public transport timetables, walks information and much more.

Our next challenge is to provide toilet facilities for these visitors. Cornwall Council is drastically reducing the funding for these facilities and the Town Council is having to step in to ensure that there is adequate provision.

During the year we have continued our talks with Cornwall Council to take over the management of the Guildhall and we hope that this process will be completed in the very near future. We have now taken over responsibility for bookings and this has resulted in a much greater usage of the building. We hope that when we take over full responsibility for the building, this important community asset will be much more fully used for the benefit of the local community.

Dogs and parking have also kept us busy during the year. As a result of requests to modify the Beach Dog Control Orders we have carried out an informal consultation and have received many letters giving views and information on the matter, and the next stage will be to have a formal public consultation and hopefully find an outcome which is fair to all parties.

At the invitation of Cornwall Council we commenced talks on taking responsibility for the management of car parks in the town and consulted with interested parties such as PASTI. Cornwall Council, however, called an abrupt halt to this process when they decided to appoint consultants to review the operation of all their car parks and they have given us no indication as to whether the talks on local management will be resumed.

As we have busied ourselves with these numerous projects, it is important that we keep in touch with the needs of local community. We have held open forum meetings in Lelant, Carbis Bay, Halsetown and Penbeagle to hear from local residents about matters which are important in their area and we have also increased the grant funding which is available to support the work of local organisations.

As Mayor, it has been my privilege to be invited to events organised by many of our local clubs and societies and it never ceases to amaze me just how fortunate we are to have so many people here in St Ives who are willing to give so freely of their time for the benefit of the local community.

During the course of the year I have attended numerous opening events, award ceremonies and visits to people as they reach important milestones in their lives: golden weddings, diamond weddings and 100th birthdays. It is always a real pleasure to attend these celebrations and to share the reminiscences.

We have continued to uphold our old traditions and as well as the usual celebrations of Mayor Choosing, Loving Cup ceremony and Feast Day, 2011 also saw the re-enactment of the quinquennial Knill celebrations, when 10 dancers, 2 widows, a fiddler and master of ceremonies came together with the Mayor, the Vicar and the Customs Officer to provide the usual delightful spectacle.

It is this mixture of old traditions and the existence of so many local organisations working for the benefit of the local community that help to make St Ives the unique place that it is. As we seek to uphold the best of the past we also need to meet the challenges of the future.

Responding to the current challenges and opportunities has meant that 2011/2012 has entailed a heavy workload for councillors and also for our Town Council staff who have worked well beyond the call of duty. I am very grateful to all of them for their help and support during this very busy year.

Councillor Ron Tulley
Town Mayor

The Council

The Council is made up of 16 Councillors representing the three wards of St Ives North, St Ives South and Lelant & Carbis Bay. The parish of St Ives includes the areas of Lelant, Carbis Bay, Halsetown and St Ives. The Town Mayor for the year 2011/2012 was Councillor Ron Tulley and the Deputy Town Mayor was Councillor Colin Nicholls.

Meetings of the Council and Committees are open to the public to attend (with the exception of the consideration of reports of a confidential nature) and there is provision for public speaking at the start of each meeting. Details of meetings, including dates, agendas and minutes are published on the Town Council's noticeboards and website.

Planning Committee

Chairman – Councillor Ron Tulley

The main responsibility of the Planning Committee is to submit observations on planning consultations to the planning authority, Cornwall Council. Cornwall Council is duty bound to take the views of town and parish councils into account when determining planning applications, as statutory consultees. To date, approximately 390 planning applications have been considered this year, a marked increase on the 290 considered in the previous year and an average of 30 applications per planning committee meeting.

Whilst the majority of planning applications are determined by Cornwall Council under delegated powers, some are considered by the West Sub Area Planning Committee. For the majority of applications from the St Ives parish considered by the committee, a representative of the council attends to speak in support of the Town Council's comments.

Resources Committee

Chairman – Councillor Andrew Mitchell

Committee Chairman's Report:

The Resource Committee deals with all things financial and most of the legal dealings of the Council. It has direct responsibility for all issues relating to personnel, property and most importantly as it effects every household in the St. Ives, Carbis Bay, Halsetown and Lelant area; the council budget and precept.

During 2011/2012 staffing of the town council has increased, with the appointment of staff to operate the Visitor & Information Centre, ably supported by a trusty number of volunteers. The Resources Committee has also played a lead role in securing continued CCTV provision in St Ives, and ensuring that negotiations around the Guildhall and public conveniences are based on sound financial principles.

Communications continue to be developed, with the website www.stivestowncouncil.co.uk continuing to grow in content and in user visits to the site.

As the work of the other Committees of the council can involve future expenditure and/or liability to the council, the Resources Committee shadows a lot of the work the other committees do and can offer a scrutiny role on these items before they go the Full Council for a final decision.

This has been a busy year for the Resource Committee, as for the rest of the council; and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members of the committee and the Town Clerk for all the work they have put in over the last 12 months.

Councillor Andrew Mitchell - Chairman, Resources Committee.

Environment Committee

Chairman – Councillor Colin Sanger

Committee Chairman's Report:

One of the major issues which has given the Environment Committee and consequently the whole of the Council much concern recently is debate on the need to review Beach Dog Control orders. Since the Council agreed to it in the spring of last year we have received from near and far, individuals and groups, letters and views on this subject - the thorny issue of dogs on our beaches – raising the questions: do we ban them altogether?; allow dedicated beaches?; all day or at certain times of the day?; all this and more was considered by this Council on 19

April and after much discussion agreement on a review question which would be in the best interest of the town and beach users. It was resolved that a beach dog control order review in the parish of St Ives would be based on:

1. A 24 hr ban of dogs on Porthminster, Porthmeor, Porthgwidden and Carbis Bay beaches from the Sunday before Easter Sunday to the end of September each year;
2. A 365 day ban of dogs on the Harbour Beach; and
3. Introducing on the lane to Porthkidney Sands, Lelant, a requirement that dogs be kept on a lead.

These questions are due to be put to a 12 week public consultation period.

The town council continued to support St Ives in Bloom last year and the council has allocated £1,000 in its 2012/13 budget for the coming year. One of the aims once the scaffolding currently fronting our lovely Guildhall is finally removed is to bring back a splash of floral blooms and other areas around the town area are also under consideration for planting.

For traffic and transport issues, the Environment Committee has actioned matters raised through the Open Forum meetings, has played a key role in informing the town council's response to the car park charge consultation by Cornwall Council, and has agreed to take on a Traffic Control Officer again for the coming summer season, which was a real benefit in keeping our traffic moving last year. The plan to place a bus shelter somewhere near the junction at Hellesveor is ongoing, along with moves to make the Palemon Best Recreation Ground a much better used local facility.

Councillor Colin Sanger – Chairman, Environment Committee

Community and Amenities Committee

Chairman – Councillor Tim Andrewes

Committee Chairman's Report:

The Community & Amenities Committee has worked on a number of different projects over the past year. The new allotment site at Trowan has completed its first full year: take-up of plots has been very encouraging, a bore hole has been installed to provide water, and additional plots have now been made available. There remains a large waiting list for allotments in the town, and the Committee is still pursuing the transfer of land at Venton Vision to provide an additional allotment site.

A survey of all 81 footpaths in the town council area has been conducted by volunteers, ably co-ordinated by Councillor Tamsyn Williams. We have now drawn up a comprehensive list of issues relating to their maintenance, signposting and obstructions, which we will start tackling over the coming year.

The committee is also responsible for the potential transfer of the Guildhall from Cornwall Council. The administration of hall bookings was taken on by the Town Council last

August, and the Committee has simplified the charges to make them more attractive to potential hirers. As a result of the Council's efforts, an additional 75 events took place in the hall last year, with further increases in the pipeline. We were unfortunately not successful in our funding bid to the Cornwall Seaside Towns Programme. Negotiations over the building transfer have progressed slowly and a decision from Cornwall Council is expected over the summer.

In view of the community and amenity value of public conveniences, this committee has played a key role in determining the approach for the future management of public conveniences in the St Ives parish and has played its part in negotiations with Cornwall Council.

The Committee has considered and made recommendations on the grant applications, with successful applications listed later in this report.

Councillor Tim Andrewes – Chairman, Community and Amenities Committee

St Ives Visitor & Information Centre Committee

Chairman: Councillor Colin Sanger

This committee is responsible for overseeing the running and operation of the St Ives Visitor & Information Centre. The V&IC was created to be an information point to serve visitors and local residents alike. As well as helping tourists find accommodation and information about attractions, local residents can benefit from the wealth of knowledge and information available from the staff and volunteers at the V&IC. With the publicity and promotion that the V&IC brings to individual businesses and to the area in general (including through the V&IC website www.stivestic.co.uk) the town council is working to support the tourism economy and local businesses.

Committee Chairman's report:

Just a few things about the Council operated Visitor and Information Centre (V&IC) which was reopened on 13 June 2011 after it was closed by Cornwall Council in a cost cutting exercise. Up until noon on Bank Holiday Monday (2012) just over 86,000 people from all over the county and across the globe have taken advantage of everything the centre has to offer be it accommodation, tickets for shows, tickets for all September Festival events, and much much more. We are confident that visitor numbers will exceed the 100,000 mark by the time of its first anniversary, and with numbers like that I cannot stress enough to everyone who offers accommodation or other facilities or attractions then they do need to be part of the V&IC promoting themselves. Our excellent staff and centre manager Bev Plunkett work hard to provide an efficient and friendly service, along with our great bunch of loyal volunteers. St Ives is a tourist town and the town council are working hard to support this aspect of the local economy. If you or your shop, company or business offer anything visitor orientated then do consider becoming a member.

Councillor Colin Sanger – Chairman, Visitor & Information Centre Committee

Devolution Single Issue Panel

Chairman: Councillor Tim Andrewes

This single issue panel is tasked with considering in greater detail the options for taking on greater local control of services and facilities. The Panel helped to negotiate the transfer of the tourist information service to the V&IC and is currently focussing on the planned transfer of the Guildhall and taking on public conveniences.

Other activities

In addition to the work of the committees listed above, the Town Council as a whole have also been involved in the following.

- Open Forum meetings have been held at locations throughout the parish (Lelant, Carbis Bay, Halsetown and Penbeagle, to give an opportunity for local residents to discuss topics with town councillors – gaining a better understanding of what the council does, and enabling the town council to take action on local issues.
- The Town Council is a statutory consultee for street naming, and street trading licences, in addition to planning applications.
- Supported the work of the St Ives Bay Youth Council.
- Organised the annual Fun Run from Lelant to St Ives with around 70 runners taking part last year, many raising funds for local good causes.
- Held the annual St Piran's Day Parade
- Supported the continuation of May Day, St Ives in Bloom, and Good Friday boating at Consols.
- Organised the annual St Ives Gardens Competition to encourage and recognise those that contribute to the overall look of the area through their gardening skills
- Held the second St Ives Citizen of the Year Award
- Continued to liaise closely with the Police regarding their work throughout the parish and encouraging community links whenever possible.
- Continued to allow the use of the St Nicholas Chapel on the Island for Wedding Blessings

Traditions of the Town

The following ceremonies and traditions have continued to be observed by the Town Council:

- Mayor Choosing / Drinking from the Loving Cup
- Town Mayor Civic Sunday Service
- Remembrance Sunday
- Christmas – provision of Christmas trees for St Ives, Halsetown, Carbis Bay and Lelant, and Mayors visits to hospitals and residential homes
- Lelant Feast
- St Ives Feast
- The Mayor's presentation of a plaque to those celebrating a Golden Wedding Anniversary

Household Information

There are approximately 11,210 residents living within the geographic area of St Ives Town Council and of these, approximately 9,100 are registered electors. The Town Council's precept (collected via Cornwall Council) was set at £158,150, approximately £29.86 per Band D property.

Financial Information

Set out below is a summary of the Council's payments and receipts for the financial year 2011/2012. These figures are provisional as the Council's accounts are currently undergoing their annual audit. When complete, the Annual Return of the Council's Accounts will be available to view at the Town Council offices.

| | <i>£ Receipts</i> | | <i>£ Payments</i> |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------|
| Precept | 119,868 | General Administration | 127,051 |
| Agency Services | 2,358 | Agency Services | 2,358 |
| Chapel income (St Leonards and St Nicholas) | 2,624 | Grants | 3,655 |
| Leases | 30,715 | St Nicholas Chapel Grants | 1,480 |
| Other | 1,402 | Civic and Community Events | 8,204 |
| | | Services | 13,553 |
| | | Other | 4,824 |
| V&IC (Visitor & Information Centre) | 58,225 | V&IC staff costs | 19,379 |
| | | V&IC running costs | 36,700 |
| | <hr/> | | <hr/> |
| | £230,192 | | £212,380 |

Allotment finances

Income: £2,821

Expenditure: £2,302 (rent of field and maintenance)

Grants Awarded

From a grants budget of £6,275

| Organisation | Amount |
|---|---------------|
| St Ives Trust Archive Study Centre | £300 |
| St Ives September Festival | £500 |
| Rough Coast Community Arts | £500 |
| Ayr Field Community Group | £150 |
| Trewartha House | £250 |
| St Ives Surf Life Saving Club | £500 |
| St Ives Jumbo Association | £275 |
| CHICKS | £80 |
| Victim Support Cornwall | £300 |
| Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust | £300 |
| Cornwall Blind Association | £300 |
| Penhaligon's Friends | £200 |
| Fore Street Methodist Church (skatepark competition) | £200 |
| Flashlight St Ives youth group | £900 |
| Cornwall Community Playing Fields Association | £50 |
| St Ives Speech and Drama Festival | £300 |
| Lions Club, St Ives May Day | £300 |
| Every Child Matters, St Ives Alive | £500 |
| St Ives Foodbank / Church of the Vine | £225 |
| Shelter Cornwall | £130 |
| St Ives September Festival | £500 |
| Total allocated to date: | £6,760 |

(In view of the increase in grants budget from £6,000 in 2011/2012 to £10,000 in 2012/2013, it was agreed that the overspend of £485 from the current year be drawn from next year's budget allocation.)

Town Councillors

St Ives Town Councillors are listed by Ward

| |
|------------------------------------|
| NORTH WARD |
| <i>Councillor</i> |
| Andrew P Mitchell |
| Colin C Nicholls |
| G E Terry Tonkin |
| Norman P Laity Suzanne J Tanner |
| SOUTH WARD |
| Tim Andrewes |
| Bill Fry |
| Harry R G Isaacs |
| Joan Tanner |
| Ron Tulley |
| Tamsyn M Williams |
| LELANT/CARBIS BAY WARD |
| Maxine Armstrong |
| Colin E Sanger |
| Katrina Slack |
| Joan H Symons |
| Yvonne Watson |

Town Council representatives on other bodies (as at 8 May 2012)

| | <i>Organisation</i> | <i>Representative(s) / Trustee(s)</i> |
|-----|---|---|
| 1. | Annie Ball Reid Charity | Member: J H Symons |
| 2. | Chamber of Trade | Member: C C Nicholls |
| 3. | Community Co-opted School Governors: | |
| 4. | ~ St Ives Infant School | Governor: M Armstrong |
| | Cornwall Association of Parish and Town Councils | Member: G E T Tonkin |
| 5. | Cornwall in Bloom | Representative: B Fry |
| 6. | Community Network Panel | Member: Town Mayor (Councillor R Tulley) Deputy: B Fry |
| 7. | Craze Hunkin Almshouse Trust | Trustee: G E T Tonkin |
| 8. | e-Planning Task Group | Representative: B Fry |
| 9. | Hayle Harbour Advisory Committee | Member: C Sanger Deputy: B Fry |
| 10. | Island Youth Centre | Member: T Andrewes Deputy: B Fry |
| 11. | Leach Pottery Advisory Group | Member: B Fry |
| 12. | Lelant Village Hall Committee | Member: C Sanger Deputy: B Fry |
| 13. | PAROW (Penwith Access and Rights of Way) | Member: T M Williams Deputy: C Sanger |
| 14. | Penwith Area Crime Prevention Group | Member: Y Watson |
| 15. | Penwith Rural Transport Forum | Member: R Tulley |
| 16. | Penwith 50+ | Representative: R Tulley |
| 17. | Partners and Communities Together (PACT) | Members: C C Nicholls, J Tanner |
| 18. | Pre-application Task Group | Representative: G E T Tonkin |
| 19. | Rough Coast Community Arts CIC | Member: M Armstrong (Director) |
| 20. | St Ives & Carbis Bay in Bloom | Member: B Fry |
| 21. | St Ives Area MCTI (Management Group) | Member: Y Watson Deputy: B Fry |

| | | |
|-----|---|--|
| 22. | St Ives Bay Line Forum | Members: C Sanger and Town Mayor |
| 23. | St Ives Bay Youth Council | Member: Mitchell A P |
| 24. | St Ives Concert Band | President: Town Mayor |
| 25. | St Ives Culture Forum | Member: C Sanger |
| 26. | <i>St Ives Day Centre</i> * *until dissolved | <i>Members: C E Sanger and Mrs Y Watson Cllr J Tanner = Cornwall Council rep.</i> Note: Charity dissolved in April 2012 and so these appointments have ceased. |
| 27. | St Ives Museum Trustees* (3) *until vacancy is created through resigning etc | Trustees: C C Nicholls, J H Symons, J Tanner. |
| 28. | St Ives Sure Start Centre – Advisory Board | Member: G E T Tonkin |
| 29. | Tate Gallery Advisory Council | Member: C C Nicholls Deputy: B Fry |
| 30. | Tate Gallery Community Liaison Group | Member: T M Williams |
| 31. | Town Framework Plan Steering Group | Representative: T Andrewes and N Laity |
| 32. | Traffic Forum | Member: R Tulley |
| 33. | Travel Group – St Ives Infant School | Member: T M Williams |
| 34. | West Cornwall CCTV Interest Group | Representative: Town Mayor Representative: Y Watson |
| 35. | West Cornwall Healthwatch | Member: A Mitchell |

Council Officers

Town Clerk Responsible Finance Officer – Louise Dowe

Administrative Assistant – Jeremy Ward

Clerical Assistant – Linda Holmes

Visitor & Information Centre:

V&IC Manager – Beverley Plunkett

V&IC Information Assistants – Ian Polmear, Katia Borghi, Rachael Mynwerth and Andy Dale

Community Pride Officer (partnership with Cornwall Council) – Andrew Lawry

Traffic Control Officer – vacant post

Mace Bearers: Alan Major and Simon Major

Contact the Council

Town Clerk, St Ives Town Council
The Guildhall
Street An Pol
St Ives, Cornwall
TR26 2DS

Telephone: 01736 797840

Email: townclerk@stivestowncouncil.co.uk

Website: www.stivestowncouncil.co.uk

Contact the Visitor & Information Centre

Visitor & Information Centre Manager
St Ives V&IC
The Guildhall
Street An Pol
St Ives, Cornwall
TR26 2DS

Telephone: 01736 796297

Email: info@stivesvisitorinfo.co.uk

Website: www.stivestic.co.uk