

St Ives Town Council – Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Tuesday 12 May 2015 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor L Taylor – Town Mayor  
Councillor T Williams – Deputy Town Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Nicholls C
Chard C	Prior P
Garrod H	Parsons A
Lait R (from 6.53pm)	Symons J
Mitchell A	Tulley R

OFFICERS

Town Clerk  
Assistant Town Clerk

ELECTORS

There were 14 electors present at the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors M Armstrong, R Glanville, J Tanner and S Tanner.

1. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEETING – 8 April 2014

The minutes of the previous Annual Electors Meeting were noted.

2. TOWN MAYOR'S REPORT

The Town Mayor presented the Council's Annual Report 2014/2015, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, and discussed the matters set out within it, including the work of the council and the traditions and community events held throughout the year. She was pleased to say that this was her first Meeting of Electors attended as Mayor – a role which she had been proud to carry out over the past year.

The work of town councillors included responsibility to the tax payer, responsibility for staff, services negotiating with Cornwall Council. The town council endeavoured to work in a business-like way, with a particular success over the past year being the establishing of the Weddings service at the Guildhall.

The Mayor introduced four new Councillors, elected during the course of the year. Also noted that town councillors Andrewes and Mitchell also served as Cornwall Councillors and were a strong voice for the St Ives area at County Hall. It was also noted that the newly elected MP for the area had an open line of communication with the town council and so could be hoped to represent the area well at the national level.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Each of the Committee Chairmen presented a report on the work of their committee throughout the year, as set out in the Annual Report.

Councillor Symons reported on the work of the Planning Committee, noting that the town council was a statutory consultee for the local planning authority (Cornwall Council) and was not responsible for actually approving or refusing planning applications. The town council worked hard to serve the best interests of the local community when submitting representations on planning applications.

Councillor Tulley highlighted the overarching nature of much of the work of the Resources Committee, also noting that the committee awarded grants, had helped to structure the forthcoming staff and structure review, and that a new tenant had been found for the previously vacant ground floor office space.

Councillor Williams presented her report on the work of the Community & Environment Committee, highlighting the work with the user group for the Palemon Best Recreation Ground and efforts to establish a Town Fund. It was noted that the annual garden competition was due to be held.

Councillor Taylor reported on the work of the Staffing Committee and noted that the forthcoming staffing review would prove interesting in view of the increasing workload of the town council. She thanked the Town Clerk and all staff for their work over the course of the last year.

Councillor Andrewes reported on the work of the Facilities Committee in covering the work of the council in running the Guildhall, Visit St Ives Information Centre, and the Public Conveniences. Weddings had been proving a success and people were encouraged to attend concerts and events at the Guildhall.

Public conveniences had remained open and work continued to find ways to improve the service.

The Visit St Ives Information Centre had been running for a few years and had achieved a break-even point, with the range of services growing to the benefit of local businesses and visitors.

Councillor Nicholls was pleased to report on the exciting work of the Devolution Panel. He noted that many saw the work of the Panel in seeking devolved facilities and services, in many cases it seemed a matter of bringing them back to local management. He stated his appreciation for the work of the Devolution Project Manager in helping with work to take on the Island Centre and then to look to take on Open Spaces and Porthrepta Car Park. He emphasised the care being taken by the council in working to take on these services, with nothing coming back to local management without a cost.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited those electors present to raise any matters for discussion.

Points raised during discussion were:

- Neighbourhood Plan – questioned the number of dwellings to be allocated in the St Ives and Carbis Bay area. It was questioned whether a number of small developments could be allocated.
- *Councillor Mitchell advised that in the Cornwall Local Plan a 1,000 homes are*

*allocated over a twenty year period, with the document still under review. Cornwall Council had already given permission for around 700, so a further 300 allocated would meet the St Ives area target. He would prefer to favour development for local need.*

- *Councillor Taylor advised that the Councillors were unable to comment on specific planning applications*
- *Neighbourhood Plan seen as unacceptable to many residents in Carbis Bay – only small sites but potential to affect current residents due to the number of small sites and their proximity to each other.*
- *Particular concern at the proposal for Carninney Farm as a site allocation in the Neighbourhood Plan – close to St Michael’s Way and a beautiful ancient farm.*
- *Councillor Mitchell – the Neighbourhood Plan is due to go to a six week period of consultation by Cornwall Council and that any further review before referendum would be dependent on the outcome of that consultation.*
- *Councillor Andrewes – Planning Officers are always revising the planning approvals and the target figures for development in the area. The inspector for the draft Cornwall Local Plan will be carefully considering how holiday homes and second homes are counted and how they feed into the overall housing targets. With regard to building on brownfield sites – which? St Margaret’s Hotel, Carbis Bay given as a suggestion from the electors.*
- *Councillor Symons noted the growth in recent years in Carbis Bay, and the need for the infrastructure for the area to meet the needs of the growing local population.*
- *Councillor Mitchell also noted the changes in the need for an affordable housing element in larger developments, resulting in a lesser requirement for affordable homes to be included in housing developments. It was noted that the allocations in the Neighbourhood Plan does not mean that the land would have to be built upon, just that this is an approved area.*
- *What were the criteria used to select the sites in the Neighbourhood Plan?*
- *Councillor Lait explained the process followed in drawing up the Neighbourhood Plan and that in view of the constraints of the planning process, after full consideration of all potential sites, those set out as allocated sites in the Neighbourhood Plan had been those which best fit the criteria.*
- *Provisions of parks and allotments in south west Carbis Bay – no allotments or parks. Richmond Park on far side of road and small park at Trewartha – difficult to access with no paths or seats. Requested councillors to visit the area and consider whether any provision can be made. It was noted that the difficulties in providing allotments lay with the need to find suitable sites. When making the site allocations, there were people with knowledge of planning and building who led on this. A sustainability appraisal had to be commissioned, which had implications for the remaining site allocations. Numerous open events had been held and extensive public consultation to invite public views at all stages.*
- *Urged the town council to look at how to protect Carninney Farm – whether this would be possible. Noted that Listing a Building has become an extremely onerous task. As part of the Neighbourhood Plan, efforts are being made to include a list of buildings of historic relevance – a more local version of listing.*
- *Councillor Prior – whilst the Neighbourhood Plan might not please everyone, it would be a local planning policy to help protect the local area from overdevelopment.*
- *An overview of the work and processes following during the Neighbourhood Planning process was given.*

- In response to a question, the Clerk advised of the capital and reserves balances held by the town council at the start and end of the 2014/15 financial year, noting that the end of year adjustments were in the process of being carried out and that the full accounts for audit would be published in the near future.
- Concerns expressed over potential contaminated soil being removed from development sites
- Concern at more visible development in Carbis Bay, with many new properties remaining empty.
- Asked whether the town council would be opening dialogue with the newly elected MP for the constituency
- Questioned the total cost of public conveniences in St Ives (and noted that there was no such provision in the rest of the parish). *Councillors noted that the public conveniences were an essential service that the town council had agreed to take on, and that people from all areas benefited from the service. The introduction of public conveniences was a great leap forward for health when brought in in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. Need to find a way to help to ensure that the public conveniences can pay their way. In view of how busy the town is in the summer, there is scope to explore the potential for businesses to contribute towards the provision of public conveniences.*

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended for their interest and participation in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.40 pm

Chairman