

Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 15 December 2016 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor L Taylor (Town Mayor)  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor C Nicholls (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Prior P
Armstrong M	Symons J
Garrod H	Tanner J
Glanville R	Tanner S
Lait R	Tulley R
Mitchell A	Williams T

OFFICERS

Town Clerk  
Support Services Manager  
Facilities Manager  
Visit St Ives Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Councillors C Chard and A Parsons.

106. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

None

107. REPORTS FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLORS

Councillor Andrewes had circulated a written report which updated on current consultations, St Ives Leisure Centre contract, bus issues, works at the Station Car Park, Budget and Council Tax and St Ives Community Transport. With regard to the works at the car park an assurance was given that businesses in the area would operate as usual. Councillors were pleased to note that the Community Chest funding for the minibus had already been seen to be a benefit in the area.

Councillor Mitchell reported on the Cornwall Council committees on which he serves, meetings with residents regarding residents parking schemes, and the awarding of the contract to St Ives Leisure Centre. He had attended a few meetings regarding Edward Hain Hospital and was disappointed in the health commission group and NHS Cornwall that the hospital is still closed after nearly 12 months. With concerns at the future of the hospital, there continued to be a wish for a firm decision on its future. Councillor Mitchell suggested that the Council or Town Mayor write to NHS partners and the MP to seek a meeting to ascertain the position and plans for any works in the coming six months, pending the sustainable transformation plan.

108. PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

109. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

An additional report had been included on the agenda in view of urgency due to consultation deadline – the Cornwall Council Draft Car Parking Order Consultation.

110. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Andrewes declared an Interest in Minute 129 (Facilities Committee Minutes – Scale of Charges) as the organiser of the Farmers Market, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

111. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

112. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 December 2016.

113. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the Town Clerk's update report circulated prior to the meeting.

With regard to Minute 99 the Clerk reported that an enquiry had been made and that to pursue further discussions on the matter a valuation would need to be commissioned.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted and that the Council endorse the principle of seeking a valuation in relation to Minute 99, accepting that there would be a cost to the council.

114. PROPOSAL FOR PUBLIC CONVENIENCES FACILITY IN CARBIS BAY AND LELANT

Councillor Glanville presented his proposal for the town council to take on the opening and cleaning of the toilet facility at Longstone Cemetery as a public convenience to serve the Lelant and Carbis Bay area.

During discussion it was stated that for a relatively low cost a facility for the area could be provided. There was a question around the level of potential usage, with a suggestion that opening up the facility would help to determine demand. There were questions about whether this provision would be the best location to serve the Lelant and Carbis Bay area.

Councillors also considered that noise from the toilet at the chapel could be heard during services and should be taken into account.

RESOLVED – that St Ives Town Council instructs the Chairman of Devolution Panel and the Town Clerk to make contact with Cornwall Council and agree the timing and details of a tenancy at will for the opening of the toilets at Longstone Cemetery to the general public.

115. FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR THE GUILDHALL – HALLS FOR CORNWALL

Councillor Andrewes presented the report which set out the opportunity to apply for funding to support activities in the concert hall. It was proposed to submit an application for funding towards the replacement of the lighting system as the current lighting had previously been agreed to be in need of updating. It was anticipated that a new lighting system would bring about savings in electricity costs and the benefits to hirers and audiences of greatly improved lighting. Funding would also be sought from the Cornerstone Theatre group and Cornwall Councillors through the Community Chest fund.

The ownership of the new lighting system would remain with the town council.

RESOLVED – that the Facilities Manager be instructed to submit an application to the Halls for Cornwall Fund on the basis set out in the report.

116. BUDGET AND PRECEPT FOR 2017/2018

The Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, Councillor Tulley, presented the proposed budget which had been compiled by each of the committees of the Council, to ensure that the budget was aligned to the proposed services of the council and had then been scrutinised by the Finance & General Purposes Committee.

It was noted that in the coming year the town council was working towards taking on the Library and Information Service from Cornwall Council, a service which would incur additional costs to the town council whilst retaining and enhancing an essential community facility. In other areas the responsibilities of the council had increased and so there were additional costs associated with services and facilities that the town council had previously agreed to take on. Another new item of regular expenditure noted was the annual grant to Hayle Day Care Centre towards the provision of a minibus which provided transport to day care provision for people from the St Ives Parish.

The proposed budget was aimed at providing services and facilities for local residents and also to help the local economy through supporting the area's tourism industry.

The level of Reserves held by the town council was considered, noting that the budget proposals were based on the day to be running costs of the council being covered by the revenue budget and that reserves were held for planned developments, for contingencies, and as a long term measure to ensure the council was well placed to continue to deliver important community services into the future. Decisions made in the current financial year had committed £94,000 from Reserves and with further capital projects planned (such as step-free access to the first floor of the Guildhall) there was a need to ensure that the balance of Reserves remained sufficient to meet the council's requirements.

Due to events subsequent to the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, the following amendments were proposed:

- To add income of £20,000 contribution towards the cost of running public conveniences in Cornwall Council car parks
- To remove the budgeted costs of running the Porthmeor public conveniences on the basis that they were expected to be leased for redevelopment in the coming weeks / months. (£17,500 to be taken from the public conveniences expenditure budget line)

During the ensuing debate, the following matters were raised: concern at the proposed increase in

council tax and the need to ensure affordability for residents; noted that new devolved services would not be included in any future capping of the precepts of local councils (potentially dependent on date of transfer and date of agreement to capping); a counter-proposal was presented by Councillor Glanville; concerns that expenditure on the library building was likely to exceed the amount budgeted; the £20,000 to be budgeted for car parks / public conveniences income was not yet certain but this was acceptable as it would be considered the amount to be allocated to refurbishment works on the public conveniences and so if not received would affect refurbishment plans rather than provision of the public convenience facilities.

It was noted that the proposed council tax for a Band D property would be slightly below the average for Cornwall.

**RESOLVED** – that the budget for the financial year 2017/2018 be determined by recorded vote.

Having been duly proposed and seconded, a recorded vote was taken:

Firstly on the amendment that the budget be referred back to the Finance & General Purposes Committee for further consideration, and upon that vote being lost, on the proposal to adopt and implement the budget for 2017/2018 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with the following amendments: addition of £20,000 third party income for public conveniences; decrease public conveniences expenditure by £17,500 in view of transfer of Porthmeor public conveniences, and decrease the hospitality expenditure by £3,000.

Results of the recorded vote on the amendment (to refer the budget to Finance & General Purposes Committee for further consideration):

Voting for: Councillors Garrood, Glanville, Mitchell, Symons, J Tanner, S Tanner

Voting against: Councillors Armstrong, Andrewes, Nicholls, Prior, Taylor, Tulley, Williams

Abstaining: Councillor Lait

Not present: Councillors Chard and Parsons

(6 for, 7 against, 1 abstention, 2 absent – the vote on the amendment was lost and so the vote was then taken on the original motion)

Results of the recorded vote on the proposal to adopt the budget recommended by the Finance & General Purposes Committee with the three amendments as set out above:

Voting for: Councillors Armstrong, Andrewes, Nicholls, Prior, Taylor, Tulley, Williams

Voting against: Councillors Garrood, Glanville, Mitchell, Lait, Symons, J Tanner, S Tanner

Abstaining: None.

Not present: Councillors Chard and Parsons

(7 for, 7 against, the motion was carried on the Chairman's casting vote)

Accordingly it was

RESOLVED – that the council adopt and implement the budget for 2017/2018 as recommended by the Finance and General Purposes Committee, with the following amendments: addition of £20,000 third party income for public conveniences; decrease public conveniences expenditure by £17,500 in view of transfer of Porthmeor public conveniences, and decrease the hospitality expenditure by £3,000.

It was further RESOLVED – that the note to accompany the precept demand would be written by the Town Clerk in consultation with the Chairman and Vice-Chairman of the Finance & General Purposes Committee, and submitted to Cornwall Council.

117. CONTRIBUTION TO ST JOHN AMBULANCE TOWARDS ENHANCED COVER FOR NEW YEARS EVE 2016

Members considered the report which set out the need for additional funding to enable the St John Ambulance service to provide the necessary level of support for the New Years Eve events.

RESOLVED - that a contribution of £700 be made to St John Ambulance towards the costs incurred in providing cover for the New Years Eve festivities, and for the council's gratitude for the service provided to be conveyed.

118. TIMETABLE OF MEETINGS 2017/2018

A draft timetable of meetings had been circulated with the agenda.

RESOLVED – that the timetable of meetings be approved as circulated.

119. ARRANGEMENTS FOR MAYOR CHOOSING 2017

The Town Clerk reported that, contrary to previous practice, it was recommended good practice and to ensure legal compliance, that informal Mayor Choosing should not be carried out in advance of town council elections, for reasons of natural justice and to ensure that there was no unfair electoral advantage conveyed.

RESOLVED – that arrangements be provisionally made on the basis of a Council meeting on 11 May to be followed by the Mayor Choosing Ceremony on 15 May.

As there were questions raised about the range of potential dates for holding the annual meeting of the council, and the scheduling of the Mayoral Dinner, it was accepted that there would be a further report to the next meeting of the Council.

120. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCILLOR MITCHELL TO THE COMMUNITY & ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE

To formally minute the agreement to fill the vacancy, it was

RESOLVED – that Councillor Mitchell be appointed to the Community & Environment Committee.

121. SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL – SOCIETY OF LOCAL COUNCIL CLERKS

The Clerk reported that membership of the SLCC was a valuable resource and proved value for money in relation to the subscription fee.

RESOLVED – that the subscription to the SLCC be renewed.

122. CORNWALL COUNCIL CONSULTATION – ANTISOCIAL BEHAVIOUR, CRIME AND POLICING ACT 2014 – BEACH DOG CONTROL, CORNWALL

The report set out the change in legislation which would revert the laws to control dogs on beaches to Cornwall Council as the principal authority, from the beach dog control orders currently in force by the town council.

The consultation correspondence was considered, with Members noting that Cornwall Council was proposing to replace all existing Dog Control Orders on the specified beaches in Cornwall with Public Space Protection Orders, keeping the same conditions, times, dates and durations at each location.

RESOLVED – that the council conveys its strong support for the proposals relevant to the St Ives Parish area, and to send supporting documents (council reports and minutes) to demonstrate how the decision was originally made (along with an invitation to inspect the consultation responses).

123. TOUR OF BRITAIN – ASSESSING SUPPORT FROM TOWN AND PARISH COUNCILS

Correspondence had been received, requesting a response to set out the town council's view on a cycle event (the Tour of Britain) passing through Cornwall, and through the parish.

RESOLVED – that a response be sent to confirm that the council supports the Tour of Britain cycling race coming to Cornwall and to the race passing through the St Ives area.

124. CORNWALL COUNCIL CONSULTATION – MINERALS SAFEGUARDING DEVELOPMENT PLAN PRE-SUBMISSION CONSULTATION

The consultation details had been circulated prior to the meeting for consideration.

RESOLVED – that the consultation be noted.

125. CORNWALL COUNCIL – PORTS AND HARBOURS CONSULTATION

A consultation letter and details of supporting documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. Following a review of ports and harbours, Cornwall Council were proposing a single Cornwall-wide Order, this being the subject of the current consultation.

RESOLVED – that the consultation be noted and that individual Councillors may submit their own responses before the extended deadline.

126. NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE

Councillor Lait reported that she understood that the Portfolio Holder was due to sign off the St Ives Area Neighbourhood Plan, currently with the Cornwall Council Legal department to ensure that it was fully compliant.

RESOLVED – that the update be noted.

127. EDWARD HAIN HOSPITAL

Councillor Prior reported on a meeting attended by a senior executive of the NHS Cornwall Partnership Trust. It was noted that many of the issues with the funding of the necessary works at the hospital lay with differences between fund holders and the ownership of the building. It was agreed that this highlighted the need for the meeting with NHS Partners considered earlier in the meeting.

RESOLVED - that the update be noted.

128. DRAFT CAR PARKING ORDER CONSULTATION – CORNWALL COUNCIL

This report had been included on the agenda in view of the urgency, to enable a town council response to the car parking order consultation.

RESOLVED – that the town council endorses the stance taken at the meeting on 8 December, referred to in the report, namely that in the interests of the vitality of the town centre, shopper charges should remain unchanged, and that the additional revenue required should be derived from increases to weekly rover and all-day tickets. In doing so, the town council recognises that its response is contrary to the general thrust of Cornwall Council's proposal, but feels that the particular circumstances of St Ives merits an alternative approach.

129. COMMITTEE REPORTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

**Facilities Committees:**

F.197 - Guildhall Weddings update and suggestions for service improvements e.g. provision of function chairs

RESOLVED – fund in this financial year and accept as an overspend in view of the surplus brought in by weddings.

F.201 – Scale of Charges – deferred until next meeting.

F.205 – Options for Public Conveniences Cleaning 2017 – details to be further considered and quotations to be sought and used as budget figures.

**Finance & General Purposes Committee:**

F&GP 81 - Financial Regulations

RESOLVED – that the report be noted and that a report on reserves and working balances be presented to the next scheduled meeting of this committee.

F&GP – 84 – Bank Signatories

RECOMMENDED - that the Chairman of Facilities Committee be approved as an additional Councillor Signatory and that the Support Services Manager be approved as the deputy officer to sign in the absence of the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED – that the committee reports set out above and the committee recommendations contained therein, be approved.

130. COMMITTEE MINUTES

- (1) Planning Committee – 10 November and 8 December 2016
- (2) Community & Environment Committee – 27 October 2016 amendment agreed: agreement to call a meeting with Cornwall Council officer (legal and licensing) regarding Consent Streets
- (3) Facilities Committee – 3 November 2016
- (4) Devolution Panel – no meetings held during this period
- (5) Finance & General Purpose Committee – 24 November 2016

RESOLVED – that the Minutes referred to above be received, incorporating the amendments agreed at the meeting.

131. REPORTS FOR INFORMATION

The reports circulated with the agenda papers, for information, were noted.

132. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

133. CORRESPONDENCE

RESOLVED – that the correspondence circulated prior to the meeting be noted.

134. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED – that

- (1) payments made since the last meeting totalling £250176.42 be approved;
- (2) credit card payments made since the last meeting totalling £946.43 be approved; and
- (3) the accounts listed totalling £20,321.32 be paid.

Meeting closed at 9.50 pm

Chairman