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Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 28 July 2016 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor L Taylor (Town Mayor)

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

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T
Armstrong M
Chard C
Garrood H
Glanville R
Lait R
Mitchell A

Parsons A
Prior P
Symons J
Tanner S
Tulley R
Williams T

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Support Services Manager
Facilities Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE - were received from Councillor J Tanner.

38. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Janet Axten spoke on the efforts of the working party which has been consulting and working up options for finding ways for the library to continue to be offered in St Ives, with the need to be locally run in future in view of proposed budget cuts by Cornwall Council. The group has developed plans for the library as a thriving community hub.

Chris Cocklin gave an update on Edward Hain Hospital, reporting that there had been problems with NHS Property Ltd and the closure of beds at Edward Hain Hospital. He advised that meetings had been held with NHS Property and that the works would be reviewed as the October target date may not be met. The situation was hugely disappointing to the Friends and the people of St Ives. Thanks were stated to the town council and to all supporters who had helped to stress the need for the hospital to reopen as soon as possible.

Mrs Ciliberto read her letter of support for the continuation of Sgt Mike Friday's role as a neighbourhood police officer and calling for Devon & Cornwall Police to reverse its decision to move Sgt Friday to a police station based role.

39. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The coming Monday, a meeting between the Mayor and Mayor of Hayle meeting with Inspector Philips to discuss the decision about Sgt Friday, to be followed up with meeting with Derek Thomas MP and the PCC

The recent Twinning Association visit to Camaret was deemed a great success, further cementing the relationship between the towns.

40. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Taylor declared an Interest on Minute 51(letter to Mayor of Dunkirk) as she had a predetermined view on the matter and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

41. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

42. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 16 June 2016.

43. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

The Clerk gave a brief update following the decisions made at the previous meeting of the Council.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

44. EDWARD HAIN HOSPITAL (Standing item)

Councillor Mitchell reported on a meeting attended by representatives of NHS Property Services and expressed disappointment that the works necessary to bring the building to fire safety standards faced further delays as there would be improvements needed to meet evacuation procedures requirements. This had resulted in a reluctance to give a re-opening date, pending a scoping exercise on the works needed to meet evacuation targets.

A further report would be given to the Cornwall Council committee at its September meeting in September. Councillor Mitchell stressed the importance of the provision of the community hospital service in Cornwall.

It was proposed that there was a need to press for action as it seemed that unrealistic targets were being set.

RESOLVED – that a letter be sent to the Secretary of State for Health, asking for his personal guarantee that Edward Hain Hospital will reopen, and stressing the need for it as the only community hospital facility in West Cornwall.

45. POTENTIAL DEVOLUTION OF ST IVES LIBRARY

Members considered the report circulated prior to the meeting, and taking into account the update provided by the library working group during the public speaking item.

The Chairman of the Devolution Panel set out the proposals for the next steps in taking on the transfer of the library.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Words of caution were raised – suggesting that the principles of the library service and the library building could be considered separately
- It was noted that it would be necessary to establish as accurately as possible the true costs of providing the library facility, including provision for the support functions to be provided by core town council staff.
- Cuts in budgets and services, also gave opportunities for locally run services, relocation of the visitor information service, potential for increasing adult education courses in St Ives
- A partnership approach with other community organisations and volunteers would give the best chance of success
- Would welcome all from the local community to play their part in making sure that the library becomes a valued hub for the community
- The valuable roles of libraries in supporting communities and enhancing opportunities for education and advancement.

The Mayor thanked the Devolution Panel and the Library Working Group for all the work that had been carried out to date to retain the library for St Ives.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) the Devolution Panel's recommendation on this matter be accepted (30 Jun 2016 meeting);
- 2) the town council will seek to meet the net cost of providing the library, including additional management overheads, through the precept and revenue generation;
- 3) the Town Clerk be authorised to complete the Library Devolution Business Case Template form and submit it to Cornwall Council;
- 4) the Facilities Manager be authorised to commission structural, mechanical and electrical, and energy surveys of the building, to be funded from the Local Devolution Fund grant or, should that source not be forthcoming, from the Council's own devolution budget;
- 5) the Council meets with the St Ives Library Partnership Group in order to agree the formal establishment of a Partnership Board and to draw up a timetable for the devolution of the library and the one stop shop.

46. ST IVES DECORATIVE LIGHTS

Members considered the report circulated prior to the meeting. The report highlighted the risks posed by the current lighting system and the need to make decisions related to any future system.

During discussion the following points were raised:

- Councillor Tulley reported that he had resigned as the council's representative on the Decorative Lights Association, enabling him to remain in the meeting and participate.
- It was noted that a huge amount of work had been put into establishing the lights originally and that they were valued by local residents and businesses, in addition to being an attraction for visitors
- The lights had not been well maintained before they were taken on by the town council consequently making the current system safe would be as costly (or more) than erecting a new set.
- Erecting a new system would be cost effective and would be a good signal that the lights were being replaced rather than removed.

- Confirmation had been received from St Ives BID that it would be willing to contribute £10,000 towards a new set of festoon lights, and the Decorative Lights Association had around £5,000 which it was willing to contribute.
- It was noted that the Decorative Lights Association was a constituted group which had a good combination of technical knowledge and fund raising activities.
- It was suggested that if funding could be found for a new system which could be certified and maintained, then the town council should be the owner of the new system, alongside taking down the existing lights system.
- It was suggested that to minimise the risk to the town council, the lights should be taken down, giving the ability to other groups to fund a replacement lights system.
- Commented that there were other pressures on the council's resources such as the Library and that expenditure needed to be prioritised
- The need to take into account the ongoing maintenance and certification costs in coming years
- The enthusiasm of organisations and those giving contributions will help establish the extent of the replacement lights.

The officer report on the lights set out advice that steps to remove the existing lights should be actioned by 30 October 2016, and that if the town council accepts responsibility for a set of replacement lights, then there should be clarity about the roles of any organisations involved in any form of partnership working.

RESOLVED – that the Council agree to the removal of the existing decorative lights, drawing on funds from Reserves for the purpose (£6,000 for the removal and £15,000 towards replacement lights), to be simultaneously replaced with a new decorative lights system by the town council, utilising the funds promised from St Ives BID and the Decorative Lights Association.

Councillor Glanville requested that his name be recorded as voting against this decision.

The Mayor thanked St Ives BID and the Decorative Lights Association for their ongoing support and financial contribution.

47. REDUCTION OF POLICE SERGEANT COVER IN ST IVES AND HAYLE

Councillor Taylor reported on concerns at the proposed cuts in policing cover in the area. During discussion there were concerns expressed at the cuts in service over recent years and the adverse impacts on the community.

It was noted that there had been assurances that there would not be cuts to PCSO cover, but that Councillors were most concerned that the level of cover at Sergeant level should also be ensured. There was considerable concern that just 5 police officers covering St Ives and Hayle would be further cut.

RESOLVED - that a letter be sent to the PCC and to the Chief Constable to ask the rationale for cutting the policing numbers and the reduction of Sergeants for the area being cut from 2 to 1 (noting that there will be times when the area will be without Sergeant cover). The letter to also be copied to the MP and Minister in view of the larger issue around cuts in public services.

48. TRANSPORT

Councillor Mitchell stated that he had been contacted by a number of local residents and professional drivers with concerns that the traffic in St Ives had been worse this year than in recent years, and asking for action to be taken on this. He suggested that the town council should take up the issue on behalf of the town.

During discussion it was noted that commercial vehicles were often the cause of delays, along with the significant increase in vehicles on the roads generally.

It was noted that any traffic control measures needed to be enforced and so there was a need also for a greater level of enforcement. The town council had urged Cornwall Council to erect prominent signage directing motorists to the Trenwith car park and had provision for employing a Traffic Control Officer to help direct motorists away from the town centre. The increasing number of buses and coaches turning at the Malakoff were causing an increasing amount of congestion in that area.

It was noted that difficulties in tradespeople and in particular carers would have an effect on people in the town. Carers had specific timings to adhere to and so delays in traffic would affect people's lives and wellbeing. It was also stated that deliveries to the town should not take place between 10am and 4pm.

The significant volumes of traffic travelling through Lelant and Carbis Bay were also recognised as an issue.

RESOLVED – that the transport issues in and around the town be referred to the Community & Environment Committee for further consideration on practical measures that may be able to be implemented to bring about improvements

49. SALTINGS REACH, LELANT – WAITING RESTRICTIONS

Members considered correspondence circulated setting out the concerns of residents of Saltings Reach at the proposed waiting restrictions and requesting a full consultation on all potential options to resolve the parking issues in the area.

It was noted that the proposed works would not continue without the agreement of the Local Ward Member and so they could be contacted about this matter by local residents if they wished.

RESOLVED – that no action be taken on this item.

50. DEREK THOMAS MP – CONSULTATION ON A30 PROPOSALS

Members considered the notification of consultation.

RESOLVED – that Councillors were able to respond to this item on an individual basis.

51. MAYOR OF DUNKIRK – REQUEST FOR LETTER OF SUPPORT

Councillor Taylor declared an Interest in this item as she had predetermined views on this matter and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Nicholls chaired this item.

Following brief discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the model letter be sent, as circulated with the agenda papers.

52. STREET WEEDING

Councillor Mitchell reported on the complaints received regarding street weeds and an invitation from Falmouth Town Council to visit to discuss their devolution progress and to learn from their lead on how they deal with street weeding.

Thanks were expressed to the town council staff for their rapid responses to all complaints regarding street weeding to date, especially in view of the team being short-staffed pending recruiting staff.

It was also noted that the Cornwall Council staff responsible for street weeding in Zone 1 also carried out their duties to a high standard.

RESOLVED – that the street weeding item be referred to Community & Environment Committee, with interested town councillors and staff to attend a visit to be arranged to Falmouth Town Council.

53. CODE OF CONDUCT – COMPLAINTS

In accordance with Standing Orders, the Clerk reported that a Code of Conduct Complaint had been made against Councillors Taylor, Mitchell and Lait following the open forum meeting related to the Neighbourhood Plan. The Monitoring Officer had conducted an investigation and found that the complaint was not upheld.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

54. MAYORS OF CORNWALL MEETINGS

The Clerk reported that Mayors of Cornwall had been holding meetings to discuss matters of shared interest. The Mayors of Cornwall were in the process of scoping the parameters, role and remit of the group and so the views of the town council were sought on this.

RESOLVED – that the St Ives Town Mayor attend the Mayors of Cornwall Meetings and to seek advice from the Town Clerk before each meeting when the agenda is received, with attendance being on the basis that the Mayor could speak for the town council on any issue that the council had debated and expressed a view on – any other matter should be first brought back to Council for debate.

55. CIVIC PROTOCOL

The Town Clerk recommended that in line with good practice in other authorities, the town council could adopt a Civic Protocol to help guide Mayors and Deputy Mayors in their duties and be a record of the civic guidelines to be followed.

RESOLVED – that a Civic Protocol for St Ives Town Council is not a priority at this time.

56. **DEREK THOMAS MP – PRIMARY SCHOOL PLACEMENTS FOR VISITS TO BUSINESSES**

Members considered the correspondence received from Derek Thomas MP.

RESOLVED – that the offer be declined.

57. **NEIGHBOURHOOD PLAN UPDATE** (Standing item)

Councillor Lait reported that there was no further update pending the outcome of the legal challenge.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

58. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

To receive and consider the Committee Minutes as reports of the following committee meetings:

- (1) Planning Committee – 23 June and 21 July 2016
- (2) Community & Environment Committee – no meetings held during this period.
- (3) Finance & General Purpose Committee – 7 July 2016
- (4) Facilities Committee – 9 June 2016
- (5) Devolution Panel – 30 June 2016
- (6) Committee Recommendations
 - a. F&GP 7 July 2016
 - i. F&GP.35 – agreement to write off bad debts
 - b. Devolution 30 June 2016
 - i. D.7 – Library – as previously considered at this meeting

RESOLVED – that the Minutes of the committee meetings set out above be received and the recommendations and resolutions be approved.

59. **REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

None.

60. **REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES**

Councillor Prior reported that he has been the representative on the Tate Advisory Group but not been invited to any meetings. The Clerk gave an undertaking to check with the Tate.

Councillors Andrewes and Mitchell each presented their reports as Cornwall Council Ward Members and Councillor Andrewes gave an update on efforts to reduce the bus problems at Beach Road and in front of the Meadow Flats.

61. CORRESPONDENCE

- (1) The League of Friends of Edward Hain Hospital – copy of letter to Jeremy Hunt MP, 18 June 2016.
- (2) NHS Property Services, 23 June 2016 – Remedial Works at Edward Hain Community Hospital, St Ives.
- (3) Local residents – concerns at buses turning near Porthmeor Beach.
- (4) The Parish Church of St Anta, Carbis Bay – dedication of St Anta Tower Clock.

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

62. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

RESOLVED – that

- (1) payments made since the last meeting totalling £64,375.37 be approved;
- (2) credit card payments made since the last meeting totalling £906.35 be approved; and
- (3) the accounts listed totalling £26,690.27 be paid.

Meeting closed at 9.52 pm

Chairman