

Minutes of the additional Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in The Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 11 January 2018 at 7.42 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor S Tanner
Vice-Chairman – Councillor J Symons

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Lait R
Chard C	Mitchell A
Garrod H	Nicholls C
Glanville R	Tanner J
Griffin J	Tulley R
Harris A	Williams T
Henry R	

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Facilities Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillor Hughes

137. PUBLIC SPEAKING

None.

138. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

None.

139. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER/OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

140. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

141. MINUTES

An amendment was agreed: Minute 105 should refer to Minute 117.

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 14 December, as amended.

142. TOWN CLERKS UPDATE REPORT

Members considered the report, including updates from the 14 December meeting of the Council and any outstanding matters from previous meetings.

RESOLVED – that the report be noted.

143. DOUBLE TAXATION AND ST IVES PUBLIC LIBRARY

Councillor Andrewes presented the report which set out the steps taken to seek agreement from Cornwall Council for compensation to St Ives for the additional costs to local taxpayers who will be paying through the precept for St Ives library and also contributing to libraries in other areas which will continue to be provided by Cornwall Council.

Cornwall Council had considered the representations made by the town council and the matter had been discussed at a recent meeting with senior officers and the portfolio holder from Cornwall Council but their position remained clear, that there would be no provision made to compensate where there were issues of double taxation.

Members debated the matter, noting that there would likely always be some disparity between areas in respect of the services provided. Whilst there remained concern at the principle of double taxation, the overriding aims of providing a locally run community facility, with the potential to develop and improve it, utilising the enthusiasm and energy of the town council and local volunteers.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the town council accepts the Cornwall Council position on double taxation, and remove it as an impediment to further negotiations about the library transfer.

144. BACKLOG MAINTENANCE AT ST IVES PUBLIC LIBRARY

The Facilities Manager reported that following initial building surveys carried out by the town council, Cornwall Council had been requested to carry out building repair and maintenance works considered essential by the town council, before the transfer of the library building was completed.

There had been some delay while Cornwall Council commissioned their own building survey reports, carried out as a table-top exercise. On the basis of the findings of that survey, and further to negotiations between Cornwall Council and the town council, led by the Facilities Manager, agreement had been confirmed to works to the value of £23,000 to be carried out, with a potential further £8,000 which was expected to be confirmed at the date of Director sign-off of the transfer.

The Facilities Manager set out the continuing steps being taken to clarify the works that Cornwall Council proposed should be carried out and to seek agreement to those works identified as being most essential by the town council.

It was suggested that the town council could proceed on the basis that the funds be accepted and that the town council commission the works in the expectation that it would more closely manage the works and achieve better value for money.

It was noted that the town council was also able to submit an application to Cornwall Council's

Transition Fund, which would secure up to £10,000 to contribute to any essential works. It had been hoped that should Cornwall Council agree to all works necessary, the transition funding could have been used for other improvements such as refurbishing the space needed for the integration of the VIC.

Although there was an argument put forward to continue the negotiation, there was a consensus that there had been a strong negotiation to date and that the £31,000 was thought to be the best offer likely from Cornwall Council. Appreciation was stated for the work of the Facilities Manager, Town Clerk and the Task & Finish Group for their efforts in these negotiations.

RESOLVED – that the town council accept that the £31,000 offered by Cornwall Council for backlog maintenance addresses the majority of the issues and is a reasonable compromise for both councils, and authorises the Facilities Manager to ensure that the most important works are carried out.

Meeting closed at 8.18 pm

Chairman