

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GUILDHALL,
ST IVES ON WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor S Tanner (Town Mayor)
Vice-Chairman – Councillor J Symons (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T	Harris A	Nicholls C
Garrood H	Henry R	Tulley R
Glanville R	Messenger K	Williams T
Griffin J	Mitchell A	

OFFICERS

Town Clerk Facilities Manager

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors Lait and J Tanner.

57. APPOINTMENT OF MAYOR’S CHAPLAIN

The Mayor announced the appointment of Revd. Nicholas Widdows as her Chaplain for the remainder of the Mayoral year. In addition to welcoming Revd. Widdows, the Mayor also expressed her thanks to Revd Suzanne Hoskin for her support as Chaplain over the previous year and a half.

58. SWEARING IN OF THE MACE BEARER

This item was deferred until the next meeting, in the absence of the Mace Bearer.

59. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Chairman of the Friends of St Ives Library attended the meeting to speak on behalf of FOSIL and the Library Group. He referred to the informal meeting held earlier that evening and advised that the Library Group would respond to the suggestion for amendments to the terms of reference for the Library Partnership Group in due course.

60. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Mayor noted the recent resignation of Kevin Hughes from his position as town councillor for St Ives West and stated thanks for the time and service that he had contributed to the council.

61. DECLARATION OF MEMBER/OFFICER INTERESTS

None.

62. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

63. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meetings of the Council held on 26 July 2018.

64. LIBRARY TRANSFER TIMETABLE

Members considered the recommendation of the Finance & General Purposes Committee following its meeting on 28 August that a timetable be adopted for the transfer of library staff to the town council. The timetable proposed the transfer should happen on 29 October 2018. Staff would be transferred to new job roles in December in readiness for a single team to be created in early 2019. If adopted and implemented, the objective was to launch a new, combined service by 31 March 2019.

It was noted that, nationally, budget cuts are resulting in a reduction in library services. Like many libraries, St Ives Library is currently closed for two days a week and the number of users is in decline. Town Councillors are keen to address these issues by extending opening hours and finding ways to encourage people who do not use it to come to the library.

In response to issues raised by the Library Group, it was noted that the commitment to provide the library service for 25 years was standard in the library devolution agreements across Cornwall. This period gives assurance for a considerable period and would enable its services to be reviewed at a time when advances in technology and changing customer preferences may have made libraries very different places – or even redundant.

It was noted that the working relationship between the town council and the Library Group could be improved, and that the Library Partnership Board had been agreed but is not yet operational. The Council awaits the appointment of representatives from the Library Group and from Cornwall Council. Noting that the terms of reference of the Library Partnership Board might be reviewed if requested by the Library Group, it was stated that a key to successful partnership working is each party respecting and working to specific roles.

Concerns at proposals to move the Visitor Information Centre to the library were noted, with assurances that the town council is carefully planning this transition. Advice, information and guidance, including good practice of service integration in libraries elsewhere, is being sought in this element of the project.

A statement from Cornwall Council had set out the local authority's support for the town council's plans for running the library and information service post-transfer, and for moving the VIC into the library building.

In response to concerns about delays, it was noted that, of all the devolution projects carried out by the town council, this had been the most challenging in terms of scale and complexity, requiring a significant amount of preparatory work by a small team of officers and councillors.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) the library transfer timetable as set out in the report be approved, with the VIC transfer to the library to be carried out by the target date of 31 March 2019; and
- 2) the Town Clerk is authorised to carry out the transfer of staff, service and building to completion, seeking advice when necessary from the Library Task & Finish Group.

65. USE OF EARMARKED RESERVES FOR LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT

At its meeting on 14 December 2017 the Council resolved that up to £25,000 be vired from the Library & Information Service budget 2017/2018 for the redesign and refurbishment of the retail and information area of the library. However, due to delays in the library devolution timetable, these funds were not spent in the 2017/18 financial year and so at the financial year end they were carried forward into the Earmarked Reserves for the library and information service.

The Town Clerk sought agreement from Council to approve the use of these earmarked funds for their original purpose, and for the Facilities Committee to be delegated control of these funds.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) up to £25000 of funds from Earmarked (Library) Reserves be approved for the purposes of refurbishing the library to accommodate the relocation of the Visitor Information Service; and
- 2) decisions on the application of these funds be delegated to the Facilities Committee.

Meeting closed at 7.58 pm

Chairman