

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL HELD IN THE GUILDHALL,  
ST IVES ON THURSDAY 18 OCTOBER 2018 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor J Symons (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T  
Garrod H  
Glanville R  
Griffin J

Harris A  
Henry R  
Messenger K  
Mitchell A

Nicholls C  
Tulley R  
Williams T

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

Facilities Manager

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

66. SWEARING IN OF THE MACE-BEARER

This item was held over until the next meeting.

67. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

No reports were received.

68. REPORTS FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLORS AND/OR THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER

Councillors had received written reports from Councillors Mitchell and Taylor. Councillor Robinson spoke on issues including traffic flow, parking, shuttle buses and Edward Hain Hospital. Cornwall and town councillors discussed grass-cutting in cemeteries, the St Erth Multi-Modal Hub, the forthcoming train timetable and residents' carparking.

Councillor Harris reported that he and Councillor Lait had attended a meeting regarding the train timetable, from which he felt that there is a possibility that more trains will stop at Carbis bay and Lelant stations.

Councillor Nicholls expressed regret that Cornwall Councillors had donated grants from their Community Chest funds towards the cost of managing the New Year's Eve celebrations. Councillor Mitchell said that he had done so as businesses and local residents would benefit from the grant, as well as visitors to the town.

69. PUBLIC SPEAKING

There was no public speaking.

70. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman announced that an additional report which had been tabled would be considered as a confidential item later in the meeting.

71. DECLARATION OF MEMBER/OFFICER INTERESTS

There were no declarations of interests.

72. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None.

73. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 5 September 2018.

74. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

The report was received without comment.

75. UPDATE ON THE TRANSFER OF THE LIBRARY AND INFORMATION SERVICE

Councillors had received a report from the Clerk describing the work being done by officers to bring about the transfer of the library staff, building and service on 29 October. The paper described the transfer as “a landmark development” for the parish and recommended it should be marked with efforts to draw the attention of the media to the event, and by a small gathering in the library on transfer day to allow staff from the VIC and library and town councillors to meet informally. Councillors expressed enthusiasm for this. Councillor Mitchell and Councillor Henry did not vote.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) Officers are authorised to develop a press release and encourage other media interest to mark the devolution of the public library; and
- 2) A sum of £5 per head is made available for affected staff and councillors for a buffet lunch in the library.

76. APPOINTMENT OF COUNCIL REPRESENTATIVES

The Clerk explained that a small number of external groups have no town councillor representation. She noted that the West Cornwall CCTV Group is due to meet next week, and has no councillor representative, although it will be attended by the Facilities Manager.

RESOLVED – that

- 1) Appointments to external groups be considered at the next meeting of the council; and
- 2) Councillor Symons will represent the council at the CCTV meeting.

77. DATES OF MEETINGS – 2019/2020

The Council considered the list of dates of meetings to be held in 2019 and 2020. Councillors asked for references to meetings in 2018 to be corrected, and agreed that the Reconvened Council meeting planned for 21 May 2020 be moved to the previous day so as

to avoid a clash with the Planning Committee meeting.

**RESOLVED** – that the list of meeting dates, incorporating the changes noted above, be adopted for 2019 and 2020.

78. **PAYMENT OF PROFESSIONAL FEES**

The Town Clerk advised that the Finance Officer's professional accreditation is due for renewal. Her previous employer had paid the annual fee, and she recommended that the town council should do likewise.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council agrees to fund the Finance Officer's membership of the Association of Accountancy Technicians for one year at a cost of £151, and on an annual basis thereafter.

79. **EXTERNAL AUDITOR'S REPORT**

The Clerk introduced the previously-circulated report and explained the discrepancy that had resulted in the external auditor asking for a correction to be made. She said that she and the council's external funding adviser were frustrated that the external auditor had highlighted an issue that was of no actual concern, but had concluded that a challenge would be counter-productive.

**RESOLVED** that – the report be noted and that the work of dedicated finance staff and externally commissioned accounts supported be noted with appreciation.

80. **EDWARD HAIN HOSPITAL (Standing Item)**

Councillor Mitchell referred to a meeting he and other Cornwall Councillors had recently attended with NHS representatives. He reminded members that the hospital had been closed for 32 months at a time when the number of inpatient beds in West Cornwall had fallen dramatically, and when home-based, post-discharge care is not fully mobilised. He said that he felt that NHS managers had not explained why it is felt that the beds are unnecessary, especially when there are plans to commission 50 additional inpatient beds to meet winter pressures.

He reminded the meeting that the Friends of Edward Hain Hospital had committed to raising £600-700,000 towards the cost of the safety works, the cost of which he now understood had risen to £1.2m. He said that there was insufficient transparency and that the town council should now take a lead on representing what he feels is the majority view in the local community about the provision of healthcare in St Ives and West Cornwall.

The merits of a meeting were discussed. It was proposed that the Chief Executive of Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust should also be invited, but it was agreed that this is an issue over which she will have little influence.

**RESOLVED** that – a public meeting be called by the Council to which representatives of Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group should be invited to explain the current position regarding the hospital and future plans for it.

81. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

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

- 1) Planning Committee – 11 October 2018
- 2) Community & Environment Committee – 30 August 2018
- 3) Facilities Committee – 20 September 2018
- 4) Finance & General Purposes Committee – 28 August and 27 September 2018
- 5) Devolution Panel – 20 September 2018
- 6) Committee Recommendations

Amendments were agreed:

Planning Committee (11 October) – Councillor Henry was erroneously recorded as being present, and Councillor Mitchell was present although recorded as absent.

Community and Environment (30 August) – the minutes should have read that Councillor Harris is now the vice-chairman of this committee. It was noted that the Facilities Manager had corrected his statement that the Tempest roundabout lay in another parish council area. Councillor Harris said the minute regarding noticeboards is incorrect and that the Lelant noticeboard would be looked after by the Chairman of the Memorial Hall.

Facilities Committee (20 September) – reference to a Councillor praising the “shabbiness” of the concert hall was a misquotation as that word had not been used.

**RESOLVED** – that the amended Minutes of the committee meetings set out above be received.

With regard to the committee recommendations:

**Planning Committee** 13<sup>th</sup> September and 11<sup>th</sup> October

None.

**Facilities Committee** 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018 recommendations

F.17 – New Year’s Eve Concert Hall bookings fee - that the recommendation be approved and adopted.

**Community & Environment Committee** 30<sup>th</sup> August 2018 recommendations:

C&E.25 – Fair Trade St Ives: **RESOLVED** – that the recommendation be approved and adopted.

C&E.26 – New year’s Eve: **RESOLVED** – that the recommendation be approved and adopted.

**Finance & General Purposes Committee** 27<sup>th</sup> September 2018 recommendations:

F&GP.165 – Temporary appointment of a note taker: **RESOLVED** – that the recommendation be approved and adopted.

F&GP.166 – Job descriptions for LIS Manager, Deputy and LIS Assistants: RESOLVED – that the recommendation be approved and adopted.

82. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Henry reported that the CIC involved in the purchase of the building under the bus station continues to be committed to it. The full extent of the risk is not known, and a great deal of work is required to make the building safe. Doing so would both secure the building as a workstation hub for small companies and secure the Malakoff Bus Station. The CIC continues to work with the bus company and the owner of the building.

Another councillor expressed frustration that the CIC was pursuing this building despite the risk it posed, and suggested that an alternative could easily be found in the town. A third councillor expressed the view that the bus station is essential and must be retained, and the CIC scheme is the best means of doing that. Councillor Henry said that the £3.5m of funding was specifically made available for that building, although other options had been looked at.

83. CORRESPONDENCE

Letters from the Chief Constable in relation to the council's accreditation under the Community Safety Scheme, and from Cornwall Council regarding public footpath 75, were noted.

84. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The Clerk and the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee explained that the new finance system collected the combined costs of invoices from each supplier together, but listed that expenditure only under one heading. Councillor Glanville assured members that, behind this collation, internal audit processes showed that proper accounting was happening. The Clerk said that the report would need manual adjustment to show all the transactions for each supplier separately. Members accepted that the figures are correct, although the labels associated with them are unhelpful.

On a related subject, Councillor Mitchell was asked as a Cornwall Councillor whether the local authority is considering reducing or waiving business rate payments. He said that he had no knowledge of this, but would check.

RESOLVED that –

- 1) payments made since the last meeting totalling £726,058.12 be approved;
- 2) credit card payments made since the last meeting totalling £3,638.12 be approved;  
and
- 3) the accounts listed totalling £14,755.69 be paid

85. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960 (as extended by s.100 of the Local Government Act 1972), the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972 by virtue of the paragraph specified against the item.

86. RECRUITMENT TO SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER POST

The Clerk reported that the post had been evaluated, and asked Council to approve the job description and so allow recruitment to proceed. It was proposed and agreed that the job description should specifically refer to venues management rather than “co-ordination”. The nature of the Designated Premises Supervisor (a post that the council must have if it is to run licensed premises) part of the post was explained to councillors.

Following discussion, it was agreed that the shortlisting panel should consist of the Mayor, the four committee chairmen and the Town Clerk. The interview panel will consist of the Mayor, the Chairman of the Finance and General Purposes Committee and the Town Clerk.

RESOLVED that –

- 1) The shortlisting and interview panels for the appointment of the Support Services Manager be as outlined above; and
- 2) The post be advertised, incorporating the inclusion of the phrase “venue management”.

87. LIBRARY ASSETS: INSURANCE

Councillors considered the tabled report on an art work in the library that is advised to be owned by the council. With the transfer of the library to the town council, the piece will not be properly insured, a risk that council needs to cover off. Two councillors proposed that the piece should be sold off and the proceeds placed in reserves to be used on schemes of relevance to the wider parish community. Another councillor felt that it is an important work that is of heritage value, and noted that improved security will reduce the cost of the insurance.

The Clerk reminded councillors of the need to keep the nature of the discussion confidential outside of the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the work be offered on loan to the Tate Gallery for a period of three months and, if that is declined, have the work moved to the first floor and alarmed as advised by the council’s insurers.