

MINUTES OF THE EXTRA-ORDINARY MEETING OF ST IVES TOWN COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM TECHNOLOGY ON THURSDAY 14 JANUARY 2021 AT 7.00 PM

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor T Harris (Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Arthur K
Burton P
Dale A
Henry R

Lait R
Messenger K
Mitchell A
Tulley R

Nicholls C
Wells J
Williams T

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

RFO & Corporate Services Manager

111. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Councillor J Symons, Councillor S Tanner,

112. CHAIRMAN’S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman gave his thanks to councillors for their good wishes during his recent period of illness, which were much appreciated. He also gave congratulations to the Town Clerk for recently passing the Certificate in Local Council Administration. He announced a change in the order of the agenda as there was now a public speaker at the meeting.

113. PUBLIC SPEAKING

The Council received an update from the Chairman of the Town Deal Board. She reported on progress to date, towards the development of the Town Investment Plan, explaining that the level of community engagement had been excellent. The board had received over 1,000 responses from the community which had translated into 43 expressions of interest for investment projects. These had been appraised and 29 had proceeded to scoring. These had been assessed and distilled further into projects which had formed part of the plan. Community priorities included young people, affordable housing, employment skills and training opportunities which diversified the economy from tourism. The draft plan would be submitted to Cornwall Council for approval on the 26th of January and then to Government by the end of the month. The board was positive about the outcome and would welcome greater scrutiny from the public through a town ZOOM meeting and through sharing the budget information and approved projects on the website. Unfortunately the workload was so severe as to lead to the departure of the project officer and external consultants had been recruited to assist the board in drawing together the draft plan.

The Council welcomed the update. They expressed concern about the departure of the project officer and sought reassurance about the value for money of using consultants. The Board Chairman commented that the external support was essential to ensure the plan was completed and they brought critical experience and skills.

The Chairman thanked the board chair for their attendance at the meeting.

114. DECLARATION OF MEMBER/OFFICER INTERESTS

None

115. REQUESTS FOR DISPENSATION

None

116. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held on 10 December 2020.

117. CO-OPTION TO A CASUAL VACANCY

The Chairman introduced the report, confirming that due to the recent co-option of councillors, members should be familiar with the process and he welcomed five applicants to the meeting. Each of the applicants made a presentation in turn and left the meeting, during which time a recorded vote took place. All candidates returned to the meeting, were thanked for their interest and contribution and advised of the outcome.

RESOLVED – that Luke Rogers be co-opted to serve as councillor for the St Ives East ward.

118. COVID UPDATE

The Town Clerk introduced the report. She explained that many of the arrangements for the third lockdown had already been put in place, based on risk assessments and the previous arrangements. However, there were several issues on which the Council's views were sought. These included opening arrangements for the library and information service and the proposal to furlough some staff, given the service's dependence upon income, opening the public conveniences and the proposed cancellation of Feast. The Council's views were sought on the proposals.

Council discussed issues arising from the report. Members supported the proposed opening arrangements for the library and the furloughing of three staff. They also supported the continuation of only having West Pier and the Sloop toilet open, although requesting that negotiations with CORMAC reduced the cleaning charges during this period.

Members expressed disappointment on the necessity of cancelling feast, but agreed that it was unavoidable. This would require consultation with the church, due to their involvement in the event. Members discussed ideas on how the town might mark feast in a different way. An amendment to the recommendations, that saffron buns be delivered to the schools to mark feast, was voted upon and carried.

RESOLVED - that the Council note the business continuity plans as set out and approve:

- i) The furloughing of some staff in the LIS who are dependent upon income generation
- ii) The promotion of live links for all remote Council meetings
- iii) The cancellation of February's feast celebrations, subject to the church's agreement and with saffron buns being delivered to local schools to mark the event
- iv) Keeping the annual electors meeting under review and considering remote options

119. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meeting) Act 1960, the press and public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following matters on the grounds that they involve information of a confidential nature.

120. REQUEST FOR A TERMINATION PAYMENT

The Town Clerk introduced the report and explained the background to the request. In addition, the Chairman of the Staffing Committee commented and asked that the Council support the recommendation.

RESOLVED – to approve the termination of the contract on the terms set out in the report.

121. PROPOSED HEADS OF TERMS FOR A COMMERCIAL LEASE

The Council debated the proposal to enter into a new commercial lease on the terms set out. This would involve a 5 year lease but with a request for the passing rent to be charged for the first year. It supported the proposal in the context of the current economic situation. Members expressed concerns that a suitable mechanism be developed to re-charge the appropriate proportion of utilities costs. The Town Clerk explained that it would not be cost efficient to separate out the supply so this would need to be done on a pro rata basis.

RESOLVED - to

- i) Approve the charging of the passing rent for this property for a 12 month period with a market rent charged for the remainder of the term, together with a proportion of utility costs.
- ii) Upon the conclusion of acceptable heads of terms, authorise the Town Clerk to instruct solicitors to prepare a lease and apply the Town Council's seal to the final document.

Meeting closed at 8.21 pm

Chairman