

Minutes of the Council of St Ives Town Council held in the Council Chamber, Guildhall on Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 7.pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor K Arthur (Town Mayor)  
Vice-Chairman – Councillor S Tanner (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Arthur L	Messenger K	Hynes S
Beveridge J	Mitchell A	Ryall
Harris T	Hodson C	Tanner S

OFFICERS

Town Clerk  
RFO & Corporate Services Manager  
Cultural Services Manager  
Administration Assistant

IN ATTENDANCE

Cornwall Councillor Linda Taylor

43. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE –

Councillors J Wells, L Rogers, R Gaunt, A Dale, R Bradford

44. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS AND/ OR THE COMMUNITY LINK OFFICER

- 44.1 The Secretary of Friends of Edward Hain addressed Council. They stated that the group are still determined to keep the building for the community and do not want the building to be sold. Under disposal terms for NHS estates, there is a stand still period of 40 days during which other members of the public sector estate have the ability to express an interest in purchasing the property as a priority purchaser. The Friends would like to request that the Town Council consider becoming such a ‘Priority Purchaser’ for the building. The Friends have significant funds towards the acquisition and are willing to fundraise in order to fully finance the purchase of the property.

They emphasised that the building has been part of the community for 50 years and the community has fought to keep the services for the last 20 years.

The Chairman advised that this was not an item on the agenda for decision. However, given the importance of the issue, she had agreed with the Clerk that there would be an Extraordinary Council called before the next Council in October to discuss this matter.

- 44.2 The Chair of the Community Land Trust (CLT) provided an update on their projects:

- Vicarage Flats: The CLT had received confirmation of a Town Investment Plan funding allocation. It would be requesting the Town Council’s committed grant of £25,000 towards the project.
- The CLT expressed concern about the minutes of the Community and Environment Committee meeting (C&E 39) and requested that the CLT and Cornwall CLT are

considered as delivery partners for future affordable housing projects.

- The CLT were keen for a Town Council representative to be nominated to the St Ives Charter – Voluntary Sector Support Group.

The Mayor confirmed that the Council would nominate a representative.

44.3 The Chair of St Ives BID gave an update to the meeting. They stated that they had appointed a new BID manager, Sarah Stevens (who was also Chair of Town Deal Board), following the resignation of Helen Tripconey. Sarah will start on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. They gave the following updates:

- Winter planting will commence soon around the town.
- Christmas lights switch on is planned for October half term.
- New Year's Eve: re-usable glasses are being investigated and risk measures for COVID being considered.
- St Ives in December would like to create a Christmas Market and are working with the Town Clerk to secure welcome back funding. Use of the Sloop had been rejected by Cornwall Council and they were investigating other options.

45. **REPORTS FROM CORNWALL COUNCILLORS**

Councillor Mitchell presented his circulated report highlighting issues of concern:

- Indiscriminate parking – he advised that Cornwall Council had a sub-committee reviewing parking and he would be taking the local issues of resident parking, increasing loading bays in town for tradespeople.
- The housing emergency has escalated and he looked forward to working with the portfolio holder Councillor Monk on initiatives to tackle it.

Members asked about parking enforcement. They wanted clarification on how many attendants and hours were dedicated to St Ives and how many tickets were issued.

Cornwall Councillor Linda Taylor provided a verbal report to the meeting.

- In response to concerns about parking and enforcement, she explained that it was a discretionary service. Cornwall Council were exploring ways to increase enforcement and make it self-funded.
- Cornwall Council were also lobbying for changes to the issue of peddlers licences, making local authorities responsible, not the police given their more detailed local knowledge.
- She thanked the Mayor, Town Clerk and Officers for the Mayor's dinner, it was a very enjoyable evening, the food was impressive and it showcased the Guildhall.
- She was trying to resolve the awful smell in Carbis Bay. She had written to the CEO of South West Water and was awaiting a response.
- Proposals for double yellow lines for Lelant and Carbis Bay were going to consultation.
- Cornwall Council seeking to implement their election pledge of Twenty's plenty – implementing a 20mph limit across towns and villages. Local areas had the option to refuse if they didn't feel it is necessary.
- Cornwall Councillors have been allocated £3,000 for local projects through their Community Chest.
- She visited the opening of a new housing scheme in Carbis bay built by Bunney Homes. It was good news that the affordable homes - 16 houses delivered by Ocean Housing were being occupied first.
- The Council had implemented a new policy banning the giving of pets for prizes on

CC land.

She also made a number of points in relation to the current housing crisis:

- She thanked the Town Council for their collaboration on work with Cornwall Council to identify sites for development.
- She stated that 600 people in St Ives were on the housing register needing urgent housing. There were 17,000 on the register in all of Cornwall. There were approximately 2,200 empty homes in Cornwall, 130 of them were Council properties empty and they were working on getting them back into use.

Cornwall Council were pursuing a number of other measures, including

- Seeking to enforce covenants imposed on former right to buy properties
- Working with the Government on ways to regulate holiday and second homes.
- a pilot model for private landlords to have long term lets
- An increase on the number of affordable housing rural exception sites

Members asked questions in response

- Confirmation was sought that the double yellow lines in Lelant included the Badger corner - this was confirmed.
- Whether there was scope for businesses in town could make an equity contribution to the housing crisis as it affects their staff.
- Could planning applications for residential properties change of use be retrospective
- Why was Cornwall Council selling off properties in the Town which could help with the housing crisis – the response was that this had been subject to consultation with the Town Council and were either not suitable for residential use or owned by the Council.

RESOLVED - that the Council note the reports and Cornwall Councillors were thanked for their positive contribution to the meeting.

46. PUBLIC SPEAKING

None

47. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman informed those present that there would be an Extraordinary Council before the 14 October Council to discuss the Friends of Edward Hain proposal. She also advised that she was planning a Councillors half-day workshop, to develop the Council's future priorities and strategy. Details would be shared in due course.

48. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER/ OFFICER INTERESTS

None

49. REQUEST FOR DISPENSATION

None

50. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Council Meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021.

51. TOWN CLERK'S UPDATE REPORT

The Council reviewed the Clerk's update report and commented as follows:

Min 156 - Craze Hunkin Trust – The Town Clerk confirmed that a final agreement had been sent to the Chairman of the Trustees. She stated that full structural surveys had been completed and that some properties were identified to need external building work. The next steps would be to arrange a meeting with the Trustees.

Min 105 - Guildhall Lift – The Town Clerk stated that all the preparations had been carried out (estimates from lift companies, structural survey etc). Funding was awaited as this was part of the permission to borrow, which was an item for decision on the agenda.

RESOLVED - that subject to the above comments and amendments, the report be noted.

52. OUTCOME OF A NOTICE OF CASUAL VACANCY IN THE LELANT WARD AND DECISION TO CO-OPT

The Town Clerk stated that the deadline for electors to request an election had passed on the 8<sup>th</sup> September and no electors had made a request. As a result, the recommendation was that the Council seek to fill the vacancy by co-option in accordance with the Council's adopted co-option policy.

RESOLVED – that in the light of insufficient requests from electors for a by-election to be held, the Council fill the casual vacancy in the Lelant ward by co-option, in accordance with the adopted policy and arrangements as set out.

53. BORROWING FOR CAPITAL PURPOSES

The Town Clerk provided some background to the Council's borrowing application for the benefit of new Councillors. She explained that local councils have to follow a specific procedure to borrow funds for capital investment, including detailed consultation with residents, confirmation from CALC and then approval from Government. The previous council consulted residents on borrowing for capital works in 2020 and made the application in February 2021. Due to a significant Government backlog, officers only received an acknowledgement from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government in late August. The initial response required some additional information to be provided. But most critically, the previous council decision had only been to *submit* an *application* for borrowing. In order to proceed, the Council were actually required to resolve to borrow for capital purposes.

RESOLVED – that the Council

- i) Seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to apply for a Public Works Loan Board loan of £200,000 over the borrowing term of 5.5 years for community projects as set out in the community consultation document. The annual loan repayments will be approximately £38,000 and have already been built into the 2021-22 budget. It is not intended to increase the precept in future years, specifically for the purpose of the loan repayments.
- ii) That a copy of the resolution, together with responses to the other queries raised be provided to MHCLG as soon as possible.

54. ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW YEAR'S EVE CELEBRATIONS

*Councillor Hodgson left the room*

The Town Clerk informed the Council that a meeting had taken place with nominated councillors and the BID Chair to discuss the future arrangements for the New Year's Eve. For some years there had been a difference of opinion about the status of the celebration and whether it constituted an event which needed to be directly managed or not. Annual negotiations between Cornwall Council and BID had taken place with considerable debate and with difficulty in achieving a partnership agreement. Cornwall Council health and safety and emergency planning advice was that New Year's Eve was an event which should be managed as such. Yet, at the same time, they were reluctant to be legal or contractually responsible for its management. The event was largely funded by St Ives BID paying for fireworks and the event management company who had organised it for several years. Costs continued to rise and it was concerning that there was a requirement for the event to be managed, whilst at the same time, public sector resources to do so were limited. BID were asking that the Council become an official partner to the event and also consider increasing its contribution to reflect the rising costs (St John Ambulance, road closures, event management, security etc). The Council's contribution would be higher this year (£4,000), due to savings from last year's cancellation.

Members discussed the proposal and the following points were made:

- The safe management of the event was important, in order for it to continue
- There needed to be clarity about Cornwall Council's role – some of the key responsibilities were theirs – highway management, street cleaning and the event took place on their land.
- There ought to be a three way partnership
- There seemed to be some uncertainty about what becoming a partner would involve, for example entering into the contract with an event management company exposed the council to risk and cost – what were the details of these
- It was important to reach a long term agreement which ended protracted annual discussions.

*[Councillor Hodgson returned to the meeting at this point]*

The Chairman asked the Clerk to sum up and distil their discussion into a resolution.

*At this point, Councillor Messenger declared a conflict of interest as he was the Council's representative on the BID Board and would not be voting.*

The Town Clerk suggested a proposed wording for the recommendation which was subsequently voted upon.

RESOLVED – that the Council

- i) Express in-principle support for working with BID and becoming a partner to the event, subject to legal advice and a more detailed discussion with Cornwall Council regarding their future role and
- ii) Request that Finance & General Purposes Committee be asked to consider the Council's annual contribution as part of the budget setting process.

55. COUNCIL OUTSIDE REPRESENTATIVES ON OTHER BODIES

The Clerk identified a number of groups, for which the Council had been asked to field a representative.

**RESOLVED** – that

- i) Councillors L Arthur and Hynes were put forward as Council points of contact for the Cornwall Seal Research Group and Wildlife Trust
- ii) Councillors Harris, Ryall and Hodgson were confirmed as Council representatives for the St Ives Transport Working Group
- iii) The Town Clerk circulate email correspondence from CALC and St Ives Charter seeking Councillor nominees.

56. **MOTION ON AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

The Clerk confirmed that she had received a written motion from Councillor Beveridge in advance of the meeting and in accordance with standing orders. Councillor Beveridge was invited to address the Council. She read a motion, highlighting the housing emergency in Cornwall and explained that a number of local councils were signing the motion to call on Cornwall Council and Government to take action. There was a role for Cornwall Council to address the current housing crisis in Cornwall.

Cornwall Council had the power to:

- Restrict the number of second homes and holiday homes in the community
- Stop Cornwall Council homes becoming holiday lets
- Make affordable housing a priority
- Address the concept of affordability

Some Councillors questioned how effective a motion to Government would be, given that the same measures had been requested previously. Cornwall Councillor Mitchell advised that work on standards in private rented sector had stalled following the local elections and COVID but could be resurrected.

Members proposed that Councillor Beveridge's motion be accepted in full and that the resolution be conveyed to the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government and Cornwall Council. The Clerk noted that it was a motion tabled by Bude Town Council and they should be informed that St Ives resolved to support it.

A forthcoming visit of the Secretary of State to St Ives was also an opportunity to ask the Government to consider the proposals included in the motion.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council

- i) Adopt the resolution in full, as set out in the report, asking for Cornwall Council and the Government to consider a range of measures to tackle the housing emergency.
- ii) Write to Cornwall Council and Government asking them to consider the proposed measures

57. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

The Council received and considered the following committee minutes:

- 1) Finance & General Purposes Committee 1st July
- 2) Community & Environment Committee 26th August
- 3) Devolution Panel 29 July
- 4) Facilities 2 September
- 5) Committee Recommendations

RESOLVED – that the minutes of the committee meeting set out above be received and, subject to the above amendments, the resolutions therein be approved.

58. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION

None

59. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Councillor Beveridge attended the Police Liaison Group presentation on ‘Unconscious Bias’. The officer had offered to give the same presentation to Council.

60. CORRESPONDENCE

60.a The Council received a request from Royal Cornwall Hospitals Trust to illuminate the Island Chapel on Thursday 23 September to promote Organ Donation Week 2021.

RESOLVED – that the Council agree to the request on the basis that it was for a good cause.

60.b The Council received a request from Cornwall Council to consider and respond to a survey on Hackney Carriage Licences in the town. Members discussed the request. They were concerned that the lateness of the request and the lack of detail meant that it was not possible to agree a single response

RESOLVED – that members respond to the questionnaire giving their individual views. .

61. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The RFO& Corporate Services Manager informed members that the Town Council had received its second precept instalment early. The funds have been deposited into an interest bearing account.

RESOLVED - that:

- 1) Payments made since the last meeting totalling £488,164.99 be approved
- 2) Credit card payments made since the last meeting totalling £11,621.10 be approved
- 3) Receipts of £258,242.80 up to 16<sup>th</sup> August 2021 be noted, and
- 4) the accounts listed totalling £12,873.39 be paid.

62. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that

“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 matter on the grounds that it involves information of a confidential nature.

63. PROPOSAL TO CREATE A NEW HONORARY FREEMAN OF THE TOWN OF ST IVES

The Town Clerk explained that the Council had been asked to mark the retirement of a well-known member of the community. Given the contribution he has made over the years, she was proposing that the Council consider bestowing the title of honorary freeman. It was the highest honour the town council bestow and was not granted very frequently - the only other time since 1974 had been in 2014. But it was felt to be appropriate.

She explained that there was a formal legal process to be followed, outlined in the 1972 Local Government Act. The Council would be required to convene a special meeting and put it to the vote with two thirds of members in attendance required to vote in favour of the proposal. She advised that there would be a financial implication as there would need to be a purchase of robes.

Members discussed the recommendation in terms of the honour and the costs involved. There was unanimous support for the nature of the award. Some members were concerned about the related costs and proposed alternatives. However, members generally felt that traditions ought to be followed. There might a possibility of the robes being granted as a life long loan to be returned for future use.

Members also discussed the principle of local awards, to recognise the activities and good deeds done by members of the local community. It was agreed that the Citizen of the Year awards would be re-instated next year and that this be discussed at the next meeting of the Community & Environment Committee.

**RESOLVED** – that the Council

- i) Notify the individual concerned to seek their views and, subject to their willingness to be considered, bring a report to a specially convened meeting of the Council and
- ii) Request that the Community & Environment Committee review and re-instate the Citizen of the Year Award for 2022

Next Meeting: 14 October 2021

Meeting closed at 8.55 pm

Chairman