

Minutes of the Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 21 January 2010 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor Mrs Y Watson (Town Mayor)

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

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T

Fry B

Nicholls C C

Richards P J

Sanger C E

Slack K

Symons J H

Tonkin G E T

Tulley R

Williams T M

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

Administrative Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors Channon L, Isaacs H R G, Mitchell A P and Peters M.

PRAYERS

The Town Mayor's Chaplain led the Council in Prayer and gave details of events planned throughout the year to mark the 600th anniversary of St Ives Parish Church.

147. POLICE LIAISON SESSION

PC Scott Perkin presented the police report, including crime figures and detection rates. He advised that it was expected to improve on last year's detection rates, crime in the area had dropped by 38% on last year and the area had one of the best detection rates in Cornwall. Of the two burglaries listed in the report, one had actually been criminal damage as entry had not been gained, and the other was the break-in at Tesco. New Years Eve festivities had gone well, with only 3 arrests and a good atmosphere on the night. Police were looking to Highways to improve roads and road furniture as they are important to public perception and part of improving a strong sense of community pride. The Police would also appreciate more parking enforcement to be carried out in the town by enforcement officers sympathetic to the town and its businesses.

After highlighting the current PACT priorities, PC Perkin answered Councillor's questions on tackling domestic violence, and the need to raise awareness with children of the need for roadworthy bikes and for bikes to be fitted with lights if cycling in the dark / dusk.

148. REPORTS FROM COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

Tate St Ives

Mark Osterfield, Executive Director of Tate St Ives, reported that work on repairing the wall at the Barbara Hepworth Museum was underway, with the road closure to be in place from 25 January to 31 March 2010. Works were being carried out with care to avoid unnecessary damage / nuisance. It was expected that the second element of the repair scheme would be carried out in October when the next road closure would be needed.

Fire Safety Week

The Assistant Chief Fire Officer, Ted Simpson, and his colleague Kevin Thomas reported on the St Ives Community Fire Reduction Week 16 – 20 November 2009. This had been an opportunity to raise awareness of the change in fire safety regulations and had been aimed primarily at the higher risk properties that offered sleeping accommodation. Fire safety audits had been carried out, resulting in 2 enforcement notices and 11 agreed action plans. Seminars had been held for businesses and the team had spent time walking around the town advising the various businesses on their route.

Councillors thanked the fire officers for their valuable work and in particular the recent awareness raising carried out.

149. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Vicky Stevens spoke about the difficulties being encountered by a number of people who were trying to purchase shared ownership properties at Joannies Avenue. There was a land ownership issue on a stretch of land that needed to be resolved in order that mortgages could be finalised.

Councillors offered to call a meeting between the developer, town council representatives and representatives of the homeseekers to try to assist in resolving this issue.

150. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Chairman advised of the following:

1. There would be two additional reports included on the agenda in view of their urgency - 'street trading application consultation for Lifeboat Day' and 'access to St Ives Vicarage'.
2. Coast Magazine had shortlisted St Ives in the 'Best Family Holiday Destination' category. Awards would be announced in London on 24 March, the Town Mayor and Consort would be attending.

151. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Williams declared a Personal Interest in Minute 166 (Allotments) as a person whose name was on the allotments waiting list.

Councillor Fry declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minutes 153 & 155 (Porthminster Garden Project) – as a member of the project team, Minute 160 (St Ives in Bloom) – as Chairman of the St Ives in Bloom Group, and Minutes 154 & 156 (St Ives Guide) – due to business links. In accordance with paragraph 12(2) of the Code of Conduct, he spoke on these items during permitted public speaking time and then withdrew from the meeting during consideration of these items. He also declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 160 (Community and Amenities Committee recommendation – Grant Awards – Kidz R Us application) as a member of the Kidz R Us management team, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Sanger declared a Personal Interest in Minutes 154 & 156 (St Ives Guide) as he had given photographs for use in the guide.

Councillor Tonkin declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 153 & 155 (Porthminster Garden Project) as a friend and political ally of the garden designer, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillors Richards and Slack each declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minutes 156 (St Ives Guide) and 160 (Community and Amenities Committee recommendation – Carbis Bay Signage), as restaurant and guest house business owners, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of these items.

Councillor Mrs Tanner declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 172 (Street Trading Licence Application consultation) as a relation of the applicant, and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

152. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the meetings of the meeting of the Council held on 3 December 2009.

153. PRESENTATION – PORTHMINSTER BEACH GARDEN

Councillors Fry declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item as a member of the project team, and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Chris Cocklin (Porthminster Garden Project) and Kate Keogh (Cornwall Council) gave a presentation on plans to create a sub-tropical garden for Porthminster Beach, with landscaped planting and outdoor exercise equipment. The plan had evolved from the 2006 Community Strategic Plan for St Ives and had been developed by a range of organisations and groups. The project would provide level open space for recreation and an alternative visitor attraction.

Upon hearing the presentation, Councillor Tonkin declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item as a friend and political ally of the garden designer.

154. PRESENTATION – ST IVES GUIDE

Councillor Fry declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item due to his business interest, and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Marco Amura and his colleague gave a presentation on proposals for a 2010 St Ives Guide. This was being developed in response to the current lack of literature advertising visitor attractions and facilities in St Ives. It was proposed to produce a quality magazine-style publication to help promote the town. The publication would be mainly distributed via the associated website, being a free magazine with recipients required to cover the cost of postage.

It was noted that the Tourist Information Office were supportive of a publication that could be posted on request to potential visitors to the town, although they were not able to circulate information on accommodation which had not been accredited.

155. PORTHMINSTER BEACH GARDEN PROJECT

Councillors Fry and Tonkin each declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Following the presentation given earlier in the meeting, Councillors discussed the proposed sub-tropical garden project, following which it was

RESOLVED – that the Porthminster Beach Garden Project be supported, with a request that the planting scheme incorporates native species to attract wildlife.

156. ST IVES GUIDE

Councillors Fry, Richards and Slack each declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

Following the presentation given earlier in the meeting, Councillors discussed the proposal for a company to develop and publish a 2010 St Ives Guide, noting the benefits in promoting the facilities, attractions and unique identity of the town and surrounding area, following which it was

RESOLVED – that the proposed 2010 St Ives Guide be welcomed, with efforts to continue to ensure that the guide may be distributed by the TIC if possible, otherwise an offer from the Town Council to make the guide available from outside the Town Council offices.

157. BUSKERS IN ST IVES

Councillor Tanner raised the issue of busking in Fore Street, St Ives in response to requests for help in resolving the noise nuisance experienced by residents and traders in the area, advising that this was a matter which had been ongoing since 1998. Local police had stated that they could implement a ban on busking in Fore Street with the support of the Town Council.

During discussion, it was noted that the problem had worsened in 2009 with the use of the

forecourt of the former Woolworths, although it was hoped that this would be addressed with the opening of a new business at this location in the near future. Whilst the noise nuisance aspect was fully appreciated by Councillors, efforts were made to balance this consideration against the buskers' contribution to the atmosphere of the town and also the inclusion of busking in festivals and events throughout the year.

RESOLVED – that the Town Council support a ban on the playing of amplified music in Fore Street.

158. WEST CORNWALL LOCAL ACTION GROUP

An invitation had been received from CALC to nominate a Councillor to be considered for appointment.

RESOLVED – that Councillor Fry be nominated to be considered for appointment to the West Cornwall Local Action Group.

159. CONSULTATION: PROPOSED LAND DISPOSAL AT HAWKES POINT, CARBIS BAY, ST IVES

The Town Council had been consulted by Network Rail on the proposed disposal of land at Hawkes Point.

RESOLVED – that Network Rail be advised that the Town Council support the proposed disposal of land at Hawkes Point, Carbis Bay.

160. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS

The recommendations of the following committees were considered:

- Community and Amenities Committee held on 16 December 2009
- Environment Committee held on 19 January 2010

As Councillors needed to declare Prejudicial Interests in two of the Community and Amenities Committee recommendations (Carbis Bay Signage and Kidz R Us grant application), these were considered separately, with the vote on all other recommendations being taken *en bloc*.

It was noted that the recommendation on The Burrows would be considered as part of the agenda item later in the meeting.

RESOLVED – that the recommendations of the committees listed above be approved.

Recommendation of the Community and Amenities Committee – Carbis Bay Signage

Councillors Richards and Slack each declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

The Chairman of the Community and Amenities Committee presented the committee's recommendation. Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that whilst sympathetic to the needs of businesses in Carbis Bay, the Town Council continue to support the traffic management plans for the area, including signing day visitors to St Ives to the old coach road. The Town Council also requests that the ‘St Ives’ wording on the white traffic directional signs at the Lelant roundabout be cleaned and maintained to enable this wording to be read.

Recommendation of the Community and Amenities Committee – Kidz R Us grant application

Councillor Fry declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

RESOLVED – that a grant of £250 be awarded to Kidz R Us for use in accordance with the application submitted.

161. COMMITTEE MINUTES

The Minutes of the following committee meetings had been circulated prior to the meeting:

Planning Committee – 10 December 2009 and 14 January 2010

Community and Amenities Committee – 16 December 2009

Environment Committee – 19 January 2010

Resources Committee – no minutes in this cycle (22 December meeting cancelled)

RESOLVED – that the Minutes referred to above be approved and adopted.

162. REPORTS FROM COUNCILLOR REPRESENTATIVES ON OUTSIDE BODIES

None.

163. CORRESPONDENCE

All correspondence circulated was received and noted.

164. SCHEDULE OF ACCOUNTS

The Schedule of Accounts was circulated and it was

RESOLVED – that

(1) payments made since the last meeting totalling £8,354.80 be approved; and

(2) the accounts listed totalling £76.69 be paid

165. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that in accordance with the Public Bodies (Admissions to Meetings) 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.

166. ALLOTMENTS – CONSIDERATION OF POTENTIAL SITE (Paragraph 3)

Councillor Williams declared a Personal Interest in this item.

A written report was circulated at the meeting, setting out details of the potential site options for the provision of allotments, with the long term option being the site at Venton Vision, and short/medium term options being potential lease of sites at Trenwith Lane or at Trowan.

Following discussion, it was

RESOLVED – that the recommendation as set out in the report be approved.

167. MARKET HOUSE – UPDATE (Paragraph 3)

An update was given on an ongoing tenant matter at Market House. Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED – that the re-assignment of lease application be considered at the next scheduled meeting of the Council, pending receipt of references and fulfilment of the assurances given regarding the current tenancy agreement.

168. TRENWITH BURROWS – CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE APPROACH (Paragraph 3)

The Chairman of the Environment Committee presented the committee's recommendation and explained the background to it. Cornwall Council had invited the Town Council's views on the focus for pursuing land stability and future uses of the land at Trenwith Burrows.

Following discussion and full consideration, it was

RESOLVED –

- (1) to demand that Cornwall Council seek swift enforcement of the High Court Injunction in view of the breaches which have occurred since it was served, using international police forces and extradition as necessary; and
- (2) that consideration on preferences for the future use of the land be deferred until a later date.

169. APPROVAL OF BANKING ARRANGEMENTS FOR PALEMON BEST FUNDS
(Paragraph 3)

The Clerk reported that the funds in the Palemon Best charity deposit account had matured and were due to be reinvested, and gave options based on the criteria recently used when reviewing the deposit of Town Council funds.

Following consideration based on securing a healthy rate of interest in a secure account, it was

RESOLVED – that the Palemon Best funds be deposited in a business bond with Santander.

170. RE-ADMITTANCE OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

RESOLVED – that that press and public be re-admitted to the meeting.

171. ACCESS TO VICARAGE

The Town Council had been invited to comment on an ongoing dispute between Cornwall Council and a neighbouring property owner regarding an access lane which provided access to the vicarage and other properties. Users of the access lane complained of obstructions which limited the access available.

RESOLVED – that the proposed meeting be supported and for the town council to participate in the meeting through the attendance of Councillors Symons, Tanner and Sanger.

172. STREET TRADING LICENCE APPLICATION – MISS S TANNER, LIFEBOAT DAY

Councillor Mrs Tanner declared a Prejudicial Interest in this item and withdrew from the meeting during its consideration.

A consultation had been received on a street trading licence application.

RESOLVED – that the street trading application by Miss S Tanner for Lifeboat Day be supported.