

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 1 July 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	Slack K
Fry B	Tonkin G E T
Isaacs H R G	Tulley R
Mitchell A P	Williams T M (until 7.45pm)
Nicholls C C	

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Administrative Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors Richards P J, Sanger C E and Symons Mrs J.

15. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

In view of the fact that the report on the allotments proposal was tabled at the meeting, there was discussion on whether there was sufficient time to enable the matter to be considered at the meeting.

RESOLVED – that

- (1) the report entitled ‘Proposed Allotment Site at Trowan’ be considered at this meeting and for a decision to be deferred following consideration of the report if considered necessary to do so at that point; and
- (2) The meeting of the Environment Committee originally scheduled to follow the Council meeting, be rescheduled to be held at a later date.

16. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Williams declared a Prejudicial Interest in Minute 19 as a person on the allotments waiting list, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of that item.

17. PUBLIC SPEAKING

A resident from the lane at Trowan spoke to raise his family’s concerns at the proposed allotment site, regarding traffic concerns, questioned whether parking at the site could be limited, questioned whether plot holders would cycle or catch the bus to the site, concern that works were halted but two people had planted vegetables in the field, impact on the AONB, environmental impact of car use to the site, farmers in the area had not been approached to

offer land, expecting a traffic nightmare for families for the sake of a hobby for others.

A homeowner from the development at Trowan raised concerns on behalf of the homeowners there, including inadequate access on the lane, call for allotments to be local and accessible, overdevelopment of the site in a sensitive area, potential for traffic gridlock on the lane, concerns at access for emergency vehicles, serious concerns at the proposal to use water from Trowan well – adequacy of supply, using highly treated water on fields and risking increase in radon in the supply to a dangerous level.

The Chairman of the Allotments Association spoke in support of establishing an allotment site at Trowan, acknowledging that the Council had a statutory duty to meet the demand from over 100 people on the waiting list, the benefits of allotments (including growing own food, physical and mental well-being, social and recreational aspects). He set out some of the difficulties already encountered in identifying suitable sites in St Ives and advised that it was unrealistic to find land in or on the edge of the town. He advised that from discussions with others on the waiting list it was clear that on the whole plot holders wished to care for the environment and to be good neighbours.

18. EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC

On the casting vote of the Chairman, it was 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.

Councillor Williams left the meeting at this point.

19. PROPOSED ALLOTMENT SITE AT TROWAN (Paragraph 3)

There was a full discussion amongst Councillors regarding the proposals for an allotment site at Trowan, the options available, advice received and the implications of the various courses of action available to the Council.

Considerations included: whether there could be a compromise regarding the water supply; consideration of the potential impact on neighbouring residents and property owners; advice received on water consumption, traffic issues and planning issues; steps taken by the Council to date with regard to establishing the site (in accordance with previous Council decisions); and the outcome of discussions with neighbouring residents and property owners.

In view of the discussion that had taken place and Councillor's awareness of the issues and implications, it was

RESOLVED – that the vote be taken.

RESOLVED – that the town council shall establish an allotment site at Trowan, with works to commence with immediate effect.

Councillor Fry requested that his name be recorded as voting for the proposal.

Councillor Mitchell requested that his name be recorded as voting against the proposal.

In view of this decision, associated matters were considered, following which it was further

RESOLVED – that

(1) Water:

– to accept the landowners right to extract water for the fields and to connect the pipework for the allotment site on that basis (to be metered at the field source). The water connection to not be ‘live’ whilst the following options were explored further and for further discussions with Trowan homeowners on potential for compromise or options:

- Whether water could be abstracted from the well for use on the fields without going through the treatment process
- To exercise the right to abstract water but to impose a voluntary limit for the allotment site
- To seek funding for a borehole

(2) Limit on plots:

- To impose a 20% reduction in plots (from the original 57) for the first year and to review the allotment site impact at the end of the first year of operation, with car sharing and sustainable growing initiatives to be encouraged

(3) Alternative water options

- To submit a LAG funding application for a borehole for the site (with the town council expected to contribute 10%), with a further report to be presented to Council.

(4) To make the additional payment recommended for the lease, as set out in the report.

(5) To aim to assign plots from the beginning of August, with the full (pro-rata) plot fees to be payable

20. CLOSURE OF ST JUST COASTGUARD (Paragraph 3)

Members were updated on correspondence received from St Just Town Council which provided information on the circumstances of the recent closure of the St Just Coastguard service.

Following consideration, it was

RESOLVED – that a letter to express similar concerns to those raised by St Just Town Council be sent to the management of the coastguard service in view of the reduced service, likely impact on St Ives and to request that every effort is made to continue the coastguard service at St Just.

21. INTERVIEW PANEL AND APPOINTMENT OF TRAFFIC CONTROL OFFICER
(Paragraph 3)

The Clerk gave an update on the progress made in seeking suitable candidates for the post of Traffic Control Officer.

RESOLVED – that the interview panel consist of the Mayor, Councillor Fry (on behalf of the Resources Committee), the Chairman of the Environment Committee, Town Clerk and Police Inspector, and that the interview panel be delegated the authority to make the appointment to this post.

Meeting closed at 9.15 pm

Chairman