

St Ives Town Council – Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Electors held in the Council Chamber, The Guildhall, St Ives on Tuesday 8 April 2014 at 6.00 pm

PRESENT

Councillor C Nicholls– Town Mayor

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T
Laity N
Mitchell AP
Tanner J

Tanner S
Taylor L J
Glanville R
Tulley R

OFFICERS

Town Clerk

ELECTORS

There were 10 electors present at the start of the meeting.

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Councillors M Armstong, R Birch, P Douglass, R Lait, J Symons, M Robertson and T Williams.

1. MINUTES OF LAST ANNUAL MEEETING – 22 April 2013

The minutes of the previous Annual Electors Meeting were noted.

2. TOWN MAYOR’S REPORT

The Town Mayor presented the Council’s Annual Report 2013/2014, a copy of which was circulated at the meeting, and discussed the matters set out within it, including the work of the council and the traditions and community events held throughout the year.

3. REPORTS FROM COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Each of the Committee Chairmen presented a report on the work of their committee throughout the year, as set out in the Annual Report.

Each of the Committee Chairmen in attendance presented their reports as set out in the Annual Report.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Mayor invited those electors present to raise any matters for discussion.

Points raised during discussion were:

- The cost of the public conveniences exceed the grant received and this was questioned, with concern that when devolving services Cornwall Council should provide the adequate level of funding for running the service
- Councillor Andrewes advised that in the coming year it was budgeted for the public conveniences to cost the town council £38,400. It was noted that there was a level

of uncertainty at the level of grant to be received from Cornwall Council in 2015/16 and that it was likely to be a challenging year, with charging and advertising being considered to help fund the service.

- It was noted that the Guildhall had been noticeably better used since the town council had taken it on. Councillor Andrewes stated that this was largely due to the Assistant Town Clerk, Jeremy Ward, for his front line service in enabling and encouraging hirers to book the hall.
- It was stated that the Guildhall had recently been registered for weddings.
- A question was answered about the role of a member of staff.
- With regard to the precept increase for the coming year, it was noted that local councils were facing the potential capping of precepts in coming years, with increases over a certain amount to possibly require a referendum. Whilst the town council resisted increases in precept, the increases in recent years had been necessary as the service provision of the town council had grown. It was noted that the St Ives precept was still lower than many other local towns.
- Plans for this year – the neighbourhood plan process to be funded this year by council tax (last year – from reserves). Other plans / possibilities – street weeding, open spaces, future sustainability of library service, potential for other community buildings to be devolved to the town council. The town council were also seeking to take on devolved services that bring in money, although this was proving more difficult than services which resulted in a cost saving to Cornwall Council
- What is the town council doing to seek devolution of car parks? Councillor Andrewes advised that Cornwall Council had reviewed its car park provision and divided into strategic and community car parks. There was more willingness to devolve community car parks, of which the only one in this parish was the Porthrepta Road Car Park. Budgetary provision of £40,000 for devolving services in 2014/15.
- Questioned how to ensure that more money making services are devolved. Councillor Mitchell reported on the cuts necessary for Cornwall Council to make over coming years, effectively cutting the budget by around a third. In this context, it was difficult for local councils to persuade the devolving of revenue raising services.

General Issues:

- Suggestion: small audience tonight – vacuum between the work of the council and people knowing about what it's doing. Single notice board in the town – post agendas – whole list, to keep people informed, and Minutes. Better communication needed – eg newsletter, more press releases.
- Areas of the town let the town down – eg the shelter on the harbour facing the pier, seating at Pednolva, gated seating areas.
- It was noted that the shelters referred to were the responsibility of Cornwall Council, but that the town council's handyman could be asked to see what is needed to repair it.
- Urged to retain the dog control orders on beaches – partly in view of the need to keep the beaches clean. Dog fouling seen as an issue around town.
- Toni Carver – noted that the town council website has lots of up to date information, but that in many instances people need to be interested enough to take the trouble to seek the information. The public speaking opportunity at Council and committee meetings also helped the communication between the council and the community. He stated that the Times and Echo printed the planning applications as a service rather than to generate revenue.

- Councillor Nicholls accepted the points about publicity and that the council could do more to encourage engagement
- In answer to a question about the Neighbourhood Plan, it was explained that there were a number of Saved Policies from the Penwith Local Plan, until the Cornwall Local Plan and the Neighbourhood Plan were adopted.
- Concerns were raised about the planning application for Treloyhan Hotel and it was explained that there would be a public meeting in view of the level of objections received.
- Concern that a large number of people were concerned about the application at Treloyhan but that many did not know about the planning meeting – the need for a greater level of communication was highlighted.
- It was suggested that a good way to encourage participation with the council could be through social media
- Andrew Mounsey – asked what the council intend to do to create a relationship with the BID Board when it is formed, now that the BID has been voted in, with potential with regard to the Guildhall, V&IC and car parks. The Mayor advised that the council had not formed a view at this stage, whilst it was noted by Councillor Tulley that successful BID's in operation in other areas worked closely with their local councils.
- In the BID document, it was stated that the business community would carry out activities for their trading environment, a speaker noted that the community as a whole should still have input into matters that affect the whole community as opposed to just the businesses in the town. It was noted that from the meetings held, the BID team had a commitment to improving the town to benefit the whole community.
- Raised point that some planning applications had been discussed by the town council before being published in the Echo.

The Mayor thanked all those who had attended for their interest and participation in the meeting.

Meeting closed at 7.15 pm

Chairman