

Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of St Ives Town Council held in the Council Chamber,
The Guildhall, St Ives on Thursday 7 February 2013 at 8.30 pm

PRESENT

Chairman – Councillor R Tulley (Town Mayor)

Vice-Chairman – Councillor C C Nicholls (Deputy Town Mayor)

COUNCILLORS

Andrewes T
Armstrong M
Fry B
Isaacs H R G
Laity N P
Mitchell A P
Sanger C E

Slack K
Symons J H
Tanner J
Tanner S
Tonkin G E T
Watson Y (until 10.12 pm)
Williams T M

OFFICERS

Town Clerk
Administrative Assistant

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – None

150. DECLARATIONS OF MEMBER / OFFICER INTERESTS

Councillor Laity declared an Interest in Minute 154 (Marine Mineral Mining consultation), due to a business interest, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Andrewes declared an Interest in Minute 153 (Business Improvement District), due to his involvement in the Farmers Market – an organisation that is a member of the Chamber of Trade, and withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Nicholls declared an Interest in Minute 153 (Business Improvement District), as a business rates payer, council representative on the Chamber of Trade, and spouse of a member of the Chamber working on the BID scheme.

151. PUBLIC SPEAKING

Paul Ford spoke on behalf of the Chamber of Trade with regard to the request from the Chamber for financial input from the town council towards its efforts to establish a Business Improvement District for St Ives.

152. MINUTES

RESOLVED – that the Chairman signs as a true and correct record the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting of the Council held on 24 January 2013.

153. BUSINESS IMPROVEMENT DISTRICT PROPOSAL

Councillors Andrewes and Nicholls withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Members took into account the content of the report circulated, and the presentation earlier in the meeting.

During discussion the value of BID areas for local towns in the area was noted, along with the apparent general willingness of the town's businesses

RESOLVED – that the town council be the guarantor of last resort, with agreement that a sum of up to £3,700 be granted to the Chamber of Trade for this initial stage of the scheme to ensure that the total sum needed by 15 February would be in place.

154. MARINE MINERAL MINING CONSULTATION

Councillor Laity withdrew from the meeting during consideration of this item.

Councillor Tulley reported that he had been contacted by various groups with concerns at the proposals from Marine Minerals Ltd to carry out works in St Ives Bay. He reported on a meeting with the director of Marine Minerals Ltd who had outlined the process and given an assurance that works in the St Ives area would not be carried out in July or August.

The Chairman advised that this was a scoping enquiry for the Environmental Impact Assessment and so comments at this stage should focus on informing the process at this stage.

Information from the company, and from the Marine Management Organisation were circulated. It was noted that this was an early scoping stage – no application had yet been submitted.

During discussion, the following points were raised:

- Concern – if the company has no intention of working within 200m of the shoreline, then they should not apply for a 200m limit.
- Concern – if the company have not yet decided on the machine to be used, how can they give an assurance on the condition of the seabed. How should the seabed be left? – need to protect surfing etc.
- Concerned at the potential adverse impact on the environment and tourism
- Concern at the industrialisation of the coastal area
- Too high a price to pay for the local environment and economy should the works go wrong
- Need to protect the local fishing industry
- Environmental impacts on fishing, wildlife, birdlife.
- Seal colony in the area needs to be protected
- Fishing – handliners would have their quota's affected
- There have been efforts over recent years to secure the area as a Marine Conservation Area – concern that the proposed works could jeopardise this work to preserve the local

environment

- With tourism being a major factor in the local economy, works such as these could have a significant adverse effect on tourism and therefore the economy.
- The company propose 2 million tonnes of sand per annum – concern that this has got to have a significant impact on marine-life, discolouration of water, destabilisation of the sand cells. Impact on wave patterns, tidal qualities etc.
- Noted that the company had advised that the scheme could create 100 jobs in the area.
- How would it affect our standing as one of the most beautiful bays in the world, and the blue flag status of local beaches?
- Question the impact of the significant number of lorry movements from Hayle to Bugle.

RESOLVED – that

- (1) with the information available at the meeting, the council is minded at this stage to object to the proposal;
- (2) With regard to the scoping exercise - that the MMO be advised that whilst the town council appreciates the need for the Environmental Impact Study to be carried out to inform the process, to request that it be ensured that the initial concerns of the council would be addressed at this stage and throughout the process; and
- (3) to call for St Ives Town Council to be a consultee for the licence application.

155. **SEAL OF THE COUNCIL FOR BEACH DOG CONTROL ORDER**

Members considered the Clerk's report, noting that it would be prudent to defer decision at this stage.

RESOLVED – that this matter be deferred until the next scheduled meeting of the Council.

156. **PROPOSED ACCESS RAMP FOR ST. IVES GUILDHALL**

It was reported that Cornwall Council had for some time been considering various options for improving access to the Guildhall. Architects had been consulted and had explored a number of alternatives.

A ramp would enable access to the ground floor offices and Visitor & Information Centre for people with mobility problems. The works could be carried out over coming weeks to coincide with the handover of the Guildhall to St Ives Town Council.

The proposal was for a ramp to be constructed of granite, with railings to match those on the balcony.

During discussion, it was noted that the ramp would improve access to the building, but that access to the first floor would still need to be resolved. It was agreed to be important to enable access to the first floor for those with mobility problems, however it was noted that there were approximately 90,000 visitors per annum to the Visitor & Information Centre.

Though not brought to council before, it was reported that there had been discussions with

Cornwall Council to which all town councillors were invited.

RESOLVED – that the vote on this item be recorded.

Voting for the proposal: Councillors Andrewes, Armstrong, Nicholls, J Tanner, S Tanner, Slack, Symons, Tulley, Watson, and Williams. (10)

Voting against the proposal: Councillors Fry, Isaacs, Laity, Mitchell, Sanger and Tonkin. (6)

Abstaining: None

RESOLVED – that the town council supports the proposed installation of the access ramp to the Guildhall, of granite and railing design.

157. 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 matter on the grounds that it involves 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.

158. BUILDING WORKS AND PROPOSALS AT THE GUILDHALL (Paragraph 3)

Relocation of ladies toilets (Concert Hall)

The Chairman reported on a meeting with a Cornwall Council officer earlier in the week regarding the proposed relocation of the ladies toilets on the ground floor of the concert hall.

The works were considered in the context of plans of the town council to further reconfigure the ladies toilets in the near future as part of a plan to improve facilities and storage in the concert hall complex. However, Cornwall Council had advised that the proposal was necessary to fit with the timescales of transfer and their plans to separate the building prior to transfer.

Major concern at the potential waste of public money if Cornwall Council proceed to relocate the toilets knowing that there would be further works in the near future.

RESOLVED – that the proposed relocation of the ladies toilets in the concert hall side of the building be accepted.

Councillor Watson left the meeting at this point.

Letting office space in the Guildhall

Following the decision of the council to advertise lettable office space and to work to let the space subject to responses to the advert and costs of conversion, the Clerk reported on the responses received from prospective tenants, with only one serious offer having been received. Costings had been sought for the works to convert office space to enable the area in question to be let.

Following debate, in view of concern by a number of councillors at the prohibitive cost of conversion, it was

RESOLVED – that the proposal to let the space currently occupied by the V&IC and to convert other office space in the building for its relocation, not be pursued.

159. UPDATE ON PROPERTY CONSULTANCY FOR TRANSITION OF THE GUILDHALL AND PUBLIC CONVENIENCES (Paragraphs 1, 2 & 3)

The Chairman of the Resources Committee reported that a consultant had been appointed on a daily rate to advise on and oversee the transition of the community assets to the town council. They were working on the basis that their work would be staged at intervals to enable flexibility regarding the work to be carried out whilst not committing the council to undue contractual arrangements.

RESOLVED - that the report be noted.

Meeting closed at 10.25 pm

Chairman