St. Ive Parish Council

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Minutes of a Meeting of the St Ive Parish Council held at 7.30pm on the 12th of December 2016 at Millennium House.

Members of the press and public were invited

Present: Cllr. Corney Chair, Cllrs. Bennison, Neal and Waddington

372. Apologies: C Cllr. Steph McWilliam will attend later

373. Public Participation:

Mr Haimes referred to the co-option of councillors that appears on the Agenda. In his view we could not co-opt within six months of an election. The notice we have received from County states that we have the option to co-opt at this time, or to wait until the 4th May election. Mr Haimes also suggested that his reading of the L.G Act suggests that the council is not quorate. This was a matter that was raised by the internal auditor. Our response is that council vacancies do not count in deciding on a quorum. In the council's view we are quorate. It was also suggested that the budget did not provide sufficient funding for future maintenance costs. We were asked to publish the end of year in the pump and on the website this was noted.

374. Declarations of Interest: None

375. Minutes of the last PC Meeting: Accepted as a true copy. Cllr. Waddington Proposed, Cllr. Neal seconded.

376. Matters Arising: The Clerk is investigating the provision of notices indication dropping litter on council property is an offence and culprits will be prosecuted.

377. Planning: Applications PA16/11200 3 Lower Wesley Terrace, rear bathroom extension. Supported. Cllr. Waddington proposed, Cllr. Bennison Seconds.

PA16/11559 Midwood Farm. Variation of notice. Supported Cllr.Neal Proposed, Cllr. Waddington Seconds.

379. Authorisation of Payments: Salaries £6262.79 Cllr. Bennison Proposed, Cllr Waddington Seconds .Approved. Creditors: Cllr Neal Questioned the membership fee to CIPFA for our accountant. It was agreed to pay the creditors net balance of £11226.81 after the CIPFA payment had been deducted. Proposed Cllr. Waddington, Seconded Cllr. Bennison. Agreed. Three votes to one.

Debtors: Noted

380. Business:

- **380.1. Pitney Bowles franking machine contract** expires August 2017. We should cancel the contract in August 2017 to avoid any penalty.
- **380.2**. **Chubb Alarm Panel**. It was agreed to purchase a new alarm panel at a cost of £905.14. This is less the £50 that Martin Green believes is unnecessary. Cllr. Waddington Proposed, Cllr. Bennison Seconds Agreed.
- **380.3**. **Grass cutting**. Cllr. Waddington did not think it was a good idea to use the football team to cut the grass rather than a contractor. We should not forget that we have a field in St Ive which must be included in any arrangement and the mower needs to be transported to that site. Cllr. Corney said the mower was purchased with a view to a councillor volunteering to cut the grass. The councillor who offered has since resigned and no longer wished to cut the grass. It was suggested the Parish

Clerk had a partial solution to this problem. Cllr. Bennison volunteered to contact the football team.

- **380.6. Emergency Plan**: A £500 grant has been approved and it was agreed to buy two sets of equipment one to be located at Pensilva the other at St Ive. Proposed Cllr. Waddington, Seconded Cllr. Bennison. Agreed.
- **380.8. Budget and Precept**: We have received a spreadsheet from the accounts clerk which supports a proposed precept of £60,000, this is a reduction from the precept of £64,750 for 2015/16. Cllr Bennison said this reflects improvements in MH income this year which points to a pattern of recovery. Cllr. Corney said the budget included a reduction in staff hours that had not been agreed by council. Cllr. Waddington said it was unwise to reduce the precept when as has already been said there are potential maintenance costs that could arise in 2017. Cllr. Corney said the reserve figure could well be much lower by the end of the financial year. The major funding problem for 2017 will be the car park, where we will be looking to grant funding but some contribution from the parish council must be anticipated. A vote was called for and the motion to reduce the precept was defeated. The Chair using a casting vote. The motion to maintain the precept at £64,000 was carried, the Chair using his casting vote.

At this point CC McWilliam had arrived and then delivered her report: The reduction in the number of County councillors would mean losing local accountability and overall democratic accountability. There would also be problems with party representation on committees. Devolvement to Town and Parish Councils is problematic in respect of their resources.

381. Correspondence: Cllr. Waddington read an email from CALC requesting volunteers for a working party to consider the reduction of county councillors. Interested parties to submit a 250 word statement of interest. Cllr. Waddington said he thought this condition would be counterproductive and would discourage participation.

Cllr. Neal asked C. Cllr. McWilliam who he should contact in Cornwall Council regarding our business rate demand. Cllr. McWilliam suggested Adam Paynter.

382. Reports from Committees:

382.1. Finance and Admin Committee: Agreed we should pay the SLCC subscription. Proposed by Cllr. Waddington Seconded Cllr. Bennison Agreed.

At this point Cllr. Corney pointed out that we need to approve the EGM minutes. In dealing with accuracy Cllr Corney said that it had not been recorded that he had proposed option 1 of the 3 options to be considered at the meeting. There had been no seconder for this proposal which was not put to a vote. The minutes were amended to reflect Cllr. Corney's preferred option. Cllr. Bennison proposed, Cllr Neal seconded, Agreed.

Cllr. Bennison asked that the Council Statement be discussed. Cllr. Corney said he felt the statement implied the transfer to PCA was unlawful, when it should say in order to make it legal this is the way it should be done. Cllr. Waddington said this was what was said, when referring to preconditions being met. Cllr. Corney said it did not say having met these condition it would be legal. The matter was momentarily deferred to discuss further recommendations from FAC.

Council approved the provision of a £50 float for the parish clerk to help fund Millennium House events. Proposed Cllr. Bennison, Seconded Cllr. Waddington.

382.3. Parks and Open Spaces. Steve Hoskins has removed the waste soil at the Cemetery. The litter bin was on order and painting the skate park would commence when leaves had finished falling. The issue of allotments cannot be resolved until land becomes available. MH car park refurbishment was in the hands of Peter Dipper who was prior to his resignation obtaining quotes. The Clerk will follow this up.

- **382.4. Personnel**. Cllr. Waddington was concerned about the lack of proper information and contract for new staff. The parish clerk to look into this.
- **383. Urgent Business**: Council returned to the question of the official statement. Cllr. Bennison proposed we approve the statement, Cllr Waddington seconds. Three votes for one against. Agreed.

No other business.

384. Date of Next Meeting: 9th January 2017 9.40 Finish