

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 13TH FEBRUARY 2019 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, ST NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors C Smith (Chair), H Bunt, P Critchon, A Bellringer, N J Ball, G Rogers and D Lucas.

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy
Jo Rowe for part of the meeting
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Martin Eddy said that a “makeover” of St Neot Orchard will take place on Saturday 16th February 2019 between 10am and 12 noon and that any help would be appreciated. He said that he has strimmed the orchard and the trees are doing well although two of the trees are missing. He said that it may be a good idea to consider installing steps from the orchard into the field. He also said that he understood that the legal work is ongoing.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received from Councillors Dr L Jones, R Berrett and O Burrows.

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th January 2019, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in item 15 on the agenda where it related to the Pavilion. The Clerk left the meeting during discussion of item 13 on the agenda

4. To receive a report on any matters arising from the previous meeting

Councillor C Smith explained that the new salt bins have been installed at Ambrose Lake, Carnglaze Caverns, Tripp Hill, Bush Hill and Lampen Bridge. He said that a dumpy bag of salt is being retained at Councillor H Bunt’s property. It was noted that the Clerk has applied to Cornwall Council’s Community Chest for a grant in the sum of £130.59 towards the salt bins and salt. Councillor H Bunt said that it may be a good idea to have a shovel in each salt bin.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

None

6. To answer any questions from Councillors, previously notified to the Clerk

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market

To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on Saturday 2nd February 2019 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 2nd March 2019

It was noted that Councillor D Lucas had attended the market on Saturday 2nd February 2019. He said that there were no issues raised. Councillor P Critchon said that a parishioner has reported that the steps from Loveny Close into Water Meadow are broken. Councillor C Smith said that he would obtain a quotation for the steps to be repaired or replaced. Councillor P Critchon volunteered to attend the market on Saturday 2nd March 2019.

9. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor M Eddy

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that there is a consultation taking place on 8th and 9th March 2019 regarding the future of Liskeard cattle market. He said that Cornwall Council is campaigning for a Cornish tick box on the census form. He also said that Cornwall Council has declared a commitment to reduce carbon emissions to zero by 2030. Councillor C Smith asked what the cost of this commitment will be. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the cost is being investigated. Councillor G Rogers said that it is impossible to reduce carbon emissions to zero with facilities such as Newquay Airport in Cornwall. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that emissions can be offset by planting trees. He said that Cornwall Council aims to put a strategy forward within the next 6 months to achieve the goal. He said that Cornwall Council has now agreed the capital budget and that one element of this is that they will purchase 240 housing units for the homeless. He said that this will save money on the cost of bed and breakfast provision for homeless people and it will give Cornwall Council some assets. Councillor N J Ball questioned why houses are being purchased outside the county. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the units are being purchased

in towns where there is a high incidence of homeless people. Councillor C Smith asked if Cornwall Council is seeking to purchase other types of residential properties. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that they are looking to build 1000 social houses as the affordable provision by private developers has not been a success. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that Paul Allen will be inspecting the highways in the parish. It was agreed that the Carnglaze Caverns road needs inspection as does the road to Woodlands Farm. Councillor C Smith reported that the coping stones at Lampen Bidge need urgent attention as they are nearly in the river. Councillor N J Ball asked how the enforcement case at Colliford Lake is progressing. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the resident is still in occupation on site and that he may be offered accommodation elsewhere to encourage him to vacate the site.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

b) Bodmin Moor Parishes Group

None

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor D Lucas said that he attended a meeting last week and will circulate the minutes in due course. He said that, at the meeting, there were table top briefings from NHS Kernow. He explained that the current problems they face are a reduced budget, an increase in the elderly population, a reduction in the number of care homes and a shortage of GP's. He said their approach is a collaborative approach with more integration with the GP's and a home-based approach to social care. He said that bed blocking in Cornwall has been reduced from 14% to 6%. He said that new applications for funding for highways works in the parish can be made to Cormac from March 2019. In terms of a community bus, Councillor D Lucas said that he would welcome feedback from those parishes who have such a facility. He said that there are various funding opportunities for the provision of a bus but a lot of work is involved in providing such a facility. He said it is imperative that the demand for a community bus is investigated. £815.02

10. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including –

Julie Ball (Toilet and Pavillion cleaning – February) - £188.50
Julie Rowe (Cleaning Cott Yard) - £50.00
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £30.96
British Telecommunications (Internet for Cott Yard) - £176.76
Daryll O'Neill (PAT for Pavillion) - £48.00
Daryll O'Neill (Emergency Lighting for Cott Yard) - £152.78

Christian Smith (Paint for goal and water heater for Cott Yard) – £149.04
Cormac Solutions (Salt Bins and salt) – £815.02

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that all of the above orders for payment be authorized. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

11. To receive correspondence from -

a) Cornwall Council

None

b) Others

None

12. Finance Report

To receive a current financial statement of the accounts and to review income and expenditure against budget

The Clerk reported that this month we have received income of £136.50 from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the Pavillion, £12.50 interest, £113.30 rent for Goonzion Downs, £601.45 rent from Heather Taylor for Cott Yard and £1,472.78 from Pertemps for rent for Cott Yard. The accounts balance at £67,655.84. The Chair signed the cash book.

The Clerk left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

13. Communication with the Clerk

To consider methods of improving communication with the Clerk

Following concerns expressed by Councillor C Smith regarding the difficulty contacting the Clerk by telephone, some discussion took place regarding the possibility of improving communication with her for councilors' and parishioners' benefit. It was agreed that the Clerk would set up an answer phone message asking callers to contact her via email and giving the parish council's email address.

The Clerk returned to the meeting

14. External Redecorating of Parish Council Buildings

To receive and consider quotations for the external redecoration of parish council buildings

Councillor C Smith said that the following works need undertaking: staining and painting the exterior of Cott Yard, painting the tower play equipment, painting the bus shelter in the car park and painting the exterior of the toilet and store. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would prepare specifications for the work and the Clerk would ask for quotations from the following contractors: Adam Saunders, Oliver Cole, Andrew Baker, Jason Shaw and Shaun Woodward.

15. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To receive and consider quotations for tree removal in Doorstep Green and the playing field

Councillor C Smith said that there are dangerous and dead trees alongside the river bank which he has marked and which need removing. It was agreed that quotations would be sought from the following contractors: David Soady, Rupert Tennison and Adam Hoskin.

To consider erecting signage acknowledging external funding for the adult fitness equipment

Councillor D Lucas said that three signs will be erected on the side of the Pavilion acknowledging funding for the adult fitness equipment: a Community Fund sign thanking national lottery players, a sign thanking Viridor and a sign saying "The Parish Council thanks the National Lottery Fund, Viridor and Cornwall Council Community Chest which paid for the fitness equipment in this playing field". Councillor N J Ball asked if the ongoing problems with the adult fitness equipment have been rectified. Councillor C Smith said that the problems were ongoing but Schoolscapes have given their assurance that they will continue to attempt rectify the problem.

To receive and consider a report on any other matters arising relating to Doorstep Green and the Playing Field

It was noted that attempts have been made, without success, to contact the family of Cyril Bradbury regarding his memorial bench in the playing field which is in a very poor state of repair. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that a three seater hardwood bench be purchased at a cost of £249.99 to replace the broken bench and that Cyril Bradbury's memorial plaque be placed on the new bench. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

At this point in the meeting, Councillor G Rogers, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

Councillor C Smith said that a local parishioner had commented that the garden area in front of the Pavillion needs some attention and that they would be prepared to make a small financial contribution towards the work. Councillor C Smith suggested that the garden area could be tidied up and then the scouts could take it over and maintain the area. He said that Gary Rogers had submitted a quotation for the work. The Clerk said that additional quotations should also be sought, given that Gary Rogers is a councillor. It was agreed that Isaac Oates and Lanhydrock Gardening Services would be asked to submit quotations for the work and that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

16. Toilets and Car Park in St Neot

To receive and consider a quotation for the installation of no parking lining in the car park

Councillor C Smith reported that a quotation from Cormac had been received for the painting of “No Parking” in yellow in a yellow hatched box on the ground in the car park. Some discussion took place as to whether this is the best way forward to prevent vehicles from parking in this location (the right-hand side of the car park as it is entered). It was agreed that a preferable solution would be to create two parking spaces in this location by excavating some of the grassed area and tarmacking it. Councillor N J Ball said that the problem of parking in the car park was exacerbated by parishioners parking multiple vehicles there. Councillor A Bellringer said that it would be a good idea to move the clothing recycling bin in between the toilets and the rubbish bin in order to lengthen the car parking spaces in that location. It was also agreed that the car park needs re-lining. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that a specification would be drawn up by Councillor C Smith and that the Clerk would seek quotations from the following contractors for the relining of the car park and for the creation of two additional car parking spaces: Loveny Construction, Cormac and James Thomas. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk would ascertain if planning permission is required for these works.

To receive and consider quotations for tree removal in the car park

Councillor C Smith said that the sycamore trees are in a hedge which is not owned by the parish council. Therefore, it is not within the remit of the parish council to remove or lop them.

To receive and consider a report on any other matters arising relating to the toilets and car park in St Neot

None

17. Cott Yard

To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to Cott Yard

Councillor C Smith said that a new water heater had been fitted in the kitchen to replace the one that was leaking. Councillor N J Ball said he would complete the necessary paperwork. Councillor H Bunt said that his family would like to install a two-seater companion set just inside the gate of Cott Yard in the right-hand corner in memory of Bevil Bunt. He said that the cost of a hardwood set was £345.00 plus the cost of a plaque and the cost of an acacia wood set was £562.50 plus the cost of a plaque. Councillor N J Ball said that, given all that Bevil did for the parish, a companion set with the greatest longevity should be purchased, irrespective of the cost. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor A L Bellringer that an acacia wood companion set be purchased at a cost of £562.50 plus a memorial plaque chosen by the family. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal apart from Councillor H Bunt who abstained from voting.

18. Dog Faeces Bins

To consider the purchase and location of dog faeces bins

It was noted that Councillor C Smith had emailed a photograph of a suggested location for a dog faeces bin which is next to the electric telephone pole by the school. It was noted that Councillor P Critchon had emailed photographs of the various bins available for purchase. It was agreed that a dual dog faeces and litter bin is required and that Biffa will empty it at a cost of £4.50/2 weeks. Councillor P Critchon suggested installing an additional bin in Lampen Lane. It was agreed that, initially, one bin would be purchased and that it will be monitored to ascertain how it is received by parishioners and how well it is used. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that a green slim line ground mounted bin with a lid be purchased at a cost of £189.99 plus £30 for a bin flap plus the cost of carriage. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

19. Donation Requests

To receive and consider requests for financial donations

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that a donation of £50 be given to the British Legion Poppy Appeal in November 2019 and that a donation of £100 be given to Cornwall Air Ambulance. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

20. Co-option

To receive and consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

None

21. Date of next meeting

To agree the date of the next meeting on Wednesday 13th March 2019.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9:15pm.