

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 11TH JULY 2019 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors C Smith (Acting Chair), P Critchon, A Bellringer, G Rogers, R Berrett, D Lucas, T Hooper, N O'Neill and O Burrows.

Martin Dykes
Cornwall Councillor M Eddy
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Martin Dykes said that he has resided at Dragon's Corner for 15 years, initially in a tent but now in a caravan. He said that he pays council tax. He explained that many complaints have been made about his land but he is aggrieved as they have not been done in person. He said that he considers that he has been racially discriminated against by Councillor M Eddy and by the residents of Colliford Lake Park. He said that planning decisions regarding the stationing of caravans on land in the countryside do not seem to be consistent. He concluded by saying that he thinks that he had been treated in a disgusting way and that he will be pursuing some of these matters further. The Chair thanked Martin Dykes for attending the parish council and for introducing himself.

Martin Eddy explained that a new group has been formed called Re-Imagine and their focus is on climate change and how communities can engage in green measures to help address climate change. He said the group has many activities planned to raise awareness of this issue including a quiz in the pub, a concert at Eden and activities in the school. He said that the parish council can lead and support the community in green issues and that he is asking the parish council to express a commitment to this through matters such as using their buildings in a more energy efficient way and committing to using the wind turbine community payment for green energy projects. The Chair said that the matter will be discussed at the September meeting of the parish council. He pointed out that the parish council has begun to address green issues by looking at installing LED lights in the street lamps and through Councillor Dr L Jones' questionnaire which seeks to identify green priorities for the parish.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Dr L Jones and H Bunt.

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th June 2019, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record. Councillor P Critchon queried the location of the street lights as detailed in minute number 22.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared a personal interest in item 10 on the agenda where it related to payment of his invoice.

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

The Chair said that the carnival float was successful and that it won a prize. He said that the Clerk is waiting for delivery of the new parish council laptop. He explained that the bin stickers have now been actioned and that a response from Western Power regarding the installation of LED bulbs in the street lights is awaited.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Clerk read out an email from the leader of Oak Tree Walking Group complaining that the walk on public footpaths from St Neot to Carnglaze was not suitable for walkers as gates were locked, the footpath was not marked, there were high nettles on the paths and a stile was missing. The Chair said that he had investigated the matter and that some of the footpath crosses private land and some is public highway. He said that he had spoken to one of the landowners and he said that the gates have been locked to prevent TB contamination and that it is likely that the walker was on the wrong side of the gates on occasions. He said that the stile is in place but the walker failed to locate it. It was agreed that the Clerk should respond to the complainant saying that the parish council is not responsible for this public right of way and that she may wish to contact Cornwall Council and request that appropriate signage is put in place. In addition, it was agreed that the Clerk would explain that the landowner has been contacted and, in addition, that part of the footpath is public highway. It was agreed that Councillors O Burrows and P Critchon will inspect this public right of way and report to the September meeting of the parish council.

The Chair said that he had received a complaint that Cormac have deposited surplus tarmac in the gravel pit which may make people think it is a car park. Councillor T Hooper said that tarmac should be deposited in an appropriate way. Councillor G Rogers said that a better use of the tarmac would have been to fill in some potholes. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cormac and explain that whilst they are welcome to use the gravel pit, the parish council is disappointed that this tarmac has been deposited on parish council land and that

it could have been put to a more appropriate use.

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 6th July 2019 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgeries on Saturday 3rd August and 7th September 2019

It was noted that Councillor Dr L Jones had attended the market on Saturday 6th July 2019. Councillor R Berrett volunteered to attend the market on Saturday 3rd August 2019 and Councillor D Lucas volunteered to attend the market on Saturday 7th September 2019.

9. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor M Eddy

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the highways improvements put forward by the parish council have been discussed and the following improvements have been agreed: 20mph speed limit outside the school, an additional street light outside Dye Cottage, an extension of the 30mph speed limit to the top of Tripp Hill and the extension of the double yellow lines outside Dye Cottage. Councillor M Eddy said that the installation of a bollard outside the school in the hatched area next to the car parking spaces was not authorized as it is on parish council land as opposed to being owned by Cornwall Council. It was noted that the loose coping stones on Lampen Bridge and the flooding in the Carnglaze Caverns Road has not been actioned by Cornwall Council. Councillor M Eddy said that he would pursue this with Paul Allen. He said that the Kerdroya Project is undertaking hedge building training on 18th August 2019. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that superfast 3 broadband has now been approved for parts of the parish and that there is a need to continue to request funding for improved broadband for the parish. He said that a parishioner has made a complaint about the conduct of a parish councilor which brings the reputation of the parish council into question. He said that the parish council needs to be satisfied that it has done all it can to address this matter.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) Bodmin Moor Parishes Group

None

d) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

Julie Ball (Cleaning of toilets and Pavillion – July 2019) - £195.00

Lanhydrock Garden Services Ltd (Grass Cutting) - £216.00

Lanhydrock Garden Services Ltd (Works to trees in playing field) - £780.00

EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £105.37

Gary Rogers (PROW maintenance first installment) - £740.00

Julie Rowe (Cleaning Cott Yard) - £50.00

St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for toilets) - £4.54

Poppy Critchon (Stickers for litter and dog bins) - £72.00

Richards Builders Merchants (Building Materials) - £30.46

Torpoint Town Council (Internal Audit Fee) - £102.00

A J Baker (Painting multi tower play equipment) - £764.00

The Chair said that it should be noted that the works to the trees in the playing field have not been completed as the contractor is unable to trim the branches from the trees from the river as the water is flowing too quickly. He said that the contractor will undertake this work in the winter. He also explained that the works to the public rights of way should be inspected. It was agreed that this will be undertaken by councillors prior to the next meeting. It was proposed by Councillor P Critchon and seconded by Councillor N O'Neill that all of the above orders for payment be authorized. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal apart from Councillor G Rogers who, having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that all invoices for payment which require paying during August 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 Pavilion, £3.06 wayleave payment, £1,000 community turbine payment and £24.46 interest. The accounts balance at £62,606.27. The Chair signed the cash book.

13. Internal Audit Report

To receive and consider the internal audit report for 2018/19

It was noted that the internal audit report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor R Berrett that the report be noted. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Internal Financial Controls

To adopt the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and Internal Financial Controls for 2019/20

It was noted that these documents had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk explained that the standing orders and financial regulations are standard documents recommended by Cornwall ALC. Councillor D Lucas expressed the view that he thought that the standing orders were too long and poor in their wording. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that Councillor D Lucas re-draft the standing orders, in consultation with the Clerk and present them to the September meeting of the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor D Lucas and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the Financial Regulations, Financial Risk Assessment and the Internal Financial Controls, as circulated, be adopted for 2019/20. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The Chair said that the security of the toilet donation box should be improved. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor P Critchon that an additional key is cut for the cleaning cupboard door or a new lock be fitted to the door so that councillors can access the toilet donation box without having to contact the cleaner and that a padlock be affixed to the toilet donation box. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

15. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To consider the redevelopment of the boardwalk area in Doorstep Green

Councillor O Burrows explained that he had emailed suggestions for the redevelopment of the boardwalk area in Doorstep Green in advance of the meeting. He said that Jenny Hart had successfully obtained £2,000 grant money from High Street Heroes for these works. Councillor O Burrows said that there are a number of options: create a footpath using the existing boardwalk template, extend the footpath on the boardwalk template into the amphitheatre or leave the area as a wild flower area. He said that a lot of the work could be undertaken using volunteer labour and the grant could be used to purchase the materials. He said that a stone and woodchip surface on the template of the existing boardwalk would cost £950 plus VAT. Councillor T Hooper said that a circular walk may be the preferred option. Councillor P Critchon said that the path should be wheelchair and pram friendly. Councillor G Rogers commented that a circular route may become a bicycle race track. He said that woodchip may be a preferable option but commented that it does become compostable over time. Councillor A Bellringer said that he thinks the preferred option would be to leave the area as a wild flower garden as it is a wet, damp area in need of regular maintenance. Councillor N O'Neill said that a circular route may be the preferable option but that care needs to be taken of the grass in the amphitheatre if people are waking on it from the footpath. Councillor C Smith said that he thinks the preferred option would be to create a path using the existing boardwalk template which would create a "dead end" area which could be used as a quiet area. He said the path should be constructed of a permeable hard surface. He said that an option would be to create a footpath in grass as an initial step and have wild flower areas in other parts of the playing field. He said that a circular route would entail the installation of steps. Councillor T Hooper said that the installation of a path with a "dead end" may put people in a vulnerable position. It was noted that the board walk terminated in a "dead end". Councillor O Burrows said that his preferred option would be a path constructed of stone and woodchip along the original boardwalk template. It was proposed by Councillor O Burrows and seconded by Councillor C Smith that a path be constructed of stone and woodchip along the original boardwalk template and that this would be undertaken using volunteer labour. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that there is ash tree die back in the valley which will spread into the village and that, in anticipation of this, it may be a good idea to plant some saplings alongside the existing ash trees in Doorstep Green.

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

Councillor P Critchon commented that the deep-water signs alongside the river need to be secured firmly in place. Councillor C Smith said that there are currently two signs. It was agreed that these are adequate. Councillor P Critchon said that a sign could be erected on the gate into the playing field requesting that the gate be kept closed and stating that dogs are not allowed in the playing field. Councillor C Smith said that the matter of dogs in the playing field should be re-visited and discussed at the meeting of the parish council in September as there are many events held in the playing field and Doorstep Green where dogs' presence is required. The Chair said that the new swings will be delivered in August.

16. Cott Yard

To consider the renewal of the tenancy for Suites 2 and 3

The Chair reported that Restgarth have asked for the existing 12-month tenancy on suites 2 and 3 to be renewed for a further period of 12 months on the same terms. It was proposed by Councillor A Bellringer and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that the tenancy be renewed for a further period of 12 months on the same terms. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

The Chair reported that Bob Pollard will undertake the tiling works in the kitchen in due course.

17. Toilets and Car Park in St Neot

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

The Chair said that Janet Haley is concerned that grass and vegetation is growing above her bank at the rear of the car park and needs cutting back. Councillor C Smith said that he would attend to this matter. Councillor P Critchon said that the bank could be improved if daffodil bulbs and/or wild flowers were planted in it. She said that the WI could cultivate the area. It was noted that Julie Ball will be on holiday for one month during August. It was proposed by Councillor O Burrows and seconded by Councillor R Berrett that Diana Smith be employed to clean the toilet and pavilion during the absence of Julie Ball at the same hourly rate that Julie is paid. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal

apart from Councillor C Smith who abstained from voting.

18. Litter Bins

To discuss the purchase of additional stickers, a child orientated litter bin and recycling unit by the school

Councillor P Critchon said that childrens' drawings have been put on the litter bin by the school. She said that the existing litter bin in the car park is in a poor state of repair and that it may be a good idea to replace that bin with the one by the school and to erect a new child orientated bin by the school as well as a recycling unit for the children to use. She circulated pictures of suggested bins and recycling units. The Chair said that there would be a cost imposed by Biffa to empty the bin. He said that, currently, he empties the bins in the village but this would cost £405 a year if Biffa emptied them. Some discussion took place as to whether more bins are needed in the parish. Councillor O Burrows said that he empties the bin in the playing field and that it is often full of items other than general litter. It was agreed that a child orientated bin would be better placed inside the school. Councillor P Critchon also suggested that a child orientated recycling unit be placed outside the school but it was agreed that this may cause further traffic and pedestrian congestion outside school and the cost of emptying a mixed recycling unit would be expensive. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that additional signage could be installed on the bins. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor P Critchon said that she would make enquiries as to the cost of emptying further bins and report to the next meeting.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 11th September 2019

The date of the next meeting of St Neot parish council will be on Wednesday 11th September 2019 commencing at 7:30pm.

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