

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER 2019 AT 7PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
ST NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

**Present:** Councillors Dr L Jones (Chair), C Smith, A Bellringer, G Rogers, R Berrett, D Lucas, H Bunt and T Hooper.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7pm.

**Public Participation**

None

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors P Crichton, O Burrows, N O'Neill and H Bunt for his late arrival at the meeting.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting**

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th July 2019, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda**

None

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

None

**5. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

The Chair said that she had received a letter detailing an alleged breach of planning control regarding the erection of an agricultural building at Moorfields Farm, St Neot. She said that the complainant had reported the matter to the Enforcement Officer at Cornwall Council. A copy of the letter had been circulated to all members of the Planning Committee. The Chair said that the court date for the enforcement case at Colliford Lake is 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2019 at 2pm. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that if the defendant pleads not guilty, the case will be re-scheduled. The Chair said that Councillor P Crichton had questioned whether the street lights could be turned off at night. The Clerk advised that, for financial reasons, Cornwall Council do not permit part night switching. The Chair asked if the only two street lights in the village owned by the parish council have LED bulbs. Councillor C Smith said that the unit in the car park was changed 18 months ago.

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

None

**7. To receive a report from the Clerk**

None

**8. Planning**

**To receive and consider the following planning application:**

**PA19/06968 - Proposed creation of a labyrinth to be constructed of traditional cornish hedging and associated pedestrian footpath at Simons Stone Car Park, Colliford Lake, St Neot**

The Chair explained that the proposed development is for 2 miles of Cornish hedging at a height of 1.5m to 1.8m wrapped around to create a labyrinth, thus just 50 metres in diameter. She said that the site is within an AONB and that the AONB Officer at Cornwall Council has commented that there will be a very positive net gain for biodiversity over time as a result of the development and there will be some short term adverse impacts during construction which could be mitigated if the AONB recommendations in their report were followed. She said that the development will be visible from certain directions but the visual impact of the development will be reduced by tree planting. She said that there are no commercial activities associated with the proposed development. She said that the development is a low impact installation to celebrate the Cornish hedge and Cornish heritage. She said that concerns at the public presentation phase had been expressed by members of the public regarding the traffic movements from the A30 and the use of lanes from the site as a “rat run” to access the A38. She said that planning policies 23 and 24 in the CLP are the relevant policies against which the application should be judged.

Councillor C Smith said that the proposed development will be on a disused gravel car park site. He said that Policy 21(b) of the CLP relates to the best use of land and is a relevant policy to consider in this case. The Chair agreed this policy was also relevant. He said that it will be a low-level construction which will not be visible from the A30. He explained that various consultants have undertaken traffic impact studies and that one suggestion for alleviating the potential problems at the junction of the road from the site with the A30 will be to have no right hand turns for vehicles in either an east or west direction at peak times. He said that the overall plan is dependent on funding.

Councillor Dr L Jones said that the estimated increase in visitor numbers to the site is 24,500/year but that no more than two cars are expected to be in a queue at the junction of the A30 at any one time. She said that Highways England are currently working with the Cornwall Highways Authority and appear to be heading towards forming a positive view of the development.

Councillor G Rogers said that the proposed development would make a good use of waste land. He said that traffic is a major concern especially regarding the use of the island on the A30 at the junction of the road from the site with the A30. He said that Cormac seem to think that the junction could cope with the increase in traffic. He said that drivers who use the junction on a daily basis are not going to be happy with a no right turn diversion.

Councillor A L Bellringer said that the increase in traffic is a major issue and whilst it is stated in the supporting information that coaches will not be visiting the site, he questioned how this will be enforced. He said that he thinks that coaches will visit the site and they will park on the highway. He said that it is possible that the development may become extended if it proves to be very popular.

Councillor T Hooper said that the area has a reputation for unsavory activities and she is concerned that it is an unmanned attraction that may result in personal safety issues. She said that a risk assessment needs to be undertaken in this respect as 1.5m hedging is very high and may make raising the alarm in the event of a personal or medical emergency very difficult. She questioned whether the proposed development maybe unsafe and therefore exclude some users.

Councillor H Bunt said that the development is a good idea. He questioned whether there are enough parking spaces. He said there is a mobile telephone signal at the site. He said that he was surprised that they want to go ahead with the proposal if they do not have sufficient funds in place to complete the project. The Chair said that the project will be funded from various bodies. Councillor H Bunt asked who would be managing the development once finished. The Chair said that it would be managed by SW Lakes Trust who lease the land from South West Water.

Councillor D Lucas said that it is an imaginative project. Councillor R Berrett commented that he considers the development to be a good idea. Councillor G Rogers said that the development claims to be wheelchair friendly but questioned the use of gravel in this respect. Councillor A Bellringer said that SE Cornwall rarely receives any investment so this project should be applauded. The Chair said that she is very supportive of the development. She said that it is a celebration of 60 years of the AONB and 4,000 years of Cornish hedging. She said that Highways England are still not entirely happy with the proposed development and are requesting further information.

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that the application be supported as it complies with Policies 23, 24, 21(b) and 5(3) of the CLP subject to a satisfactory resolution between Highways England and the Cornwall Highways Authority regarding highways matters and that a satisfactory risk assessment is undertaken for safeguarding and medical reasons for the development within the application site. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

## **9. Doorstep Green and Playing Field**

### **To consider allowing dogs on leads in the playing field and Doorstep Green when community events are being held**

Councillor R Berrett said that prohibiting dogs from community events in the playing field is deterring people from attending such events. Councillor D Lucas said that he considers that consideration should be given to the matter on an event by event basis. He said that owners should be asked not to use retractable leads for their dogs. Councillor H Bunt said that trialing it may be the way forward. Councillor T Hooper said that she does not consider that dogs should be allowed where children are playing such as around the area of the play equipment. Councillor A Bellringer said that, for a lot of people, taking their dog with them is part of their day out. Councillor G Rogers said that he would welcome trialing the idea of dogs being allowed in the playing field at all times. Councillor C Smith said that Councillor O Burrows has said that he would not support allowing dogs in the playing field because the eggs in the dog faeces of an un wormed dog last for 2 years on the ground even if the faeces are picked up. Councillor C Smith said that the playing field is unsuitable to designate a specific area for dogs and that once dogs are allowed in the playing field, it will become a toilet. He said that he considers dogs should be allowed in the playing field on an event by event basis only with signage erected at the events saying that dogs are allowed on short leads. The Chair said that there is always unfortunately one irresponsible dog owner and that dogs and childrens' playing areas are not compatible. Councillor A Bellringer said that if dogs are not allowed in the playing field, it must be policed and enforced. Councillor D Lucas asked if a child is savaged by a dog in the playing field whether the parish council is liable. Councillor C Smith said it would be the dog owner not the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that dogs on short leads be allowed on a trial basis at the Food and Farming Day. 5 councillors voted in favour of the proposal, 2 against and one abstained from voting. The proposal was therefore carried.

### **To consider support for the Food and Farming day on 28th September 2019**

It was noted that preparations for the Food and Farming Day are well underway and will include animals in pens, lamb racing, vintage tractors, brunches, afternoon tea, a display in the Church and a steam engine in the car park.

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

The Chair thanked Councillors O Burrows and C Smith for their expert installation of the new swings. Councillor C Smith said that the surface matting had to be renewed around the new swings for health and safety reasons. He said that the existing matting is starting to break down and that a solution to this would be to install 20mm matting on top of the existing matting. He said this should be done in the next 6 months. He said that this would cost approximately £4,400 plus VAT for the materials plus the cost of security fencing when it is installed which would increase the cost to approximately £5,500. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would obtain two further quotations for the works. Councillor H Bunt said that the Art Group no longer use the Pavilion but their materials are still being stored there. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Andy Merrett-Jones and ask for them to be removed.

### **10. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor C Smith said that the rear door to the suite used by Heather Taylor keeps sticking. He said that he had rectified the problem in the short term but a new locking mechanism is required. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would ask F D Hall and Son to attend to this matter. He reported that Bob Pollard had undertaken the tiling works in the kitchen. He said that there had been reports of a wasp's nest in the building but that several attempts to locate it had been unsuccessful.

### **11. 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**

At this point in the meeting, Councillor T Hooper left the meeting as she has a personal interest in the matter being discussed. Councillor C Smith said that British Heart Foundation will supply a new recycling bin and that it may be a good idea to site it between the bus shelter and toilets on a level concrete plinth with a shallow gully to the side of the plinth to aid drainage. He said that he had obtained two quotations for the works: one from Colin Alford in the sum of £320 plus VAT which would entail removing 75mm of soil and laying a concrete plinth 75mm deep and one from Loveny Construction in the sum of £1,044 plus VAT

which would entail removing 100mm of soil and laying a concrete plinth 100mm deep. Some discussion took place as to whether to relocate the bin or to install a new bin on the site of the existing bin. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that a new bin be obtained and sited between the bus shelter and the toilets on a concrete plinth installed by Colin Alford in the sum of £320 plus VAT. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor D Lucas who abstained from voting.

Councillor T Hooper returned to the meeting.

## **12. Public Rights Of Way**

### **To receive and consider a report on the inspection of the Public Rights of Way**

The Chair reported that Councillors P Critchon, O Burrows and D Lucas had circulated reports on the PROW that they had inspected. She explained that Cormac had been inspecting all PROW in the parish and that the Inspector had explained the responsibilities in terms of PROW. She said that it is the gold paths that are maintained by the parish council and that stiles and gates are the responsibility of the landowners although Cornwall Council may fund up to 25% of the cost of these works if funds are available. She said that waymarks are the responsibility of Cormac. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that the Chair conveys this information to parishioners via St Neot News. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor G Rogers said that there are a number of way markers which have fallen over on the paths maintained by the parish council. It was agreed that he would report these to Cormac again. It was noted that the Ramblers Association have been looking at a review of the definitive PROW map which, as a result, is now being reviewed by Cornwall Council.

## **13. Erection of Sign at Pantersbridge**

### **To consider the erection of a sign at Pantersbridge with the text "Ignore Sat Nav - No Vehicle Access to Warleggan Village"**

The Clerk read out an email from John Keast explaining that vehicles are regularly attempting to drive up Newlands Hill to Warleggan as Sat Navs direct cars up the hill when travelling from St Neot even though there are two signs stating "Impractical for Motor Vehicles". He said that they wish to erect a road sign at Pantersbridge with the text "Ignore Sat Nav-No Vehicle Access to Warleggan Village" which would be an aluminium sign approximately 600mm x 450mm in yellow with black text to be attached to the existing road sign. He said

that Warleggan Parish will meet the costs. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that approval be given for the erection of this sign but it is suggested that John Keast contacts the Highways Authority as the new sign will be attached to an existing road sign. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

#### **14. High Visibility Waistcoats**

##### **To consider purchasing high visibility waistcoats**

Councillor C Smith said that it would be beneficial if councilors wore high visibility vests with St Neot Parish Council written on them when they are undertaking duties in the parish. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Councillor C Smith be authorized to purchase a high visibility waistcoat for all councilors. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

#### **15. Inspection of Assets**

##### **To authorize the inspection of parish council assets**

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that Councillors T Hooper, Dr L Jones and R Berrett be authorized to undertake an inspection of the parish council's assets. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

#### **16. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market**

##### **To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2019 and Saturday 7<sup>th</sup> September 2019 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

Councillor R Berrett said that he had attended the market in August and that he had received a complaint to the effect that multiple vehicle parking in Lampen Lane was causing problems. Councillor A Bellringer said that it was very untidy and unkempt in that area. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that he would investigate the matter further. Councillor D Lucas said that he attended the market in September and the vicar has invited a parish councilor to read out the names of those who had died in the wars at the Remembrance Service on Sunday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2019. Councillor D Lucas volunteered to do this. It was agreed that Councillor H Bunt would lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council and would arrange for the bugler. It was noted that concerns had been

expressed about the need for a handrail adjacent to the steps to the war memorial to aid the elderly and infirm. Councillors C Smith and A Bellringer said they would look at this issue. Councillor D Lucas said that he had also received a complaint that the hedge belonging to Springfields on the A38 is impeding visibility for road users egressing from the junction at the Halfway House pub. Councillor C Smith said that he would attend to this matter. Councillor Dr L Jones volunteered to attend the market in October.

**17. To receive reports from -**

**a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the highways works he had requested had not yet been undertaken by Cormac. He said that there had been reports of anti-social behaviour at Colliford Lake car park. He also said that the occupiers of Dye House are concerned about the new street light shining in their windows. He said that there is a problem with cars parking on the highway at Golitha Falls when the car park is full. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to Cormac stating that parking on the roads outside the car park is causing problems for other road users and requesting that advisory traffic signs are erected at the Draynes junction advising drivers not to use that route to access Golitha Falls and to consider other mitigation measures of the on-road parking issues near the site.

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

None

**c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

None

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

Already Paid

Julie Ball (Cleaning of Toilets and Pavillion – August 2019) - £195.00

South West Water (Water for Pavilion) - £20.45

South West Water (Water for Toilets) - £78.40

British Telecommunications PLC (Internet for Cott Yard) - £141.36

South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £39.89

Cornwall ALC Limited (2019/20 Subscription) - £373.08

Lanhydrock Garden Services Ltd (Grass Cutting) - £648.00

J V and C Alford (Works to Doorstep Green) - £592.80

Richards Builders Merchants (Wheelbarrow for Doorstep Green) - £59.72

### To Pay

Mrs S Blaxley (3 months' salary and expenses) – £2205.59

Julie Ball (Cleaning of Toilets and Pavilion – September 2019) - £195.00

Cornwall ALC Limited (Good Councillor Guides) - £9.00

Mrs S Blaxley (Printer Ink) - £15.73

Julie Rowe (Cleaning Cott Yard) - £87.50

Diana Smith (Cleaning Pavilion and Toilets) - £153.00

Christian Smith (Materials for Swings/ Electricity for Pavilion) - £153.00

Richards Builders Merchants (Materials for Swings) - £271.82

### **19. To receive correspondence from -**

a) **Cornwall Council**

b) **Others**

There was no correspondence.

### **20. 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, income of £130 has been received from the toilet donation box, £12.94 interest, £130.59 from Cornwall Council Community Chest fund, £571.50 rent for Cott Yard from Heather Taylor, £1,197.19 rent for Cott Yard from Pertemps, £2,000 from Cornwall Rural Community Council as a grant for works to Doorstep Green and £273 from Menheniot Post office as rental for the Pavilion. The accounts balance at £61,474.04.

### **21. Date of next meeting**

#### **To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 9th October 2019**

The date of the next meeting of St Neot parish council will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 2019 commencing at 7:30pm.

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