

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

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

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

**Public Participation**

A member of the public said that Cornwall Council intend to ensure that there are no “dead end” footpaths in Cornwall. He said that footpath number 632/5 is a “dead end” and that Cornwall Council will consider putting in a modification order regarding this footpath. He said that many footpaths in Cornwall will be affected and he said that he would welcome knowing the parish council’s views on this.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N O’Neill, O Burrows, P Crichton, D Lucas and Cornwall Councillor M Eddy.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th November 2019, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

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

Councillor G Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in item 12 on the agenda and Councillor T Hooper declared a prejudicial interest in item 13 on the agenda.

**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 from Jenny Hart withdrawing her request for footpath number 632/5 to be extended. The Chair said that Cornwall Council may be contacting the parish council in due course regarding other modifications to footpaths which, she said, will be considered on a case by case basis and in the event that the parish council is contacted regarding a modification to footpath 632/5, the member of public attending the meeting this

evening will be informed.

The Chair said that Cornwall Council has informed her that Cormac inspect the gold PROW annually and the silver and bronze footpaths every two years. She said that on footpath number 632/9, they reported that there are two fallen trees and a very boggy section. Councillor C Smith said that the contractor should clear the path of the fallen trees as his contract states that the paths should be strimmed to 2.5m for bridleways and 1.5m for footpaths if it is practicable. The Chair asked if there was a risk of recourse from the landowner if the contractor cuts up trees on his land. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Dave Wood and ask him if the contractor can cut up the tree that is blocking the PROW and whether they expect the parish council to address the drainage problem on the footpath.

The Chair said that Chris Colwell said that the sign at Dozmary Pool is in situ and that Dozmary Pool has public access designation around the pool.

The Chair said that the hatched area outside the school adjacent to some of the parking spaces is not owned by the parish council. She said that people park on this hatched area and cause danger to the children going to and from school.

The Chair said that she had received a request from the Re Imagine Group for the parish council to write a letter of support for tree planting at Colliford as part of a community interest project on land south of Kerdroya. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that the Chair writes a letter to this effect. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

None

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

None

**8. Doorstep Green and Playing Field**

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

Councillor C Smith said that the four items of fitness equipment which have faults with the shock absorber limiters will be replaced in January, free of charge, by Fresh Air Fitness. He said that Schoolscapes have gone into liquidation. Councillor R Berrett said that he has cleared the gully in the playing field but the water only trickles away. It was agreed that it needs digging out.

## **9. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor C Smith said that the tenants have said that the four computer chairs provided by the parish council in their suite are in a poor state of repair. Councillor T Hooper said that appropriate chairs should be provided by the employer. It was agreed that the chairs will be replaced on a like for like basis if needed. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor C Smith that Councillor C Smith inspects the chairs and submits a report to the Clerk and Chair and that if it was agreed that replacement chairs are required, he would obtain some prices for agreement by councillors via email. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was noted that Daryll O'Neill will repair the security light outside Cott Yard as soon as possible.

## **10. 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**

None

## **11. Community Emergency Plan**

### **To receive and consider the working document and its implementation**

As a number of councillors were absent from the meeting, it was agreed that this item would be deferred until the January meeting of the parish council.

Councillor G Rogers, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the part of this item relating to PROW.

## **12. PROW and Grass Cutting Contracts 2020/21**

### **To consider the PROW and grass cutting contracts for 2019/20**

The Clerk reported that Gary Rogers has submitted a quotation in the sum of £1,520 for the PROW maintenance for 2020/21. Councillor T Hooper reported that she had inspected the footpaths on Goonzion and they all appeared to be satisfactorily maintained. It was noted that not all the PROW had been inspected prior to payment of the second installment of the PROW maintenance invoice. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that Gary Rogers be awarded the PROW contract for 2020/21.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

The Clerk reported that Lanhydrock Gardening Services had provided a quotation for the grass cutting contract for 2020/21 in the sum of £232.20 per cut including VAT. It was noted that the current price is £216 per cut including VAT. It was agreed that a good job is being done by them. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that Lanhydrock Gardening Services be awarded the grass cutting contract for 2020/21. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The Clerk reported that the works to the trees in the playing field have been completed by Lanhydrock Gardening Services.

Councillor T Hooper, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

### **13. Flooding in St Neot**

#### **To consider measures to alleviate potential flooding in St Neot**

Councillor C Smith said that there was no further progress regarding this matter.

Councillor T Hooper returned to the meeting.

### **14. Precept**

#### **To consider the precept for 2020/21**

Councillor C Smith explained that the Finance Committee met on 4<sup>th</sup> December 2019 to discuss the precept for 2020/21, the minutes of which had been circulated to all councillors. He said that the recommendations were that the precept be increased by 1% for 2020/21, the Clerk's salary would rise in accordance with the NJC scales, the rent on Goonzion would increase slightly and the hourly rate for the cleaner would remain the same. Councillor R Berrett asked if an increase in the precept can be justified given the reserves in the bank account. Councillor T Hooper said that she thinks that a small increase in the precept should be maintained on an annual basis in case leaner times occur. Councillor H Bunt said that if the precept is not increased, other sources of funding may be removed from the parish council as the funds already held may be deemed to be sufficient. The Chair said that there are a number of parishioners who are very poor and any increase in the precept may well have a negative impact on them. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones that the precept is not increased for 2020/21. This proposal was not seconded. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that the precept be increased by 1% for 2020/21. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal except for Councillor Dr L Jones who voted against. The proposal was therefore carried. Councillor C Smith said that consideration should be given to

which community projects the earmarked reserves should be allocated to and it was agreed that this matter would be discussed at a future parish council meeting.

**15. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market**

**To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on Saturday 7th December 2019 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 4th January 2019**

Councillor G Rogers said that a parishioner had complained that the road sweeper did not sweep Lampen Terrace and also that the drain outside 11 Lampen Terrace is blocked. Councillor Dr L Jones volunteered to attend the market in January.

**16. To receive reports from -**

**a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy submitted a report prior to the meeting which was circulated to all councillors.

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

Councillor H Bunt said that Bodmin Moor Commons Council has published its constitution and at the AGM, some landowners questioned whether the constitution is legally binding. He said that at the AGM, a committee was elected. He explained that a lot of other parish councils have made a financial donation to the Council but no such request has been received by this parish council. It was agreed that Councillor H Bunt would obtain a list of the graziers and meet with them to discuss some of the issues they have raised. Councillor A Bellringer asked who polices Bodmin Moor to ensure that the constitution is adhered to. Councillor H Bunt said that is the next stage.

**c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

None

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

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

Julie Rowe (Cleaning Cott Yard) - £112.50

St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilets) - £36.58

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in

favour of the proposal.

### **18. 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 £136.50 has been received from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the Pavilion and £571.50 from Heather Taylor for rent for Cott Yard. The accounts balance at £68,527.88.

### **19. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 8th January 2019**

The date of the next meeting of St Neot parish council will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2019 commencing at 7:30pm.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 8:35pm.