

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH JANUARY 2020 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
ST NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors Dr L Jones (Chair), C Smith, A Bellringer, H Bunt, N O'Neill, P Crichton, D Lucas, A Bellringer and T Hooper.

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

None.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors R Berrett and G Rogers.

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

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

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

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

The Chair said that Dave Wood, Countryside Officer, has confirmed that the contractor can cut up the trees that may be blocking the PROW but that it would be polite to inform the landowner prior to the works taking place.

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. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

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

The Chair said that she had been communicating with Ben Gallant from West Country Rivers Trust who has informed the parish council that there is funding available until March 2020 for works to improve the habitat for salmon in the River Loveny and for other ecological works. She said that he proposes to reduce the sycamore trees adjacent to the river in St Neot playing field and re-plant the river bank with other species to improve the habitat in the river for the salmon. She said that he also has a wealth of knowledge regarding flooding issues and ecological issues. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor P Crichton that a meeting is held with Ben Gallant and Councillors O Burrows, C Smith and Dr L Jones to discuss these matters further. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor P Crichton said that there is an elderly gentleman in the village who would like to grow bedding plants for the community garden and would seek some funding from the parish council for the plants. It was agreed that he would liaise with Councillor O Burrows. Councillor O Burrows said that one of the new chess pieces is broken. It was agreed that he would repair this piece by putting 40mm of sand in the base and drilling some holes in the base so that the piece does not fill with water and then glue the piece back together. It was agreed that Councillor T Hooper would undertake the inspections of the play equipment during February and March 2020 instead of Councillor C Smith.

9. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith said that the security light outside Cott Yard has been repaired.

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

The Chair said that the grassed area between the car park and the road occupies a prominent location in the village and would benefit from being dug over and planted with perennials. She said she had liaised with the W.I. who were keen to plant some spring bulbs. She thought the W.I. had gone ahead with some bulb planting at the rear of the car park. The bank near the road was a bigger project as needed top soil and some landscaping. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that the Clerk asks Gary Rogers and Lanhydrock Gardening Services to provide quotations to remove some of the existing soil as necessary from the area, replace with suitable topsoil and plant the area with insect friendly perennials. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

11. Community Emergency Plan

To receive and consider the working document and its implementation

The Chair said that everyone had had a considerable amount of time to consider this matter. She said that she acknowledged that views vary as to whether the parish council should have a CEP as a way forward at the present time. Councillor C Smith said that he does not think that the parish council should take on such a commitment as the focus should be on the multiple small issues in the parish. He said that he was also concerned about liability issues and that there is no legal requirement for the parish council to produce such a plan. He said that it may be worth having a contact list of telephone numbers for organisations who may be able to assist in the event of an emergency. Councillor A Bellringer said that he considers that the production of a CEP is a big commitment and that, in any event, the parish council works well together without the need for a CEP. Councillor H Bunt said that it could be a good idea to have a CEP but other bodies do need to be involved in order to implement the document. He said that he was also concerned about liability issues. However, he said that a list of contact numbers would be a good idea. Councillor T Hooper said that it has been a valuable research exercise but she has concerns about professional indemnity. She said that a list of contact numbers is an excellent idea. She said that the parish council should be clear as to how other authorities operate and when and where they operate and that if the parish council is called upon, what the role of the parish council would be. Councillor D Lucas said that the CEP is aimed at giving advice, help and support and is not intended to give orders. He said that a contact list could be produced to accompany a structured document detailing who and how to call in the event of an emergency. He said that it is the parish council's responsibility to produce a simple document. Councillor O Burrows said that there should be some document giving details of contact numbers, who has available resources and a list of vulnerable people. Councillor N O'Neill said that a simple document could be produced with telephone numbers detailing the necessary contacts in the event of an emergency and this could be put on the website. Councillor P Crichton said that the parish council should have a simple plan in place and pre-agreements with businesses who

may offer shelter in case of an emergency. She said that it may be a good idea to look at documents produced by other parish councils. She said that a list of dedicated people who could offer assistance in the event of an emergency could be produced. Councillor C Smith said that it is the aftermath of an emergency that would require the most community assistance. Councillor T Hooper said that the parish council needs to know what skills exist in the community. The Chair said that the CEP is a rigid, complex and lengthy document which would take a considerable amount of time to produce and which is not a priority at the present time. She said that if an emergency occurs, quick action is what is required. She said that if the parish council were to purchase resources for use in the event of an emergency, it is questionable as to what resources would need to be purchased, how many resources and their longevity in storage. She said that volunteers may be away in times of emergency and not in a position to take on emergency service roles. She said that a contact list would be very useful and that it may be a good idea to divide the parish into zones with each zone having identified councillors who may be able to assist in the event of an emergency. Some discussion took place regarding this matter but it was agreed not to progress this further at the present time. She said that she could put an item in St Neot News asking parishioners what skills they possess that could be offered in the event of an emergency and what resources they have available. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that as a starting point, a list of contact numbers be compiled by Councillors D Lucas and T Hooper and the responses to the item in St Neot News be compiled. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

12. Salt Bins

To consider the siting of new salt bins in the parish

Councillor C Smith reported that Councillor H Bunt had purchased 5 new salt bins at a cost of £200 and that the parish council owns salt to fill them which is stored at his premises. Some discussion took place regarding the siting of the these bins and the following locations were suggested: Ley, underneath the notice board or at the crossroad with the junction to the old lane; in the triangle area by the slurry pit on Halfway Hill; outside Cott Yard next to the memorial bench; Liskeard Hill next to the St Neot sign. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor N O'Neill that the salt bins be purchased at a cost of £200 and be sited as detailed above. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor P Crichton that shovels be purchased and placed in the salt bins. 6 Councillors voted in favour of this proposal, 2 against and 1 abstained. The proposal was therefore carried.

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::

The Clerk outlined the proposed works as suggested by Mr Hooper which comprise excavating through the existing hedge and placing a 300mm diameter twin wall pipe through the hedge and rebuilding the hedge, excavating and creating a back drop catchment chamber immediately inside the hedge, excavating and laying 70 metres of 300mm dia. "twinwall pipe" on a granular bed, backfilling and compacting, in layers, disposal of surplus material on site and excavating and constructing a flow break at the outfall of drainage run to ease scouring.

It was noted that the works would incur considerable expenditure and that at least 3 quotations would be required for these works. Councillor C Smith said that the reason that the water flooded into the village down School Hill is that the grids were full of debris and that they need clearing more frequently. The Chair said that it may be a good idea for the parish council to employ a handy man to undertake such tasks. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. The Chair also said that Ben Gallant from West Country Rivers Trust may have some ideas for soft engineering works which may alleviate flooding in St Neot. Councillor P Crichton said that there is a blocked drain in Church View which Cornwall Council has cleared on one occasion. She said that flooding still occurs at Penkestle which she has reported to Cornwall Council. She said she would circulate a web link where road flooding issues could be reported direct to Cornwall Council.

Councillor T Hooper returned to the meeting.

14. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market

To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on Saturday 4th January 2019 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 1st February 2019

Councillor Dr L Jones said that parishioners complained that a person had driven on the grassed area adjacent to the Holy Well making the area very rutted and that there is a problem with dog faeces not being picked up in that area. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that the bin in the orchard, which is little used, be re-located next to the cattle grid at the Holy Well. All Councillor voted in favour of this proposal. The Chair asked for the possible purchase of the small area to the Holy Well and the

construction of a raised boardwalk to be put on the next agenda for discussion. Councillor D Lucas volunteered to attend the market in February.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that in some parishes, upside down lemonade bottles have been affixed to lamp posts which have been filled with polythene bags for the disposal of dog faeces. He said that Cornwall Council are partially lifting dog bans on beaches. He said that the budget is currently being set and that in 2021/22, an additional £40 million may need to be sought. He said there will be a new bus contract from April 2020 and that he anticipates there will be a bus running from Liskeard to Derriford Hospital. He said the new waste contract will be fully operational from April 2021 when all waste, apart from food waste, will be collected once a fortnight. He explained that the case at Dragon's Corner will be heard in the Crown Court in July 2020 when Cornwall Council is required to produce a plan to re-house those being made homeless in the event that they have to comply with the planning enforcement notice which has been served on the land. He said that St Neot United Charities met before Christmas and will be meeting again in February to discuss how trustees can be appointed in a more open and transparent way.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor H Bunt said that complaints have been received that the bullocks on Goonzion are pushing through the fences into neighbouring gardens. It was agreed that it is the responsibility of the neighbouring landowners to keep the animals out.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

Julie Ball (Cleaning of Toilets and Pavilion – January 2020) - £195.00
Julie Rowe (Cleaning Cott Yard) - £50.00
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £98.46
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) – £122.73
Mrs S Blaxley (Printer Ink) - £51.23

It was proposed by Councillor A Bellringer and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

17. 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 £12.97 interest has been received. The accounts balance at £66,365.02.

18. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 12th February 2020

The date of the next meeting of St Neot parish council will be on Wednesday 12th February 2020 commencing at 7:30pm.

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