

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD USING ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH SEPTEMBER 2020 AT 7:30PM

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

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Gary Rogers said that a parishioner had asked him if the Village of the Decade signs which are at the entrance to the village could be relocated as this award was given many years ago. The Chair said that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors O Burrows and N O'Neill.

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th August 2020, 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

The Chair said that Andy Daniels has now retired as Treasurer of St Neot News. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to him, on behalf of the parish council. The Chair said that the Clerk had thanked Lee Martin for volunteering to maintain the garden outside the pavilion. She thanked Councillor C Smith for replacing the dampner on the air walker and for unblocking the public toilet. She said that the sign for the orchard has been ordered. In respect of the lease for Cott Yard, the Chair reported that the existing lease is continuing. She said that Julie Ball has started cleaning the communal areas in Cott Yard. The Chair thanked Councillor D Lucas for his comprehensive report on the highways issues at Golitha Falls and for his report on the three footpaths that he has walked. It was noted that Mathew Glencross has cut the trees which were blocking the footpath from Treverbyn to Trenant. It was agreed that the Clerk

would ask Cornwall Council and Cormac and Mathew Glencross for suggestions as to how the problems on the other paths can be dealt with. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that Cornwall Council will supply “stile kits”.

The Chair said that an asset inspection was due. It was proposed by Councillor A Bellringer and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that an asset inspection be undertaken by Councillors Dr L Jones and R Berrett. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor P Crichton said that the bus shelter on Goonzion is very overgrown.

5. To receive the Chairman’s Communications

The Chair said that she had received a letter from a parishioner regarding the minutes of the parish council regarding U6159, Section 59334, Track, Wortha To Draynes. She said that the letter had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and that all the comments had been noted. The letter is attached as an addendum to these minutes. The Chair emphasized that the parish council has not gone beyond listening to Jenny Hart’s comments and that no resolutions in respect of the matter have been made. She said that the minutes referred to by the parishioner are an accurate record of what was said at the meetings. She said that those minutes do not suggest support, or otherwise, for Jenny Hart’s Defined Map Modification Order application to Cornwall Council. She explained that the parishioner has criticized the use of the word “evidence” in the minutes in terms of the papers, old maps and signed letters from parishioners, shown to the Chair by Jenny Hart. The Chair said that use of the word “evidence” was not in any way meant as a misleading term but conveyed a meaning that Jenny Hart had not arrived empty handed. The material had been shown to the Chair and since returned to Mrs Hart, since the matter did not progress. She said that the parish council is a public body, working as volunteers in the best interests of parishioners and, in this light, that no one should be afraid of what they say at meetings. She stressed the parish council is not a court of law. She said that the parishioner has also questioned why the PROW working party was stood down. She explained that this was because the task of walking the footpaths on a regular basis and reporting to the parish council became too onerous a task as the footpath working party took on many other roles (eg overseeing Doorstep Green, building play equipment for the playing field, setting up Neighbours Together) This is with the exception of one councillor who still reports on Public Rights of Way in his area. The parish council also became aware that Cormac inspects the PROW’s annually and there was no need to duplicate the work. Instead the parish council now responds to problems reported as they crop up. It was agreed, however, that the parish council is always keen to hear parishioners’ views and parishioners’ involvement is welcomed.

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

Councillor T Hooper left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

8. Exterior Decorating of Pavilion

To receive and consider quotations for decorating the exterior of the Pavilion

The Clerk reported that she had sought quotations from Colin Alford, Loveny Construction and A Baker. She said that she had only received a quotation from A Baker. It was proposed by Councillor A Bellringer and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that additional quotations be sought for consideration at the next meeting of the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor T Hooper returned to the meeting.

9. 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 reported that a child was injured on the wooden play equipment as a nail was protruding. Councillor T Hooper said the nail was no longer protruding. Councillor C Smith said that a simple repair to the plywood on the roof is required. It was agreed that Councillor O Burrows would be asked to attend to this matter. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that the crow's nest swing be reinstated. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

The Chair said that she had received a report of 6 dogs in the playing field. It was agreed that the Clerk would put a note in St Neot News reminding parishioners that dogs are not allowed in the playing field and that the gate to the playing field should remain closed at all times. The Clerk said that she would ask Menheniot Post Office to keep the gate closed too.

It was reported that some of the chess pieces on Doorstep Green are broken. It was agreed that this has always been a problem and they do break over time although it was acknowledged that some of the breakages may be due to vandalism.

Councillor T Hooper said that new Covid 19 posters need to be erected in the

playing field. Councillor C Smith said that he would attend to this matter. Councillor T Hooper said that the right leg on the adult ski machine is able to go back much further than the left leg which could cause injury to a user. Councillor C Smith said this may be due to one set of rubbers being worn more than the other. Councillor A Bellringer said that he would look at the machine. Councillor P Crichton said that she had cleaned the gully from the road into the playing field but the gully is blocked into the river. It was agreed that the end of the gully has never been located. She said that a parishioner has said that some of the shrubs in Doorstep Green need trimming. It was agreed that Councillor P Crichton would bring this to the attention of Councillor O Burrows. Councillor P Crichton said that she was concerned that hedgehogs may become caught in the net of the football goal and suggested educating the children to take up the net when it is not in use. Councillor T Hooper said that the pegs would go missing and Councillor H Bunt said that it would take a while for the net to damage a hedgehog and that the net does not have to be cut to remove trapped hedgehogs. It was agreed that this matter would be monitored.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith said that he had erected a sanitiser dispenser outside Cott Yard. The Chair said that Heather Taylor has thanked the parish council for their support during Covid 19.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

The Chair thanked Councillor C Smith for unblocking the village public toilet. Councillor P Crichton said that the children have made a poster asking people to pick up dog faeces which needs affixing to the bin or the vicinity of the bin. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Councillor P Crichton undertakes this task. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

12. Cleaner's Salary

To review the salary paid to the cleaner in accordance with the National Living Wage

The Chair explained that she has researched this matter. She said that Cornwall Council are paying the Real Living Wage which, for 2020-21, is £9/hour which is the same as the salary being paid to the cleaner. It was agreed that no further

action is needed in respect of this matter.

13. Golitha Falls

To consider requesting a Traffic Regulation Order for parking on the highway at Golitha Falls

It was noted that Councillor D Lucas had circulated a detailed report to all Councillors prior to the meeting. He said that the traffic cones seem to have been helpful as a temporary solution to the parking problems on the highway. It was noted that the aim is to seek a more permanent solution and to bid for funding under the County Highways scheme which closes at the end of September. Some discussion took place regarding possible permanent solutions – double yellow lines, signs indicating that wider sections of the road are passing places only or required as access for emergency vehicles, improved signage on the main road, single white lines and raised kerbs. Councillor D Lucas said that the cones should be kept in place and the existing white lines retained. He said that visitor numbers have been unusually high this year. He said that double yellow lines would spoil the appearance of this part of the AONB. Councillor P Crichton said that advertising via Facebook by Inkys has resulted in a surge in visitor numbers. The Chair said that the parish council cannot ask Inkys to reduce their advertising. Councillor C Smith commented that the parking problems at Golitha Falls have been ongoing for many years. Councillor G Rogers said that he favours double yellow lines as the siting of cones and bollards and vehicles parked on the roadside are unsightly. Councillor Dr L Jones said that the double yellow lines could be removed if it was considered to be a mistake. Councillor T Hooper said that the double yellow lines would fade quite quickly. It was noted that the kiln dried firewood business in the Draynes Valley will be ceasing operations from the site. Councillor D Lucas said that the provision of double yellow lines may make parking worse further along the road. He said that the Police are sure that emergency vehicles could get through even if cars are parked on the roadside. Councillor P Crichton commented that the public should be asked for their views. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that Councillor D Lucas and Cornwall Councillor M Eddy submit an application for an expression of interest for funding from Cornwall Council for highways improvements to rectify the parking problems at this location and simultaneously, requesting options for solutions to the problem. This method would involve public consultation by Cormac. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

14. Road from Loveny Close to Coombe House, St Neot

To consider requesting a 30mph speed limit on the road from Loveny Close to Coombe House, St Neot

It was noted that this request has been submitted by a parishioner. Councillor T

Hooper said that visibility when exiting from Coombe Farmhouse is difficult. She said that parents often walk along the road with their children and pushchairs and horseriders use it too. Councillor H Bunt said that the 30mph limit could start at Lampen Bridge. Councillor G Rogers said that the speed limit should be 30mph from the A38 into the village. Councillor A Bellringer said that it is unwise to have the speed limit imposed too far away from the village as drivers will have forgotten the limit by the time they reach the village. He said that the 30mph limit should start at Ambrose Lake corner. Councillor P Crichton said that she agreed with the latter view and that additional signage should also be erected warning drivers of horseriders and walkers. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council should not be encouraging walking along the main road. Councillor G Rogers said that wherever the sign goes, it will not make a difference to the speed people drive. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that Councillor T Hooper and Cornwall Councillor M Eddy submit an expression of interest for funding from Cornwall Council for highways improvements to reduce the speed of vehicles at this location and simultaneously, requesting options for solutions to the problem. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

15. 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 2020/21

Councillor Dr L Jones commented, as suggested by the auditor, that the forecasting of the parish council's financial plans should be improved. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A Bellringer that the standing orders, financial regulations, financial risk assessment and internal financial controls be adopted. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

16. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that Cornwall Council has to make £58 million savings by 2024 -25 as a result of additional financial pressures, particularly adult social care and Covid 19. He said that GL provide the leisure centres in Cornwall but Cornwall Council is not in a financial position to help them. He said that volunteers for redundancy within Cornwall Council have been asked to come forward. He explained that a click and collect service is now operating from the libraries, the registrar is now open and Luxstowe House will re-open as an office. He said that he had asked the Highways department about the queries Councillor G Rogers had raised at the last meeting of the parish council and was informed

that there is a different highway maintenance schedule in different areas. He said that he has asked Paul Allen to look at the Carnglaze Caverns road again. Councillor G Rogers said that he was still concerned that the contractors trim around the base of sign posts as it exposes the metal and it starts to rust. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that he would ask why this is done. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that Cornwall Council are making the case that base level funding from central government should be higher. The Chair agreed, saying that central funding per head of population in Cornwall is lower than in many other areas of the UK. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the school transport has worked well as has the return to school. Councillor P Critchon said that part of the road between Wenmouth Cross and Colliford Lake needs re-surfacing. It was noted that there is a caravan, tent, ponies, chickens and some planting in a field along that stretch of road. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the planning enforcement officers are investigating the matter. Councillor Dr L Jones asked if there was any progress with the enforcement case at Dragon's Corner. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that the case was in the court system.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor P Crichton said that the bus shelter on Goonzion is very overgrown. The Chair said this would be examined during the upcoming annual asset inspection. Councillor H Bunt queried whether hedge cutting was needed this year. It was agreed that hedge trimming on Goozion is not required at the present time.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – September 2020) - £390.00
Mrs S Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) - £2,334.50
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £143.66
Christian Smith (Hand Sanitiser and Dispenser for Cott Yard) - £99.21
Colin Alford (Concrete Hardstanding for Clothes Recycling Bin) – £384.00
St Neot News (November, December, February, March and April expenses) -
£461.03
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting – August 2020) - £232.20

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that all of the above invoices be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor H Bunt said that Lanhydrock Gardening Services did not collect the grass after cutting it in early September. The Clerk said that she would remind them of their contract to do this. Councillor P Crichton said there are a considerable number of weeds around the edge of the

car park.

18. Finance Report

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

The Clerk reported that income of £10,000 had been received from Cornwall Council as a Covid 19 grant payment for the public toilet and that the accounts balance at £78,777.14.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 14th October 2020

The date of the next meeting of St Neot Parish council will be on Wednesday 14th October 2020 commencing at 7:30pm.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9:30pm.

Addendum to Minute 5

“Parish Council meeting minutes are used to support arguments made in Definitive Map Modification Orders, sometimes decades after the meeting has taken place. It is therefore the responsibility of the Parish Council to ensure that any such discussions are accurately recorded. I highlight three examples below of inaccuracies; I should be grateful if you would make the necessary corrections and acknowledgements at the next St Neot Parish Meeting, to be held on 9 September 2020.

Minutes for Meeting 11th December 2019

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.”

This misrepresents what was said by the member of the public. The member of the public said that the destination of footpath 632/5 was Wortha, and it was not, as Cornwall Council viewed it, a “dead-end” footpath.

Minutes for Meeting 10th May 2017

Item 13

"Councillor Dr L Jones also said that Jenny Hart is trying to reinstate the footpath between Wortha and Draynes Ryland as it is an old drovers' track."

The track from Wortha to Draynes Rylands is not a droving route or footpath. The track is the original accommodation road into Wortha, and it runs from the private land of West Draynes Manor, of which Wortha was a part - see OS map Old Series Sheet XXX 1813, and the original survey drawing (South Petherwin section) for the same dated 1808. Note that on this material Wortha is called Trewartha. At this time there was no track from Northwood to Wortha.

Minutes for Meeting 12th September 2018

Item 18

"The Chair explained that Jenny Hart is seeking modification orders to three rights of way in the parish and would like the support of the parish council. She explained that Jenny Hart has collated a considerable amount of evidence to support her claim that these rights of way have been used in the last 20 years."

This suggests that the Parish Council endorsed the material collected as evidence. At the time this material was presented to members of the parish council, the fact that it was untested should have been made clear. The phrase "a considerable amount" is also in my opinion prejudicial."