

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD USING ZOOM ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH MARCH 2021 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.

Nicholas Powell, Clare Reed, Thomas Thrussells, Jenny Hart, Graham Pickering, David Ambler, John Body, Phil Seeva, Hatti Webb and Nicola Morris

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy  
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

**Public Participation**

John Body explained that he is the Group Scout Leader and that he and a team of volunteers run the Beavers, Scouts and Cubs in the parish. He said the organisation has a committee and is audited on an annual basis and that funds are received from subscriptions, fundraising and donations. He said their annual income is approximately £4,000 but that has been reduced to zero this last year due to the pandemic. He said that the bank balance stands at £3,391 of which £950 will be paid to scout HQ in March 2021. He said that some financial support from the parish council would motivate the volunteers and would allow them to renew some equipment. He said that a number of local scout groups have disappeared over the years.

**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 meetings held on 10th and 17<sup>th</sup> February 2021, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

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

None

**4. Colliford Lake Park**

**To receive and consider a presentation on pre-application planning proposals for Colliford Lake Park**

The Chair said that the proposal is at the pre application planning stage and that councillors can ask questions on the proposal but should not express an opinion.

It was noted that the latest information submitted by the Agent relating to ecology had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Nicholas Powell said that he has had a lot of engagement with the neighbours relating to the issues that have been raised. He explained that this is not a pre-application proposal but a planning performance agreement in order to understand the impacts of a project of this size. He said the project will evolve and change but its overriding philosophy is distinct in that the aim is to create an authentic moorland retreat so that people can immerse themselves in nature. Nicholas Powell said that he is in receipt of studies relating to bird species at the lake and he is aware of the fish species at the dam and the existence of green corridors as well as the presence of beavers. He said that the site will not generally be for public access but that he is looking at ways of facilitating access from a footpath to the north of the site. He said that there is an opportunity to improve the water quality of the lake by removing the existing clarigesters on the site and introducing a bio system using reed beds. The Chair said that she would like to see the technical information relating to the proposed reed beds. She said that there are 123 species of bird at Colliford Lake. She said that the parish council would need to be sure that the proposed development would benefit the community. She said that the proposal must fit within the policy framework at both national and local level. In terms of ecology, she said that the environment is already a very special one and that the proposal must improve it. Nicholas Powell said that any development will require a net 10% biodiversity uplift. The Chair asked if Nicholas Powell had any examples of this type of development which he has been involved which he could show to the parish council. He said that most of his work has been overseas. Graham Pickering said that his background is in property development principally residential and mixed-use schemes. Councillor T Hooper said that in any development of this scale, there are trade-offs between the environmental and economic impacts. She said that employment opportunities, social opportunities and improved biodiversity will be sought and asked where it is thought the trade-offs will occur. Nicholas Powell said that he is aware of the inevitable trade-off between biodiversity against capital cost and job creation. Nicholas Powell said there are no foreign investors. Councillor H Bunt asked how the residents will be controlled when the units are sold in terms of transport. Nicholas Powell said that the units would be sold with a high level license retreat agreement that controls what can be done on the site. He said that residents will also pay a ground rent for maintenance of the surroundings. He said that he appreciates the tight constraints imposed on development in the AONB and asked for reassurance that the unauthorized development at Dragons Corner will be rectified. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said the court date is scheduled for 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 and that everything within Cornwall Council's powers is being done to rectify the situation.

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

The Chair said that the proposal to share the maintenance of the fence that is on the boundary with the school and the footpath into Doorstep Green from Market View will be discussed by the school governors in March 2021. She said that the Parish Clerk agreed that Covid 19 regulations allow for the use of a squeegee mop to clean the floor in the public toilet.

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

The Chair reported that she has received communication from a parishioner who is concerned that the highland cattle on Goonzion are destroying the trees. She said that the Clerk has written to Julie Dowton and asked her to clarify the number of livestock each grazier is allowed to have on the moor and the length of time that grazing can occur as well as clarification on the rights of the parish council as landowner and the rights of the graziers.

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

Councillor G Rogers asked the Clerk to forward emails to all councillors received from Cornwall Council, CALC and other important organisations as well emails that may be of interest to all councillors.

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

None

**9. Warning Sign**

**To consider the erection of a warning sign on the road to West Killatown**

The Chair said that she has spoken to, or had written replies from all the parties concerned and commented that one parishioner does not want a sign at all. She said that if the parties involved can reach a consensus view, the parish council could consider the matter again.

**10. Donations**

**To receive and consider requests for financial support from organisations in the parish**

The Chair said that the only organization asking for financial assistance in the parish is the Scouts. She said that the request had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was noted that the group cannot start fundraising until July 2021. Councillor A Bellringer said that it is an important

group in the parish which should be assisted to enable it to continue. He suggested a donation of £500. Councillor P Crichton said that the organization is a valuable one in helping to bring up the future generation and teaching them values. She suggested a donation of £1,000. The Chair said that the group is more than £1,000 down in terms of funding this year. Councillor R Berrett said that the scouts do excellent work. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council could make a donation of £1,000 and give the group an incentive in that whatever money is raised in the remainder of the year, the parish council will match it with 30%. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor C Smith that a donation of £1,000 be given to the scouts and that whatever fundraising is undertaken in the rest of the year will be matched in monetary terms by 50%. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

## **11. Public Right of Way Signs on Goonzion**

### **To receive and consider a report on the public rights of way signs on Goonzion**

It was noted that the reports prepared by Jenny Hart and Chris Monk (Cornwall Council person in charge of PROWs) had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair said that Chris Monk has inspected the PROWs and has made the following recommendations: the installation of a plaque where the footpath leaves Tripp Hill, the replacement of the stile to a kissing gate where the footpath from Tripp Hill goes onto the moorland and the removal of the gate at the start of the footpath opposite Crowpound. Councillor C Smith asked what is going to happen to the signs on Goonzion that are in disrepair. It was noted that all signs will be reinstated by Cornwall Council to an acceptable standard. It was also noted that the plaque at the top of Tripp Hill will need to be erected on private property so permission of the landowner will need to be obtained. At this point, councillors agreed to suspend proceedings and consult Jenny Hart who has collated the footpaths surveys and liaised with Chris Monk and the parish council. Jenny volunteered to speak to the property owner for the plaque. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor R Berrett that the recommendations be supported and the works be undertaken. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

## **12. Asset Register**

### **To approve the asset register**

The Clerk said that she had circulated the asset register prior to the meeting. Councillor C Smith said that the asset register does not have consistent values in that some of the assets are listed as nominal £1 assets and others are listed with their purchase price. He said the asset register and the insurance schedule are different. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor T Berrett that a column be added to the asset register detailing the current value

of the assets and that the Clerk clarifies the other values on the asset register so that the document can be approved at the next meeting of the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

### **13. Insurance**

#### **To receive and consider quotations for the insurance premium for 2021/22**

The Clerk said that she had obtained two quotations for the parish council's insurance for 2021/22: one from the current insurers, Aviva, in the sum of £6,978.13 and one from Zurich in the sum of £1,198.57. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that Councillor T Hooper examines the Zurich policy in detail and that if this provides the cover that is required, the parish council's insurance for 2021/22 be with Zurich. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal except for Councillor P Crichton who abstained from voting.

### **14. External Auditor's Report**

#### **To receive and consider the external auditor's report for 2019/20**

It was noted that the external auditor's report had been circulated prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the report be approved. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

#### **To consider the exterior decorating of the Pavilion**

The Chair explained that, at the October meeting of the parish council, it was resolved that Sam Moore be contracted to undertake some painting and repair work at the Pavilion. Councillor C Smith said that Andrew Baker also quoted for the works and that his quote, whilst being more expensive, was for different work to that quoted for by Sam Moore. He said that Sam Moore has had a further look at the building and considers that the building requires a complete re-paint which will cost £1,485. Councillor C Smith said that he did not consider that the building has deteriorated that significantly over the winter. The Clerk said that if a complete re-paint is considered necessary, further quotes will have to be obtained. It was agreed that this will further delay works to the building. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the original contract awarded to Sam Moore in the sum of £780 goes ahead without further delay. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal except for Councillor D Lucas who abstained from voting.

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

It was noted that details of the proposed siting of the table tennis table had been circulated prior to the meeting. Councillor C Smith said that an area of tarmac 4m x 8.5m is proposed at the lower end of the playing field. He questioned why such an extensive area is needed. He said this area is used for other events and that it should be sited behind the basketball area. The Chair said this would require more excavation than the other site. Councillor P Crichton said that matting could be used that grass grows through instead of tarmac. The Chair said this is not a suitable enough surface. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor C Smith that a smaller area of tarmac be laid further towards the existing gate and away from the bridge into Doorstep Green. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor P Crichton said that a parishioner has come forward who wants to help with Doorstep Green. The Chair said that they should contact Councillor O Burrows.

**16. Cott Yard**

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

None

**17. Toilets and Car Park**

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

Councillor C Smith explained that at the last meeting of the parish council, it was resolved that Stenlakes be contracted to install a proper plastic drain system to the public toilet at a cost of £450. He said that the schedule of works did not match the estimate or the works as previously discussed. Therefore, he instructed them not to undertake the work. Councillor C Smith explained that he asked Colin Alford to provide a quotation for the works. However, when he looked at what was required, he repaired it immediately at a nominal cost of £50. The Chair thanked Councillor C Smith for his efforts in this respect.

**18. St Neot Orchard**

**To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to St Neot Orchard**

The Clerk said that, to date, only one quotation for the installation of a footpath and steps into the orchard has been received. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council when further quotes have been received. Councillor P Crichton said there are a number of grant schemes available for works such as this. It was agreed that she would look into the grants available. Councillor P Crichton said that it might be a good idea to keep the pedestrian gate that is removed from Goonzion for use in the orchard.

**19. To receive reports from -**

**a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that Cornwall Council has set a balanced budget. He said that elections are approaching and that applications for postal votes have to be made by Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2021. He explained that the census forms need to be completed. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that half of the orchard has been pruned and the three trees which were dead have been replaced. He said that Wildanet has been sending letters to parishioners regarding the installation of fibre and equipment. It was agreed that the company would be invited to the next meeting of the parish council to ascertain what they are offering and what they are trying to achieve. Councillor D Lucas expressed his thanks to Cornwall Councillor M Eddy for all his hard work as a Cornwall Councillor. Councillor G Rogers said that he hoped that Cornwall Councillor M Eddy's successor is as good. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Cornwall Councillor M Eddy be reimbursed for the trees purchased to replace the dead ones. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Cornwall Councillor M Eddy said that he wanted to pay for Rev A Balfour's tree. Councillor H Bunt said that Margery Bunt wanted to pay for her replacement tree. Councillor D Lucas said that he and his wife Jenny, would like to plant a tree in the orchard.

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

Councillor H Bunt said that the hedge trimming on Goonzion has been completed. Councillors P Crichton and D Lucas volunteered to wash the signs on Goonzion.

**c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

None

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – March 2021) - £390.00  
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99  
Christian Smith (Tap for Public Toilet) - £34.98

St Neot News (Expenses – September, October, November and December 2020)  
- £433.00  
Sue Blaxley (Kerdroya Donation – Hedge Pledges) - £440.00  
M P Barbery (Fencing adit and cutting trees) - £500.00  
Sue Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) - £2273.99  
Richards Builders Merchants (Wood preserver for gazebo planter) - £10.43  
Western Web Limited (Website) - £342.00

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor R Berrett that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

## **21. 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 £136.50 has been received from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the Pavilion, 29p interest, £60 for website advertisements and £587.46 from Ofgem as RHI payments. The accounts balance at £83,502.85

## **22. Date of next meeting**

### **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> April 2021**

The date of the next meeting of St Neot Parish council will be on Wednesday-14<sup>th</sup> April 2021 commencing at 7:30pm.

There was no further business and the meeting closed at 9:45pm.