

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH JUNE 2021 AT 7:30PM IN ST NEOT VILLAGE HALL, ST
NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, O Burrows, T Hooper, H Webb, G Rogers, D Lucas and T Thrussell.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

Amanda Pennington, Wildanet, for the public participation part of the meeting.

Nigel Ball, Stuart Stevenson

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Amanda Pennington explained that her company has £50million to “roll out” the fibre network in Cornwall. She said that the aim is to pick up where Open Reach stopped and that they have started work in Liskeard. She said that they are using the infrastructure which is already in place and the aim is to have fibre optic to premises which will provide a 200mgb/second upload and download speed as a minimum. She said that she hopes this Cornish company will be embraced by Cornish people. Councillor C Smith asked where the £50 million had come from. Amanda Pennington said it is from private investors. Councillor C Smith asked if this was sufficient money and also where the revenue will come from. She said that the company has £35 million in reserve and the revenue will come from customers. Councillor T Thrussell asked if the fibre will go straight to peoples’ houses. Amanda Pennington said that it would or via fixed wireless. Councillor T Hooper asked why other companies are not doing the same. Amanda Pennington said that Openreach was given EU money to do this but never did. She said the industry has now become more de-regulated and there are government incentives. She said that the company hopes to return a profit within 3 years. Councillor H Bunt said that some of the original correspondence sent out by Wildanet relating to Trenches law and wayleaves frightened people. Amanda Pennington said that they do have powers to cross land to provide infrastructure but they prefer not to. She said that they have a digital inclusion scheme so that if just one property in a village uses Wildanet to connect to broadband, they will provide the service free of charge to all village halls and community centres in that village.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N O’Neill and M Rowe.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 12th May 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record subject to an amendment to minute 12, paragraph 6, line 21 changing “Councillor H Webb said that.....to “It was agreed that.....”

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

The Clerk said that she had asked Julie Downton for a copy of the email she had sent regarding the number of animals that could be grazed on Goonzion and the length of time they could be grazed on the moor but had not received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up this matter. Councillor O Burrows said that the land owner and Cornwall Council are aware of the Japanese knotweed on the road to the Holy Well and it is being dealt with. The Clerk said that she has written to Cornwall Council Highways regarding re-painting the white lines at Crowpound Crossroads but has not received a response. It was agreed that the Clerk would follow up this matter. The Chairman said that the cattle grid at Colliford is now stock proof. Councillor O Burrows said that he had organized a working party for Doorstep Green and quite a few helpers attended. It was agreed that the next Working Party would be advertised on Facebook. The Clerk said that she had informed Cormac of the splinter incident from the new handrail on the steps into Water Meadow. Councillor C Smith said that the fence at Jane Williams’ will be replaced next month.

11. To receive the Chairman’s Communications

The Chairman said that he had written an item for St Neot news informing parishioners of the make up of the new parish council and the new Chair and Vice Chair. He said that a parishioner had complained to him about the parking problems on the highway at Golitha Falls. He said that the parishioner had rung the Police who responded saying that as the vehicles were not parked on double yellow lines, it is a highways issue not a matter for the Police. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he was aware of the matter.

The Chair said that parishioners have expressed concern about the litter on the roads into the village. He said that it might be a good idea to purchase some litter pickers and high visibility vests so that organisations or groups could arrange for litter picking to take place.

The Chair said that perhaps the parish council should have more presence on Facebook. He said that the Clerk had said that if the parish council is to post

anything on Facebook, it has to have been agreed at a meeting and not represent the views of individual councillors. Councillor G Rogers said that Facebook often becomes a “war of words”. Councillor T Hooper said that it can be a dangerous forum but could be used as part of a managed campaign. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the Parish Council. The Chair asked the Clerk to circulate contact details for all councillors to everyone on the parish council.

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

None.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Tender Specification Template

To receive and consider a tender specification template

Councillor T Hooper said that she had circulated a draft template for contractors when they are invited to undertake work for the parish councils which is a three page document detailing who the parish council is, what work is needed to be done, a detailed specification of the works to be undertaken and a contractual agreement. She said that she had had some positive feedback and would circulate the revised version to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

9. Public Rights of Way

To receive and consider a report on Public Rights of Way

It was noted that a report from Jenny Hart had been circulated to all councillors. Councillor G Rogers said that the report did not mention the waymarkers on Goonzion. It was noted that Jenny Hart and Martin Eddy will reinstate them. Councillor C Smith said that if this is not done within 3 months, the parish council will undertake the works. The Chairman said that it might be a good idea to put the wooden waymarkers onto granite posts as opposed to wooden ones to avoid the problem of the posts rotting. It was agreed that he would liaise with Jenny and Martin.

10. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

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

Councillors O Burrows and C Smith said that three benches in Doorstep Green are rotting and need replacing. It was agreed that, in terms of usage, two benches are adequate. Councillor C Smith said that a wooden bench from Duchy Timber would cost £220 plus VAT for a 6ft bench and £240 plus VAT for one for use by disabled and able-bodied persons. He said the benches would be fully assembled and delivered and have a lifespan of 8-10 years. He said that a plastic bench would cost between £350 and £1,200 with a lifespan of between 10 and 25 years depending on the price. It was noted that the plastic benches can distort and warp in the sun. Councillor T Hooper said the wood used by Duchy Timber for the benches is sustainable. Councillor T Thrussell said that the life span of the wood versus the plastic has to be considered. Councillor H Bunt said the existing wooden benches are 18 years old. Councillor T Thrussell said the plastic ones do dry more quickly. It was proposed by Councillor D Lucas and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the existing three benches in Doorstep Green be removed and disposed of and that Councillor C Smith purchases a bench for use by able bodied and disabled persons from Duchy Timber and that Councillor T Thrussell investigates the alternatives for plastic benches and be authorised to purchase one up to the value of £400 plus VAT on behalf of the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

It was noted that the ROSPA play inspection report has been received. Councillors O Burrows, C Smith and H Webb reported that they had looked at the play equipment and proposed the action needed under the ROSPA play inspection report as follows: the mole hills have been removed; the grass surface by the netball multi sports area is a little rough and will be re-seeded in the Autumn; the rubber mats will need replacing in the next two years around the swings which will cost approximately £4,000, the cap missing on the seesaw will be filled with silicone; the swing woodwork needs a preservative painted onto it; the fitness equipment needs washing with bleach and touched up with some paint; the chest press and lateral pull down is loose in the ground and requires additional concreting by a contractor and the handrail on the bridge needs new capping to seal it. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that Colin Alford be asked to install the additional concrete around the base of the chest press and lateral pull down. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor C Smith said that the water running from Lampen Lane into the playing field needs to be taken away via a small open ditch. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Colin Alford be asked to provide a quotation for these works. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

It was noted that the memorial bench belonging to Jack Haley requires the arm rest to be replaced. The Clerk said that she would speak to Janet Haley about this matter.

Councillor T Hooper said that she and Councillor C Smith had met Jason Shaw at the pavilion and that Councillor C Smith had agreed the materials and specification with him. She said that a maximum spend of £500 on materials (via

the parish council's account at Richards) had been agreed. Councillor T Hooper said that the parish council's insurance policy does cover voluntary work and that she will draft risk assessments and agree them with Jason Shaw. She said that he has been asked to do the work over the summer.

The Clerk said that she had emptied the electricity meter in the pavilion and there was £201 in the meter.

11. Cott Yard

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

None

12. 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

Councillor C Smith said that the latch on the toilet door that holds it open for cleaning was broken but has been repaired by Councillor O Burrows. He said that the door suspension unit also needs replacing. The Chairman thanked Councillors C Smith and O Burrows for spraying the weeds in the car park and village. It was noted that the litter bin in the car park need replacing. The Clerk said that she would report this to Cornwall Council.

13. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor G Rogers said that he had undertaken the first cut of the year.

14. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Councillor P Seeva said that Cornwall Council is made up of a majority Conservative Council with a new leader and cabinet and new committees. He said that he will sit on the strategic planning, standards and licensing committees and will be the representative working on culture, tourism and sport on the LGA. He said that he is looking forward to working with the parish council. He said that there is money available via the Community Chest for the new benches in Doorstep Green.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor C Smith said that the fencing around the land that Mr and Mrs Wilton rent from the parish council is old and may need replacing. Councillor G Rogers said that he will inspect the fence. Councillor C Smith said that the fence around Jane William's garden will be undertaken next month.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that the next meeting will be via Skype on 14th June 2021.

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – June 2021) - £390.00
Sue Blaxley (3 months salary and expenses) - £2117.54
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99
South West Water (Water for Toilets) - £61.74
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 20/4/21 and 20/5/21) - £464.40
St Neot Social Club (Toilet Rolls and Cleaning Materials) - £16.93
Owain Burrows (Plants for Doorstep Green) - £15.00
James Hallam Ltd (Legal Expenses Cover) - £39.20
Gary Rogrs (Orchard Strimming) - £200.00

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The Clerk said that she had undertaken some research into online banking for the parish council and that Unity Trust Bank offer a service that would be suitable for the parish council. She said that other parish councils use this bank. Councillor T Hooper asked the Clerk to investigate who had undertaken due diligence in respect of using Unity Trust Bank. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

16. 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 £131.00 had been received from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the pavilion, £1,197.19 from Pertemps for the rent of Cott Yard, £402.47 from Ofgem for RHI payments, £7,014.51 from HMRC as a VAT repayment, £90.82 from the toilet donation box and £571.50 from Heather Taylor for rent for Cott Yard. The Clerk said the accounts balance at £103,531.61.

17. Co-option

To receive and consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

Stuart Stevenson introduced himself, explained his background, what he could offer to the parish council and why he wanted to join the parish council. Nigel Ball gave a similar presentation. Both candidates left the room and a secret vote was held. The Clerk recorded three votes for Nigel Ball, four votes for Stuart Stevenson and one abstention. Stuart Stevenson was duly elected. The Chairman thanked Nigel and Stuart for standing and for expressing an interest.

PART 2

Members of the public, press and the Clerk were excluded from discussion of the following item as it relates to confidential, personal information

18. Clerk's Contract of Employment

To receive and consider the Clerk's Contract of Employment

It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor D Lucas that the Clerk's temporary contract of employment be adopted as her permanent contract. This proposal was carried unanimously.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 14th July 2021

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 14th July 2021 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Village Hall.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:50pm.