

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH SEPTEMBER 2021 AT 7:30PM IN ST NEOT VILLAGE
HALL, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, H Webb, G Rogers, M Rowe, T Thrussell and S Stevenson.

Brian Rediccliffe
Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Brian Rediccliffe said that when the new cattle grid was installed at Dozmary Pool, the hardstanding was removed. He explained that this hardstanding was used as a parking area for those visiting Dozmary Pool. He said the hardstanding area was large enough to accommodate a bus. He said that visitors to the pool now park on private land. Councillor G Rogers asked who owns the land that was used as a hardstanding. Brian Rediccliffe said that it is common land.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N O'Neill, D Lucas and T Hooper.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 14th July 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared a personal interest in items 9 and 21 on the agenda.

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

It was noted that the white lines have been re-painted at Crowpound Crossroads. The Chair said that co-option of a new councillor will take place at the October meeting of the parish council as opposed to this meeting as he had not had the opportunity to advertise the vacancy in St Neot News. He explained that the new wooden picnic table will be moved into Doorstep Green and that the new plastic picnic table is in situ in Doorstep Green. The Clerk said that she had informed the cleaner that the number of hours/week that the toilet building needs cleaning has been reduced from seven to four. It was noted that Gary Rogers has

strimmed the orchard, the area around the Holy Well and the rear of the car park. The Chairman said that he had received more correspondence regarding the unacceptable parking on the roads near Golitha Falls. It was also noted that one of the rails is bent on the cattle grid near Luna. The Clerk said that she had informed Cormac. The Clerk said that the new bank account with Unity Trust Bank will be open as soon as they have received two forms of ID from Councillor T Hooper.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that a meeting of the Planning Committee had been held in August. He said that the Smite weekend was a success. The Chairman said that he had received an email saying that St Neot are hoping to form a football team. He said that they will use the kit they have and will use the facilities at Callywith College. He said that he had received a request from the scout leader that the parish council considers installing wi-fi in the Pavilion. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. In addition, one of the scout leaders has asked if the parish council would give further consideration to extending the Pavilion. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. Councillor T Thrussell asked why the scouts do not use the village hall if they require additional space. Councillor C Smith said that the scouts use the pavilion free of charge and the proposed extension that was discussed several years ago was to enable camping to take place for both male and female scouts.

The Chairman said that he had received correspondence from St Neot Church saying that the steps into the cemetery are steep and awkward for less able - bodied people. He said they are considering installing a ramp to facilitate access to the cemetery. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

The Chairman said that the village BBQ is widely used by organisations but as it is a "homemade" BBQ, there is no insurance cover for its use. He said that Nigel Ball replaced the pipes and clips on the BBQ at the beginning of the season but he cannot give it a safety certificate. Councillor G Rogers said that the parish council could consider purchasing a new manufactured BBQ. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

The Chairman said that the Clerk had contacted Cormac regarding safety concerns appertaining to the new cattle grid at Colliford Lake. He said that Cormac consider the cattle grid to be safe. Councillor T Thrussell said that sheep continue to jump over it and that the fence adjacent to the cattle grid has been damaged.

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Bad Debts Policy

To adopt a bad debts policy

The Clerk said that she had circulated a draft bad debts policy prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the bad debts policy be adopted with the addition of rent from Goonzion tenants to the revenue sources. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor G Rogers, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item

9. Public Rights of Way

To receive and consider a report on Public Rights of Way

Councillors H Webb, C Smith, D Lucas and T Hooper reported that they had inspected the PROW which had been cut by the contractor. All councillors reported that the work is of a satisfactory standard. It was noted that Matthew Glencross has cleared the tree limbs which were lying across a PROW on his land. Councillors noted that an email from Jenny Hart had been circulated.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

10. Colliford Lake

To consider the erection of a parish map at Colliford Lake

Councillor T Thrussell said that Jeremy Fielding from South West Lakes Trust had confirmed, via email, that they would allocate a space on the wall on the left-hand side of the toilet block approximately 800 x 800 on which a parish map could be placed. He said that an illustrated map with points of interest delineated would be suitable. Councillors agreed that the map needs character and should be a promotional tool for the parish which people will study and encourage them to explore the area. He agreed that he would give the design some thought and report to the next meeting of the parish council.

It was noted that the public toilets at Golitha Falls have been closed recently. The Chairman said that there is a “pop up” business operating from Colliford Lake car park which hires electric bikes and encourages users to follow a circular moorland route.

11. Alleged Breaches of Planning Control

To receive and consider emails regarding alleged breaches of planning control

The Chairman reported that an email had been received from a member of the public regarding alleged breaches of planning control. It was noted that this email had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. Councillors agreed that the concerns raised should be directed to the enforcing authorities, such as Planning Enforcement and Environmental Health, as the parish council does not have any enforcing powers. In addition, the parish council does not have all the facts relating to the allegations and does not want to play “piggy in the middle” with these allegations. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that a response be sent to the sender of the email reflecting these views. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Chairman also reported that two emails had been received from members of the public regarding an alleged breach of planning control regarding the establishment of a firing range as a commercial enterprise in the vicinity of Park Pitt and Brownelly. Councillor T Thrussell said that an ancient quarry has been exposed as part of this enterprise. The Clerk reported that she had suggested to the senders of the emails that they report the matter to Planning Enforcement as the most efficient and effective course of action. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he would ascertain if planning permission is required and if so, whether it has been granted for this business.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva agreed that he would forward a monthly update to the Clerk on planning enforcement cases.

12. Forest for Cornwall

To consider planting a tree in the community

Councillors agreed that a tree would be planted of a species and location to be agreed with Councillor T Hooper.

13. Dozmary Pool

To consider re-instating the parking area by the cattle grid at Dozmary Pool

Councillor G Rogers said that Cornwall Council should be informed that the parking area has been removed since the installation of the new cattle grid which

has resulted in people parking on private land when they visit Dozmary Pool which restricts the farmers access. The Chairman said that the cattle grid and adjacent gate now occupy the space that was the parking area.

14. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To consider erecting additional posts to prevent vehicular access to the playing field

Councillor H Webb said that she was concerned that travellers could access the playing field with ease and suggested the erection of a removable bollard in the entrance to the playing field nearest Church View. Councillor H Bunt said that they could still get through the gate at the bottom end of the playing field. Councillor G Rogers said that it would be very difficult for travellers' vehicles to enter the site and if they did, there is a drop into the playing field which would not be able to be negotiated with a vehicle. Councillor M Rowe said that the playing field is a very public place. Councillor T Thrussell suggested erecting a height barrier. Councillors agreed that they should be aware of this potential problem but that given its public location, entrance size and topography, no further action would be taken at the present time.

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

The Chairman said that he had received an email from a member of the public that dogs were in the playing field during the Smite championships but are not allowed in there during the rest of the year. The Chairman said that a parishioner had suggested that there is insufficient signage saying that dogs are not allowed and suggested painting a "No Dogs" sign on the tarmac at the entrance. It was agreed that the use of the playing field by dog owners would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor C Smith circulated a sample of a product known as Easy Grass which would be suitable for the goal mouth in the playing field. He said that it is a 30mm pile, hardwearing and has a 10-year guarantee. He said that to lay it in front of the goal area (5m x 8m) would cost approximately £4,000. He said that the area is bare mud in the summer and a pool of water lies there in the winter, rendering the area unusable. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would obtain some quotations for the work as any investment for this well used area would be very much appreciated. It was noted that Derek Fairhall had applied for the grant for the table tennis table. Councillor C Smith said that the volunteers who were going to paint the Pavilion by the end of September 2021 have not started work. It was agreed that the Clerk would remind the volunteers that the work remains outstanding. It was agreed that if it is not painted this year by the volunteers, a contractor would have to be appointed to paint it in the Spring.

It was noted that Councillor C Smith has put new shock absorbers on two pieces of adult fitness equipment.

The Chairman said that Doorstep Green requires regular maintenance and it was agreed that a working party will take place at the end of October 2021. He read out an email from Heather Taylor who is the new Poppy Appeal Coordinator for the parish. She would like to use Doorstep Green for part of the fundraising for The Royal British Legion and has suggested a poppy trail through the garden and a field of remembrance in Doorstep Green. Councillors agreed to use of Doorstep Green for these purposes provided everything is removed from the area by 21st November 2021. It was agreed that the Clerk would email Heather Taylor accordingly.

Councillor C Smith said that he had inspected the chess pieces and they are all in situ but the white ones are cracking as a result of UV damage. He said that a new set of chess pieces would cost approximately £500. The Chairman said that a set of draught pieces are now available for use by the beavers/scouts and others on request.

15. Cott Yard

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

The Clerk said that she had received an email saying that Restgarth leave the front door locked which is restricting access for other users. In addition, they are removing the toilet paper from the bathroom. Councillors C Smith and H Bunt agreed that they would speak to Restgarth about these matters. Councillor C Smith said that councillors were aware that a lorry had accidentally reversed into the top corner of the building on School Hill. He said the granite post was broken in the accident as was the fascia and guttering. The matter is being pursued through the lorry driver's company's insurance policy. Councillor C Smith said that assessors have visited the site and will appoint contractors to do the work. However, this may take a while and, in the meantime, there is no granite post in place to protect the corner of the building. In addition, Councillor C Smith said that it may be necessary to install a corner gutter to protect the gutter before the works take place.

Councillor C Smith said that the signs outside Cott Yard are in poor repair. He showed an example of a replacement sign saying "Cott Yard" at a cost of £108 including VAT. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that two signs be ordered. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

16. Toilets and Car Park

To consider providing holiday cover for the cleaner

The Clerk said that the cleaner will be on holiday for some days during November. It was agreed that either Diana Smith or the cleaners of the village hall will provide holiday cover.

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

It was noted that the British Heart Foundation clothing bin has been emptied.

19. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that Colin Alford will install the footpath and steps in the orchard at the beginning of October 2021 and that he apologises for the delay. It was noted that the trees are devoid of apples this year. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the orchard be strimmed again in mid-October. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal except for Councillor G Rogers who abstained from voting. It was agreed that the trees will need pruning in February 2022. It was noted that Poppy Critchon is progressing the name plaques for the trees.

The Chairman said that Mervyn Chipman will gift to the parish council a parcel of land at the entrance to the orchard if the parish council covers the conveyancing costs. It was noted that the piece of land extends down to the river and is mainly scrubland. Councillor M Rowe asked what the gain would be from acquiring this parcel of land. Councillor C Smith said that it would allow parking for 3 cars. It was agreed that the Chairman would supply the Clerk with a Land Registry plan of the land in question and the Clerk would obtain an estimate from Caunters regarding the conveyancing costs.

20. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he has spoken to the Police regarding the illegal parking at Golitha Falls and has had a meeting with the local residents. He said that the parking cones are not working. He thinks that it is primarily a problem during the summer months and that double yellow lines may act as a deterrent. The Chairman said that any parking restrictions need to allow for emergency access. He said that the Community Chest funding is now open and he would be happy to assist St Neot with the purchase of a BBQ. Councillors asked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to provide an update on the enforcement at Dragons Corner at the next meeting of the parish council.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

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

Already Paid:

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – August 2021) - £358.02
South West Water (Water for Pavilion) - £3.39
South West Water (Water for Toilet) - £79.73
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £37.49
Thomas Thrussell (Plastic Picnic Table) - £540.00
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99

To Be Paid:

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – September 2021) - £271.62
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 30/6/21 and 20/7/21) - £464.40
Richards Builders Merchants (Building Materials) - £7.14
Christian Smith (Fencing Materials) - £536.04
St Neot News (May, June and July 2021 expenses) - £723.00
Sue Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) - £2237.54
HMRC (PAYE) - £142.30
Gary Rogers (Holy Well, Car Park and Orchard strimming) - £450.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) - £32.86

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

22. 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 £136.00 had been received from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the pavilion, £1,197.19 from Pertemps for the rent of Cott Yard and 34p interest. The Clerk said the accounts balance at £101,284.03.

23. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 13th October 2021

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 13th October 2021 commencing at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 10:15pm.