

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 13TH OCTOBER 2021 AT 7:30PM IN ST NEOT VILLAGE HALL, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, G Rogers, M Rowe, T Thrussell, N O'Neill and S Stevenson.

Nigel Ball
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors T Hooper, H Webb and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021

The minutes of the meeting held on 8th September 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

The Chairman said that he had spoken to the Menheniot Postmaster and the wi-fi in the Pavilion is a secure line that can only be used by the Post Office. He said that the cattle grid at Colliford Lake is awaiting repair and, in the meantime, Cornwall Council are inspecting the cattle grid twice a day. He said that the Clerk had informed those who had reported alleged breaches of planning control that their best course of action would be to direct their complaints to the enforcing authorities, such as Cornwall Council. It was noted that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva has not been forwarding a weekly list of planning enforcement cases as requested by the parish council.

The Chairman said that the Clerk had written to Cornwall Council regarding the cattle grid at Dozmary Pool and they have responded saying there is no action that they can take at this stage. They said that the parish council did not inform them that there was a parking area in that location. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council should ask Cornwall Council to erect a sign indicating access

to Dozmary Pool. It was agreed that the parish council does not want to encourage parking, especially by coaches, in the vicinity of Dozmary Pool.

The Chairman said that the grant money for the table tennis table has been received. He reported that he and Councillor C Smith had visited Heather Taylor in Cott Yard and that a note had been left in the bathroom by a visitor to the effect that there was no toilet paper. Heather Taylor said that all the tenants supply their own toilet paper. It was noted that Restgarth do not use the front door to the building and it is kept locked. Heather can unlock it if she needs access through that door. Restgarth said that they are very happy with the cleaner. The Chairman said that new signs have been erected outside Cott Yard by Councillor C Smith.

In addition, it was noted that holiday cover for the cleaner has been found. The Chairman said that the Clerk is waiting for a land registry map from Kivells for the land at the orchard that Mr and Mrs Chipman will gift to the parish council. The Clerk requires this plan before a quote from Caunters for the transfer of the land can be sought.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that David Lucas has resigned from the parish council. It was agreed that David Lucas had been a valuable member of the team and that the Clerk would write a letter of thanks to him, on behalf of the parish council. The Chairman said that the new bank account with Unity Trust Bank is now open. He said that he had received an email regarding beacons for the Platinum Jubilee and that this matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. In the meantime, it was agreed that the Clerk would contact Matthew Glencross and ask him if he would consent to a beacon being lit on his land at Berry Down.

The Chairman said that the newly formed football team had asked if the parish council would offer them some financial assistance. He said that the Clerk had written to them asking for more details including their current financial situation, how much money they would be asking for and what the money would be used for. To date, she has had no response.

The Chairman reported that a parishioner at Church View had received a bailiff enforcement letter and visit in error. The correspondence was intended for another address in the village. The parishioner has questioned whether the street signage could be improved. The Chairman said that he would inform her that she should ask Cornwall Council to implement this matter if they consider it necessary.

The Chairman said that he would attend the market, on behalf of the parish council, on 6th November 2021. It was agreed that, on Remembrance Sunday,

Councillor S Stevenson would lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council.
Councillor H Bunt said that he would arrange the bugler.

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

Councillor S Stevenson raised a number of issues relating to Cornwall Council including the Council's financial situation, council tax, lack of democracy regarding the Scrutiny Committee and assistance to Afghan refugees. It was agreed that he would direct his comments and questions directly to Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

Councillor G Rogers said that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva had said that he would update the parish council on planning enforcement cases but has not done so. He said that the metal work to repair the cattle grid at Colliford Lake is at the fabrication stage. He questioned the cost of Cornwall Council inspecting the cattle grid twice a day and also questioned what was done at each inspection. Councillor T Thrussell said that the timeframe for repair of the cattle grid seems to be August – December according to Cornwall Council's website.

Councillor G Rogers said that the speed hump outside the primary school needs to have a white arrow painted on it on both sides, not just one side as drivers do not realise they are approaching the hump until they are driving over it. He said that the road sweeper had been in the parish two days very close together and he wanted reassurance that the allocation of road sweeping was not going to be used in a few weeks as it will be needed at other times in the parish to clear the fallen leaves. In addition, he said that there has been another accident at Crowpound Crossroads.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. BBQ

To consider purchasing a BBQ for use by the community

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. He said that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he could give some Community Chest funding to enable a new BBQ to be purchased. Councillor C Smith said there are a variety of gas BBQs on the market. He said that a 6-burner gas system which would give out 15-20kW of power would cost approximately £400-£700. He said that if an electric BBQ was purchased, there would be no concerns about the gas bottle but there would be a cable across the ground. He said the maximum output for an electric BBQ is

3Kw which is not big enough for mass gatherings. It was noted that the BBQ would have to be requested for use at either a private function or an event in the village. It was noted that the parish council's insurance policy would not provide cover for hire and use of a BBQ and no disclaimer will stand up in a court of law in the event of a malfunction of the BBQ. Councillor T Thrussell suggested purchasing a coal BBQ to overcome the problem of potential issues with the gas. It was agreed that some organizations have their own BBQ. Councillor M Rowe said that it would be missed by many organisations in the parish who use it and raise significant amounts of money. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

9. Pavilion

To consider the installation of wi-fi in the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith said that the scout leader is seeking permission to install wi-fi in the Pavilion which the scouts will arrange and fund. He explained that a considerable amount of the scouts' activities require online access. Councillor N O'Neill said that, as the wi-fi is to be installed into a parish council building, an acceptable use policy would have to be put in place. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the scouts be permitted to install wi-fi in the pavilion. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

To receive and consider any other matters relating to the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith said that the working party to paint the pavilion had been rained off and that whilst Councillor T Hooper has painted the windows with one coat of paint, some of the bare wood needs painting before the winter. He said that it is hoped that another working party could take place. Councillor C Smith said that one of the emergency lights is not working and that Daryl O'Neill will attend to this matter.

10. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To receive and consider quotations for the installation of artificial grass in front of the goal mouth

Councillor C Smith reported that this is work in progress.

To consider use of the playing field and Doorstep Green by dog owners

Councillor T Thrussell said that Councillor H Webb had commented that dogs off leads are often in the vicinity of the play equipment and that she considers that more signage is required to ensure owners keep dogs on leads or the area around the play equipment needs to be fenced. It was noted that, at the present time, dogs are not allowed in the playing field, on or off a lead. Councillor N

O'Neill said that, last year, there were problems experienced with dog faeces in the parish so questioned why the parish council would want to add to the problem by allowing dogs in the playing field. She said that additional signs should be erected advising that dogs are not allowed in the playing field.

Councillor C Smith explained that, as the parish council own the playing field, they can choose whether to allow dogs. He said that many public areas do allow dogs on leads, as do the majority of pubs and restaurants. He said that the majority of dog owners are respectful. He said that dogs on leads are brought to the carnival and to the smite competition. Councillor T Thrussell suggested allowing dogs, only if they are on leads, and that the dogs are restricted to the designated path ways. Councillor S Stevenson said that he considers dogs should be banned from the playing field. Councillor G Rogers agreed as he said that dogs inevitably defecate on the grass. Councillor M Rowe said that he considers dogs on leads should be allowed, on the designated path ways. It was proposed by Councillor N O'Neill and seconded by Councillor S Stevenson that no dogs be allowed in the playing field. Councillor G Rogers proposed an amendment to this proposal that no dogs be allowed in the playing field except service dogs. This proposal was seconded by Councillor N O'Neill. Five councillors voted in favour of this proposal and two against. The proposal was therefore carried.

To receive and consider a request for use of part of Doorstep Green by the scouts

Councillor C Smith said that the scouts would like to use part of Doorstep Green to install a 1m diameter fire pit, erect a shed for outdoor activities and undertake skills practice. He said the area proposed is on the left-hand side on walking across the bridge into Doorstep Green. Councillor M Rowe said this area of Doorstep Green is not very large for this purpose. Councillor T Thrussell said the use would be as an outdoor classroom. It was agreed that using a parish space for this purpose is a good idea and that perhaps this would be a good use of part of the orchard. However, it was agreed that this area of Doorstep Green is not a suitable location.

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

Councillor N O'Neill said that one of the white pawns is broken. Councillor C Smith said that a new chess set will probably be purchased in the Spring. It was agreed that a Doorstep Green working party will take place on 23rd October 2021 from 10am.

11. Cott Yard

To consider the repair/replacement of the heating unit in Cott Yard

Councillor C Smith reported that the heating is not working in Cott Yard as the stop/start control panel has burnt out. He said that one contractor, SWME, does not want to be involved in replacing the part as there is no main importer in this country for the part. However, Roseland Plumbing and Heating will replace the part at an approximate cost of £300-£400. It was agreed that this is a preferable option to replacing the entire heat pump at a cost of approximately £9,000. Councillor C Smith said that he would progress the matter with Roseland Plumbing and Heating.

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

Councillor C Smith reported that there are three broken slates on the roof. He also said that the insurance company has accepted the quotation for the works to Cott Yard caused by the a lorry reversing into the building on School Hill.

12. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

13. St Neot Orchard

To receive and consider a quotation for labels for the trees in the orchard

This matter was deferred until the next meeting of the parish council.

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

Councillor C Smith said that the path into the orchard will be started in 2 weeks.

14. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that there is an aim to seek to prioritise the A38 from Trurefoot to Saltash for dualling, not just for safety but economic gain too. The latter would include access to schools, universities and medical facilities. It was

proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the parish council writes a letter of support for this campaign to Cornwall Council and the local MP. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillors asked Councillor T Thrussell to raise the following matters at the next LLCNP: are average speed cameras being enforced on the Glynn Valley road?, the Carnglaze Caverns road floods all year round and freezes in winter.

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – October 2021) - £271.62
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 11/8/21 & 26/8/21) - £464.40
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire Extinguisher Servicing – Pavilion) - £36.00
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £80.69
PKF Littlejohn (External Audit) - £360.00
HMRC (PAYE) - £14.43
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £128.63
Christian Smith (Signs for Cott Yard) - £214.00

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor N O'Neill that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

16. 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 £571.50 has been received from Heather Taylor for the rent of Cott Yard and £735.00 from Cornwall Council as the PROW grant. She said the accounts balance at £101,255.79. The Clerk said that the new online account with Unity Trust Bank is now open. She said that Unity Trust Bank offers a complete account switch whereby the balance, all direct debits and standing orders are transferred to the new account with Unity Trust Bank. It was noted that the account balance in the current account with Barclays is approximately £64,000 and that all monies held in one account are insured up to £85,000. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N O'Neill that a full account switch from the Barclays current account be undertaken with immediate effect and the savings account with Barclays Bank be retained. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

17. Co-option

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

Nigel Ball said that he was keen to join the parish council, having had a break from parish council business. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that Nigel Ball be co-opted onto the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

18. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 10th November 2021

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 10th November 2021 commencing at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:40pm.