

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10TH NOVEMBER 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, T Hooper, H Webb and S Stevenson.

David Glanville (interested in co-option onto the parish council)
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor N Ball 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 13th October 2021, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in items 16 and 20 on the agenda.

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

The Chairman said that the new bank account with Unity Trust Bank is fully operational. He said that there has been no further correspondence from St Neot Football team. He said that Councillor S Stevenson will lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday and that the buglers had been arranged. He asked that as many councillors as possible attend. He gave his apologies for not being able to attend due to a pre-arranged family commitment.

It was noted that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva has not forwarded the list of enforcement cases as requested by the parish council.

The Chairman said that the Clerk had written to Cornwall Council regarding the speed hump outside the primary school requesting an additional arrow be painted on it as drivers do not realise they are approaching the hump until they are driving over it. Cornwall Council indicated that they will attend to this matter.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman reported that a new tree disease has been identified between Pelynt and Temple. As a result, DEFRA has issued a movement restriction on trees and branches. He said that correspondence from Julie Dowton has finally been received regarding commoners and grazing. Councillor T Hooper said that there was no mention of entires in the communication. The Chairman said that only one or two commoners actually graze the land but this is sufficient to keep the gorse under control. The Chairman said that reports were received of a lame foal on Goonzion which it is understood has been removed.

The Chairman said that Councillor H Webb questioned whether the parish council should post notifications of road closures on Facebook. He said that, in consultation with the Clerk, it was agreed that there is sufficient notification of the closures online and signage is erected in the appropriate locations so additional notification on Facebook is not necessary. In addition, it would necessitate posting all road closures in the parish on Facebook which is not considered necessary. In addition, Councillor T Hooper explained that Cornwall Council has a dynamic roster so it may not always be possible to post notice of a closure on Facebook in sufficient time.

The Chairman said that he had been notified of an unsafe tree on Tripp Hill which requires felling. It was noted that the tree is on parish council land. It was agreed that this is emergency expenditure and Councillor C Smith was authorized to arrange for the tree to be felled. He said that there is a beech tree overhanging Lea Moor so he will ask the tree surgeon to look at that one too.

The Chairman said that he had received a request from a parishioner that those involved in organizing Remembrance events be personally thanked. It was agreed that many people come together to make the remembrance period an occasion to be remembered and that a generic thankyou should be conveyed from the parish council in the next edition of St Neot News.

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

Councillor N O'Neill said that she had heard that BT were removing or phasing out telephone boxes. It was agreed that BT would have to inform the parish council before they removed the telephone box in St Neot and that no action would be taken unless BT communicated with the parish council in this respect. Councillor T Thrussell asked if BT base their decision on usage. Councillor C Smith said this was one criterion but also the strength of the mobile signal in the area and whether the telephone box is located in a very remote rural area. Councillor G Rogers said that Ofcom are keen to retain the telephone boxes.

Councillor C Smith said that the contractor list needs to be updated. Councillor T Hooper said that any contractors listed must be able to demonstrate correct

health and safety requirements and be environmentally adept. It was agreed that Councillors T Hooper and N O'Neill would compile a template for the next meeting, following which expressions of interest for contractors who want to be added to the list could be advertised in St Neot News.

Councillor C Smith said that several parishioners have complained about the poor state of the road between the old Methodist chapel and the pet cemetery. He said that this section of road holds water and the mud emanating from the fields causes a problem. Councillor M Rowe said that he does clean the mud from the road but that perhaps the road camber needs altering. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Cormac to plough out the foot of the hedges and remove the spoil to the edge of the tarmac as this would improve drainage.

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 if the parish council purchase a new BBQ, Councillor N Ball could provide a test certificate. However, the parish council is not insured to hire out a BBQ. Councillor C Smith said that Gas Safe will state that it is in good working order at the time of service which would attract a yearly inspection fee. He said it would be a community BBQ that could be signed in and out by the hirers. It was suggested that the parish council would not own the BBQ and that each organization has its own public liability insurance. Councillor T Hoper said that everything is owned by a legal body, that is a company or an individual. She said that there is an insurance issue if the parish council is asking for donations for a piece of equipment they are hiring. Councillor T Thrusell said that, as councillors, we are not covered to hire out a BBQ. Councillor T Hooper asked if the Institute would take responsibility for the BBQ as they are in the business of entertaining. The Clerk said that she would ask CALC to ask other parish councils how they deal with such an issue.

9. Pavilion

To receive and consider any other matters relating to the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith said that the building needs painting professionally. The parish council thanked Jason Shaw for his interest but appreciated that he was unable to undertake the work. In terms of the wi-fi for the scouts in the Pavilion, it is quite costly for the scouts so they are looking into the possibility of a booster so they could use the Institute's wi-fi. Councillor N O'Neill said that she doubted

whether the signal would reach the Pavilion from the Institute. Councillor M Rowe asked what the cost would be to install wi-fi in the pavilion. Councillor C Smith said it was approximately £400 for the installation plus a monthly cost which is a lot for a once a week use by the Scouts.

10. 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 said that a Doorstep Green working party took place on 23rd October 2021 which was well attended and a good job was done by all. He said that Nick Hinchcliffe had offered to spread the bark chippings. It had been reported that Lanhydrock Gardening Services had not removed all the grass after the last cut.

Councillor C Smith said that the wet pour for the swings will be laid on 17th and 18th November 2021. He said that the matting and the hardcore needs removing before then and fencing erected around the site. It was agreed that this would be undertaken on Saturday 13th November 2021 and that Councillor O'Neill would make some signs apologising to people if the works cause inconvenience.

Councillor C Smith said that the fence adjacent to the primary school and the footpath into Doorstep Green next to Manor House needs replacing. He said it is approximately 45m of fence with concrete posts which will cost approximately £120 per metre. He said that the fence has to be solid in its makeup.

In terms of the provision of artificial grass around the goal mouth, Councillor C Smith said that it would need cleaning and maintenance as mud will still collect in that location. He said it will only be as good as the drainage in that location. Councillor T Hooper said that a French drain could be installed around the area. Councillor T Thrussell suggested the use of harder wearing grass. Councillor N O'Neill said the path is flooded towards the bridge. Councillor C Smith said that Colin Alford has been instructed to dig a ditch in that location.

11. Cott Yard

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 a lorry reversing into the building on School Hill and that the money has been paid to the parish council. He said that the heat pump will be repaired on 12th November 2021 and that in the meantime, two additional oil filled heaters have been purchased for use in Cott Yard when the heating does not work.

12. Toilets and Car Park

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

It was noted that a new toilet seat is required and that Councillor N Ball be asked to procure one and fit it. The Chairman said that there was a note in the donation box thanking the parish council for the immaculately clean toilets. It was noted that the car park is often very full.

13. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor S Stevenson said that a quotation had been received from Trago Mills for 26 tetralite labels, 6 inches x 3 inches at a cost of £200. They would each have the name of the owner of the tree, the variety of the apple and the use for the apple. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Councillor S Stevenson obtains a sample before the next meeting. An alternative to the individual labels in the form of a plan on a notice board at the entrance to the orchard was also considered.

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 soon and that Gary Rogers has strimmed the orchard.

14. Colliford Map

To receive and consider an update on progress with the Colliford Map

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had circulated a list of places for inclusion on the map and other councillors had added their suggestions. He said that the map will include businesses, facilities, key footpaths and historical sites and he said that he welcomed ideas for the content.

Councillor H Bunt said that he had been informed by South West Lakes Trust that the layby past Colliford Dam is owned by the parish council. It was agreed that the Clerk would undertake an online land registry search to ascertain if this is the case.

15. Queen's Platinum Jubilee

To receive and consider ways to commemorate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

It was agreed that the Chairman would ask for ideas in St Neot News.

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

16. PROW and Grass Cutting Contracts 2022/23

To receive and consider the PROW and grass cutting contracts for 2022/23

The Clerk explained that if the parish council considers the work of the contractors for the grass cutting and PROW maintenance to be satisfactory, and good value for money, it is not necessary to seek tenders from alternative contractors for the next year, 2022/23. It was agreed that their work is very well done. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that Lanhydrock Gardening Services and Gary Rogers be asked to provide quotations for the grass cutting and PROW contracts respectively for 2022/23. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

17. External Audit Report

To receive and consider the external audit report

It was noted that the external audit report had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the report be noted. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

18. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5th November 2021 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 4th December 2021

Councillor H Bunt said that parishioners raised the following matters: it is nice to see Doorstep Green being used, the grass cutting contractor left a lot of grass behind when the grass was last cut, when will the road between East and West Lewarne be made suitable for use by a mobility scooter, the land adjacent to the orchard owned by Mr and Mrs Chipman and over which SW Water have access,

can be used by the parish council prior to the land transfer, a lack of information forthcoming from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva regarding work on the school site.

Councillor G Rogers volunteered to attend the market on 4th December 2021.

19. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None

b) Goonzion Commoners

It was noted that the damage to the fence adjacent to Polmenna cattle grid and the bent bars on the cattle grid near Luna have been reported to Cornwall Council. Councillor C Smith said that Colin Alford considers that lorries find it difficult to turn from Goonzion onto the road leading to Polmenna because of the grass triangle in the middle of the junction. He said that Colin Alford is seeking to remove the grass and re-level the area with hardcore. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that there is not a meeting until January 2022.

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – November 2021) - £271.42
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 16/9/21) - £232.20
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £16.20
Sue Blaxley (Deposit for Table Tennis Table) - £239.99
Jenny Hart (Works to PROW) - £156.67
Roseland Plumbing (Soft Start for Heat Pump) - £540.00
British Legion Poppy Appeal - £50.00
Christian Smith (Oil Filled Heaters for Cott Yard) - £74.96
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting) - £232.20
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire Extinguisher Servicing – Cott Yard) - £238.80
Gary Rogers (Orchard Strimming) - £200.00

It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that all of the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal apart from Councillor G Rogers, who having declared an interest, abstained from voting.

Councillor S Stevenson commented on the proposed increases in council tax and how he considered this should be addressed by Cornwall Council.

21. 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 £16.83 has been received from Heather Taylor for utilities in Cott Yard (18/11/20 – 7/10/21) , £372.80 from Pertemps for utilities in Cott Yard (18/11/20 – 7/10/21), £318.90 from Menheniot Post Office for use of the Pavilion, £56.68 from the toilet donation box, £1,197.19 from Pertemps for rent for Cott Yard (25/9/21 – 25/12/21) and £4,153.60 insurance payment for the works to Cott Yard caused by the lorry reversing into the building. She said the accounts balance at £121,041.52.

22. Co-option

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

David Glanville outlined his background and the skills he could bring to the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that David Glanville be co-opted onto the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 8th December 2021

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 8th December 2021 commencing at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Institute.

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