

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9TH FEBRUARY 2022 AT 7:30PM IN ST NEOT VILLAGE HALL, ST NEOT**

**Present:** Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, G Rogers, M Rowe, T Thrussell, N Ball, T Hooper, H Webb, D Glanville, N O'Neill and S Stevenson.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm. He confirmed that no one was recording the meeting.

**Public Participation**

None

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 12<sup>th</sup> January 2022, 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 reported that Warleggan YFC had thanked the parish council for offering to donate a BBQ to them but, for insurance reasons, they will be unable to take responsibility for a BBQ. Councillor C Smith said that it would be a good idea to put an item in St Neot News saying that if organisations in the village want a BBQ, the parish council may be able to offer some funding towards its purchase. Councillor N Ball said that he had replaced the toilet seat in the public toilet. Councillor C Smith confirmed that he had replaced the shovel in the grit bin at Panters Bridge. The Chairman confirmed that aeration of the playing field has been completed. Councillor G Rogers said that the hedge adjacent to Lampen Lane will be cut next week. In terms of expression of interests for contractors to be added to the list of approved contractors to undertake works for the parish council, the Clerk said that she had had one enquiry but the form had not been returned. Councillor N O'Neill said that she would put the expressions of interest form on the website.

Councillor G Rogers said that he had met with Will Glassop and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva and had shown them the blocked gully at Bush Hill and the blocked cattle grid on Bush Hill. It was noted that blocked gullies and potholes can be reported on Cornwall Council's website. Will Glassop said that he will ensure that the repairs to the gate at Polmenna will be re-done and that on the Carnglaze Cavern's road, the gully will be cleared. Councillor G Rogers said that Will Glassop was not aware that the bank adjacent to the orchard was the responsibility of Cornwall Council. He said the potholes at Wenmouth Cross had been filled. Councillor G Rogers said that Biffa are responsible for sweeping the roads. The Chairman thanked Councillor G Rogers, on behalf of the parish council, for meeting Will Glassop.

#### **5. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

Councillor H Webb said that there is discharge from the pipe into the river just above the playing field which is dangerous if children are playing in the river. It was noted that the discharge is emanating from the pumping station behind the Chapel. Councillor N O'Neill said that SWW are on site very frequently and often pump overnight which is disturbing for residents. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact SWW and ask them why they are on site so frequently.

The Chairman said that a parishioner had commented that vehicles park on the higher side of Loveny Road as it is classified as a layby. However, the other side of Loveny road is a pedestrian pavement. It was noted that the Highway Code has been changed so that pedestrian rights are elevated and therefore, all parking on pavements is banned.

Some discussion took place regarding celebrating the Queen's Platinum Jubilee. The Chairman said that a parishioner had suggested using the village green at Dozmary Pool for an event. He said that the History Group and archivists would like to be involved in the celebrations. Councillor T Hooper said that events have started to be planned including a party in the park with a 50's theme, an event in the London Inn and a bonfire and beacon on Goonzion with a BBQ and bar. She said that a medallion coin will be given to all under 16's in the parish to commemorate the event.

The Chairman said that the archivists have given an open invitation to all councillors to visit and view the work they are doing. He also said that the History Group are undertaking a guided tour of Goonzion on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2022 to which all parish councillors are invited.

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

Councillor N Ball asked the Clerk to re-commence displaying the parish council's agendas and minutes in the Institute.

Councillor N Ball said that a notice has been displayed to the effect that Hole is going to be used as a music venue. Councillor N Ball said that he would investigate this matter further.

#### **7. To receive a report from the Clerk**

None

#### **8. Pavilion**

##### **To receive and consider any matters relating to the Pavilion**

Councillor C Smith said that it may be a good idea to clad the outside of the pavilion with either recycled plastic or concrete cladding. He said it would prevent having to do continuous maintenance of the building and it would protect the building. He said the materials would cost approximately £5,000 plus the cost of installation.

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

##### **To receive and consider a request to use Doorstep Green on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022**

The Clerk read out an email from Loveny Male Voice Choir requesting to use Doorstep Green for a village BBQ on Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> August 2022. It was agreed that this would be acceptable subject to the choir having their own insurance. It was also noted that the Chapel and Church will be using Doorstep Green on Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2022 for a service and that Platinum Jubilee celebrations will take place in the playing field and Doorstep Green on 3<sup>rd</sup> June 2022. It was noted that dogs will not be allowed at these events apart from assistant dogs.

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

It was noted that the walking football group are using the playing field. It was agreed that Councillor H Webb would monitor its effect on the grass surface. Councillor T Thrussell said that the new picnic bench which is outside the pavilion will be moved to Doorstep Green.

Councillor C Smith agreed to obtain quotations for replacing the fence alongside the pathway into Doorstep Green adjacent to the school with a fence of a similar height to the existing with concrete posts, a concrete gravelled board and removable top panels. Suitable contractors suggested included Topan Fencing, Matt Barbery, Chris Arthur and Lynher Construction. Councillor T Thrussell asked if the fence could have a hedgehog hole in it. Councillor C Smith said he would ask the Headteacher about this.

The Chairman thanked the councillors who helped with tidying Doorstep Green. Councillor C Smith said that the bridge will be cleaned soon. Councillor T Thrussell said the sculpture is broken. He said that he would make enquiries as to whether this could be repaired.

#### **10. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor C Smith said that the 7-year contract under the Rural Heat Incentive Scheme has now ended so the payments have ceased. He said that, when electricity prices increase, the heating charges to the tenants should be reviewed. He explained that the parish council pays the heating charge for the archive room and half of the stairway, landing, bathroom and kitchen. He said that Restgarth occupy 67 square metres of floorspace and pay for half the heating charge for the stairway, landing, bathroom and kitchen. Heather Taylor occupies 30 square metres of floorspace. It was noted that Restgarth currently pay £122.25/quarter for heating and Heather Taylor pays £83.75/quarter.

Councillor C Smith said that there are 7 slates missing from the roof of Cott Yard which would cost £200 to be replaced. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that these works be undertaken. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor N Ball said that he would replace or repair the faulty tap in the kitchen.

#### **11. Toilets and Car Park**

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

None

#### **12. St Neot Orchard**

##### **To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to the orchard**

Councillor S Stevenson produced the brass plaques to be affixed to the trees. The Chairman thanked Councillor S Stevenson, on behalf of the parish council, for his work in this respect. It was agreed that the trees will need pruning soon and that efforts will be made to locate a pruner. It was noted that the new footpath in the orchard will be installed in the spring. Some discussion took place about the name for this footpath.

#### **13. Farmer's Market**

**To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

Councillor T Thrusell attended the market. He said that Jenny Hart had advised that the land at Berry strip has now been cleared. She said there is a stile upgrade required on the Two Valleys footpath between Trenant and Two Bridges. She also said that she is offering assistance to re-direct some footpaths. Councillor T Thrusell said that it would be a good idea to put a note in St Neot News advising parishioners that the new picnic tables are made from recycled plastic.

Councillor S Stevenson volunteered to attend the market on 5<sup>th</sup> March 2022.

**14. To receive reports from -**

**a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that the budget has been passed by Cabinet and will represent a 2.99% increase in Council Tax which is the lowest increase in the last 3 years. He said that a 30% increase in tolls from May 2022 when using a tag and from January 2023 when using cash on the Tamar Bridge has been approved although it still needs to be approved by Full Council and the Joint Committee for the Tamar Bridge. He said the parish council's application for £1600 for Community Chest funding has been submitted and approved.

He said that the report from Will Glassop regarding the highways' issues raised by him and Councillor G Rogers is still awaited.

Councillor T Thrusell asked about the proposed Tamar bridge tariff increase. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that various bodies are involved in discussions relating to this matter including the Secretary of State.

Councillor S Stevenson asked if the increase in Council Tax by 2.99% is the definitive figure. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said this represents a 1.99% budget increase and a 1% increase for adult social care. He said the police increase (£10) and precept increase will be added to the 2.99%. Councillor S Stevenson asked how the Spaceport will be good for Cornwall. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that the number of launches will be restricted to one/month due to the budget but it will produce better quality jobs with a space hub in Cornwall. He explained that the operator, Virgin, is already in place.

Councillor T Thrusell said that there is reported to be a high demand for gypsy and travellers sites and asked if the site on the Looe road is well used. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that it was not well used (a fee is payable for its use) but neither are random illegal sites at the present time.

## **b) Goonzion Commoners**

Councillor M Rowe said that he has made enquires regarding stewardship and is waiting for a response. Councillor N Ball said that the gorse needs cutting especially next to Jane William's house. Councillor T Hooper suggested using a cutter which mulches the resultant debris. Councillor M Rowe said that he would look at the options. The Chairman said that he now has up to date contact details for Penkester Moor.

## **c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

Councillor T Thrussell said that Bodmin Moor Commons Statutory Council has a paid secretary – Joanna Merrett – who would be a useful point of contact. He said that there is funding for highways schemes in the parish for which bids have to be made by 11<sup>th</sup> March 2022. It was agreed that Councillors N O'Neill and T Thrussell would complete the necessary paperwork for a 20mph flashing speed sign outside the primary school and works on the Goonzion road from the Ley end to Linkindale.

Councillor T Thrussell said that he would welcome items to take to the next meeting for discussion.

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – February 2022) - £271.62

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99

Cornwall ALC Limited (Induction to Planning Training) - £36.00

EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £192.05

South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £26.33

CJR Buildings Ltd (Repair Work at Cott Yard) - £3553.60

Cornwall Aeration (Aeration in Playing Field) - £120.00

Source for Business (Water for Toilets) - £97.06

Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £12.26

Richards Builders Merchants (Shovel for Grit Bin) - £9.98

Thomas Thrussell (Picnic Table) - £660.00

Redlynch Lappset (Wet Pour) - £4,930.80

Nigel Ball (Toilet Seat) - £35.00

Stuart Stevenson (Plaques for Orchard) - £208.00

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by 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 income of £1917.19 had been received from Pertemps as rent for Cott Yard and £13.00 from Adrian Copplestone for rent on Goonzion.

**17. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> March 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.