

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

Present: Councillors H Bunt, G Rogers, M Rowe, T Thrussell, N Ball, H Webb, D Glanville and N O'Neill.

Matt Thornhill and Ray Clark for the public participation section of the meeting.
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

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

Public Participation

Matt Thornhill explained that St Neot has had a football team in sporadic periods since the early 1920's. He said that there has been a continual struggle to find and keep hold of a piece of land that would be suitable for the provision of sports, especially football, which has contributed to the constant reformation of teams and the villages inability to retain and generate continued interest in a club. He explained that Goonzion has always been the historical home of a St. Neot Football team with teams playing there since 1920's. He reminded councillors that, in 1949, the parish council 'was gifted' 17 acres of land for recreational use by Mr P R Blamey which he believes is still marked out and bounded by a raised area when work was undertaken. He said that it is a small part of this area that the new St. Neot A.F.C. propose using. He said it would be for mens', womens' and childrens' football and mixed walking football as well as starting a Wildcats centre for girls aged 5-11 years old and using it for other community projects that require a large area. He said that Goonzion is designated an Area of Great Landscape Value where the primary objective is conservation and enhancement of the landscape quality and individual character. Also, he said that the area is designated as 'common land' and as such, farmers are allowed to graze livestock on the downs. He said that the provision of a football field on Goonzion would reduce the available land by approximately 3 acres, and the club would have to fence off the pitch in order to protect it from livestock. He said that Goonzion is also categorised as a County Wildlife Site. However, he said that this does not necessarily imply there is public access to the site and that if Goonzion was to become the permanent home for the football teams, a strict environmental development plan would have to be followed and every attempt made to 'camouflage' the development, with any buildings placed on site classed as 'temporary'. He also said that any football club development would be clear of the bridleway. He commented that the area of the pitch in question is bounded by a large raised earth work, most probably undertaken in 1949 and within the area mentioned is a scheduled monument know as a Platform cairn, and is prehistoric in estimated age. He said that the football club would have to ensure the continued protection of the monument.

Councillor G Rogers asked if the football club intended erecting changing facilities. Matt Thornhill explained that changing facilities are required if teams play in the Duchy League. However, he said that this is not the case at the present time, as members currently play in a flexi league at Callywith College. He said that they may require temporary buildings at a later date but the most important factor is to obtain a green space as the team has nowhere to practice. Councillor G Rogers asked where vehicles would park. Matt Thornhill said that they would be parked on the site, off the road. Councillor H Webb asked if this would be on the grass. Matt Thornhill said that, ideally, parking would take place on a hardstanding. Councillor M Rowe asked if there was funding available for the football club. Matt Thornhill said that there is considerable funding available. Councillor T Thrussell asked if the pitch would require fertilizing. Matt Thornhill explained that the gorse would be cleared and the site left as natural grass with some occasional re-seeding. He said that no significant groundworks would be required. Councillor H Bunt asked if the football club had other sites in mind. Matt Thornhill said that there are no other feasible sites available at the present time. Councillor G Rogers said that it was his understanding that if common land is taken for another use, the land has to be replaced elsewhere.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors T Hooper, C Smith and S Stevenson and from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th February 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 said that both the Church and Loveny Male Voice Choir are interested in having a BBQ. Councillor G Rogers said he thinks that the hedge cutting in Lampen Lane has been undertaken. The Clerk and Councillor N O'Neill said that no contractors have applied to be considered for the parish council's list of approved contractors. The Chairman reported that he had received a response from South West Water regarding the St Neot Pumping Station saying that they recently had a problem where an unwanted species of worm (Bristle Worm) started to thrive in the wastewater treatment process at the sewage works which meant the process was not as efficient as it needed to be and this started to deteriorate the quality of the effluent discharged from our site. To ensure they did not discharge a lower quality effluent to the environment, they had to deploy tankers to both the sewage pumping station and the sewage works

until they found a resolution to the problem. The email went on to say that the site is now back within its target operating parameters. South West Water have asked members of the parish council if they would like to visit the pumping station. The Clerk said she would arrange a visit. It was also agreed that members of the parish council would visit the archive on Wednesday 13th April 2022.

The Clerk confirmed that minutes of the parish council are being displayed in the Institute. Councillor N Ball said that he had no further information regarding the music venue at Hole. The Chairman said that Loveny Male Voice Choir would like to use Doorstep Green on 13th or 14th August instead of the date previously agreed. The Chairman said that he had asked Martin Eddy about pruning the trees in the orchard. He said that they were pruned last year but did not bear much fruit. It was agreed that it is too late to prune the trees now and the crop would be monitored this year.

Councillors T Thrussell and N'ONeill confirmed that they had submitted the highways bids as requested at the last meeting.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that everyone had received emails relating to the pothole factsheet and the closure of the Glynn Valley road between 14th and 19th March 2022. The Chairman said that he had received an email from Derek Fairhall saying that the outdoor table tennis table has been delivered and that he is working towards an official opening on Saturday 9 April 2022 at 11.00 am. He said that he is trying to get a high standard player to attend. He said that he would like as many parish councillors as possible to attend and that he will issue the necessary press release with photo opportunity information and will arrange publicity through St Neot News, the village Facebook page and posters around the village. It was noted that Colin Alford has commenced the construction of the base and will install the table immediately prior to the 9th April.

The Chairman said that the parish council received communication regarding the emptying of the waste bin in the car park. It was agreed that the Clerk would reply saying that the parish council wishes to continue with the current arrangement whereby the bin is emptied free of charge. It was noted that this arrangement would continue until April 2023.

The Chairman said that South West Rivers Trust has no plans for tree pruning at the present time but would be available to help with any tree planting in the parish.

It was noted that Councillors H Bunt, C Smith and D Glanville would undertake an asset inspection as soon as possible.

Councillor N O'Neill said there is a tree on the BT line on the Carnglaze Caverns' road near the junction with the A38. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the matter to the highways department.

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

Councillor N Ball said that the WI are interested in having a BBQ. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact them and the Loveny Male Voice Choir and the Church asking them to inform the parish council what type of BBQ they would like and the approximate cost.

Councillor N Ball said that the WI would be using the Pavilion on Saturday 28th May 2022.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Football Pitch

To receive and consider a request to develop a football pitch on Goonzion

It was agreed that the parish council has wholehearted support for the provision of a football pitch in the parish but questioned whether the proposed location on Goonzion is suitable for such a facility. They said that the site would comprise a large area of land which would have a visual impact on the landscape. It was noted that the site is within an AGLV. It was noted that the site is a registered common and that planning permission would be required for a change of use of the land. It was agreed that Councillor M Rowe would speak to the Chairman of Goonzion Commoners Committee and seek the commoners' views and report to the next meeting of the parish council.

9. Tree for Platinum Jubilee

To consider planting a tree for the Queen's Platinum Jubilee

Councillor N O'Neill explained that the Woodland Trust are offering free tree packs, the smallest of which contains 30 trees. The alternative they offer is a silver birch tree at a cost of £8.99. Some discussion took place as to the type of tree that should be planted and when and where it could be planted as well as some debate as to where 30 trees could be planted. Councillor N O'Neill said that she would ask the Woodland Trust if the 30 trees could be planted throughout the parish as well as ascertaining what single trees are available. Councillor G Rogers said that he would ascertain how much space is available in the orchard.

10. St Neot Scouts

To receive and consider a request from the scouts for match funding

The Chairman said that at the parish council meeting in March 2021, it was resolved that the parish council would 50% match fund any funds raised by the scouts. In the last year, they have raised £940.76. It was proposed by Councillor H Webb and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that a donation of £470.38 be given to the scouts. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

11. Emergency Plan

To consider producing an emergency plan

The Chairman said that the parish council acted during the recent power cuts in that a soup kitchen was provided in the Institute for which parishioners were grateful. He extended his thanks, on behalf of the parish council, to all those who helped. Councillor M Rowe suggested that the parish council purchases a portable generator to power the village hall in the event of future power cuts as well as using it around the parish to help those in need during such an emergency.

The Chairman said that he would ask for suggestions via St Neot News for an emergency plan and if there is sufficient interest, a parish meeting could be held.

The Chairman said that he had received an email from Councillor T Hooper saying that she thinks it should, at the least, comprise a short statement showing the parish council's commitment to coordinate support and work with appropriate authorities/organisations to instigate necessary action in case of emergencies. In addition, she thinks that the parish council should also consider a process which clearly sets out who, what and when a response should be triggered. This can be a simple process map which directs us to inform/take action/do nothing depending on answers to prompts. She said that in using a process map risk can be considered and liability and ensure that the parish council engages the support it needs and not to put anyone at any unnecessary risk of recourse or harm. She said that she is happy to draft a statement for consideration at the next meeting. It was agreed that Councillor T Hooper be asked to draft such a statement.

12. Pavilion

To receive and consider any matters relating to the Pavilion

Councillor N Ball said that he had replaced the toilet seat.

13. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

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

The Charman said that the fence on the boundary with the school next to the footpath into Doorstep Green has been repaired and made secure but a new fence is needed.

The Clerk reported that Councillor C Smith has obtained quotations for replacing the fence on the boundary with school next to the footpath into Doorstep Green. She said that he has obtained two quotations: Topan Fencing in the sum of £6672.00 plus VAT for galvanised steel posts, concrete ground level board with the rest treated wood comprising feather board both sides of the fence; Chris Arthur in the sum of £6250.00 for all treated wood construction, feather board on both sides of the fence and using a thicker ground board which can be easily replaced in the future. This quotation has a 15-year warranty and this would look more like what is there. Both can undertake the work in April. After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the quotation from Topan Fencing be accepted as it was considered that galvanized steel posts would be more durable. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The Clerk said that the Headteacher had rejected the idea of a hedgehog hole in the fence for the safety of the children.

Councillor T Thrussell said that he is sourcing commercial artists to look at repairing the statue of St Neot.

14. Cott Yard

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

Councillor N Ball said that he had not yet replaced the tap in the kitchen. The Clerk said that Councillor C Smith had inspected a crack that had appeared inside the building but it did not require attention at the present time.

15. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

16. St Neot Orchard

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

None

17. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5th March 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 2nd April 2022

Councillor D Glanville attended the market. He said that a parishioner had asked if passing places could be provided between Crowpound Crossroads and the junction adjacent to Fair View. Councillor T Thrussell said that he and Councillor N O'Neill had submitted a bid for these works but had been informed that there is no money in the budget for these works. Councillor D Glanville said that a parishioner had asked who manages the telephone mast. Councillor T Thrussell said there is an interactive online map that would provide this information. Councillor D Glanville said that a parishioner said that the water running across the road at Carnglaze Caverns is dangerous.

Councillor N Ball volunteered to attend the market on 2nd April 2022.

18. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Councillor G Rogers said that he had still not received a report from the meeting held in January 2022 with Will Glassop and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that Matt Barbery is available to undertake works to create a fire break on Goonzion in front of Jane Williams' house on 21st March 2022. It was noted that this was being done for safety reasons. He said that the works would take between 3 and 4 hours at a cost of £35/hour and Councillor M Rowe would remove the gorse. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Matt Barbery be asked to undertake this work. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor N 'O Neill reported that the highways submission for the 20mph flashing speed sign has been submitted. She explained that they cost £10,000.

It was agreed that it should be placed where the 20mph speed limit starts, just past Loveny Close, when driving into the village from Carnglaze Caverns.

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – March 2022) - £271.42

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99

Sue Blaxley (3 months' salary and administration expenses) - £2242.04

PKF Littlejohn (Audit Fee) - £240.00

Western Web Ltd (Renewal of web space) - £96.00

Cornwall Council (Election Recharges) - £255.00

Natalie O'Neill (Website domain renewal) - £9.84

Natalie O'Neill (Soup kitchen provisions) - £43.95

Karen Bunt (Soup kitchen provisions) - £34.39

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

20. 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 £1007.89 had been received as the community turbine payment, £730.40 from Cornwall Council as the PROW grant, £1600 from the Community Chest Fund, £126.00 from Menheniot Post Office as rent for the Pavilion and £571.50 from Heather Taylor as rent for Cott Yard. The accounts balance at £104,881.83.

17. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 9th April 2022

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 6th April 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.