

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH APRIL 2022 AT 7:30PM IN ST NEOT VILLAGE HALL, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors H Bunt, G Rogers, M Rowe, T Thrussell, H Webb, T Hooper, C Smith 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

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors N Ball, N O'Neill and D Glanville.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 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 there were no applications from contractors wanting to be considered for the approved list. The Clerk said that she had not had a response from South West Water regarding visiting the pumping station. It was confirmed that members of the parish council would visit the archive on Wednesday 13th April 2022. The Clerk confirmed that she had responded to Cornwall Council regarding emptying of the waste bin in the car park. The Chairman said that he had not had any response from parishioners regarding suggestions for an emergency plan. It was noted that the inspection of the assets is overdue. The Chairman said the replacement fence on the boundary of the school will be undertaken next week and the fire break on Goonzion has been completed.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that the cubs have made bird boxes and were seeking permission to put them in the trees adjacent to the river. It was agreed that this would be welcomed provided the bird boxes were securely fixed. The Chairman said that he had been asked by a parishioner who owns Lettermoor. It was agreed that this could be ascertained via land registry. He said that concerns have been raised by parishioners about the development taking place near Lettermoor in that a large static home has been placed onto a site and the access has been widened. Councillors asked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to ask the Planning Enforcement Officer to inspect the site. In addition, they asked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to ask the Planning Enforcement Officer to inspect the site at Linney Field, Polmenna as parishioners have raised concerns that the development under construction does not accord with the approved plans in that planning permission was granted for a single storey dwelling on the site and a two-storey dwelling is under construction. Councillor H Webb said that there is knotweed on Steppy Lane. The Chairman said that he would speak to the landowner about this.

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

Councillor C Smith said that, at the last meeting, it was noted that the £1,000 community turbine money has been received. He said that the intention of the money is that it is to be used for community projects and suggested that this year, it be used towards the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He said that funding has been made available for celebratory events but it is oversubscribed. Therefore, celebrations are being funded by the parish council, the village hall, St Neot institute and some local businesses. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the £1,000 community turbine money be used for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor S Stevenson who voted against.

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

Councillor M Rowe said that the commoners he had spoken to did not object in principle to a football pitch on Goonzion but were unsure of the legalities as the land is common land. 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 and there are many bureaucratic obstacles because it is common land over which graziers have rights. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that, whilst the parish council is broadly supportive of a sports pitch in the parish, Goonzion is not a suitable location and that the football club should consider other options, particularly through speaking to local farmers. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

9. Tree for Platinum Jubilee

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

As Councillor N O'Neill was absent, this matter was deferred until the next meeting of the parish council.

10. BBQ's

To receive and consider any requests for BBQ's from organisations in the village

The Chairman said that he had received a request from the Church for funding for a BBQ and that they would like to purchase a Buffalo BBQ, costing £549.99 plus VAT. The Chairman said there are two of these BBQ's available on Facebook Marketplace for £300 for both. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the parish council donates £350 to the Church to enable them to purchase a BBQ. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

11. Emergency Plan

To consider producing an emergency plan

Councillor T Hooper said that when the matter was considered before, the draft document was not adopted as the parish council is not insured to make decisions in emergency situations, unlike other organisations such as Cornwall Council, the NHS and Environment Agency all of whom have statutory powers to make decisions. She said that the parish council can alert the emergency services and proper organisations and support the community through a duty of care either under instruction or through sensible decision making. She distributed a document comprising 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 and setting out a process, using a process map, which clearly sets out who, what and when a response should be triggered. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting of the parish council.

12. Table Tennis Table Opening Event

To consider the arrangements for the table tennis table opening event

The Chairman said that Derek Fairhall has issued a press release and posted an item on Facebook regarding the opening event at 11 am on Saturday 9th April 2022. It was agreed that Councillor G Rogers will attend on behalf of the Chairman who has family commitments.

13. Pavilion

To receive and consider any matters relating to the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith circulated some samples of suitable materials to clad the exterior of the Pavilion. He said the composite cladding with a wood grain finish would cost approximately £5,500 for the materials including the trim. He said the cladding with a smooth finish would cost approximately £5,000. He explained that these composite cladding materials do not have a life guarantee. He said the other option is to have fibre cement cladding which is more reasonably priced and more well proven. He said this would cost approximately £3,000 including the trim. He said that this could be chipped or broken by balls hitting it. He said that the three wooden windows would also need replacing at a cost of £1,000 for materials. It was agreed that cladding the exterior of the Pavilion is a long-term solution to enable it to be maintenance free and Councillor C Smith said that he would seek quotations from competent contractors to fit the cladding.

Councillor C Smith said the Pavilion will be used on 3rd June for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor H Webb that Councillor G Rogers purchases some red, white and blue flowers up to the value of £150 to plant in planters outside the Pavilion. Councillor C Smith suggested asking Owain Burrows to make the planters.

14. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To receive and consider quotations for the repair of the statue in Doorstep Green

Councillor T Thrussell explained that the statue of St Neot is made from resin fibreglass and that he had contacted three artists for quotations to restore the statue. He explained that the artist in Wadebridge would restore the statue in situ at a cost of £2,000 for materials and labour. He explained that an artist in Essex would restore the statue at a cost of £3,250 but it would have to be done in Essex. Councillor T Thrussell said that the statue either has to be restored now or be left or deteriorate and eventually removed and possibly be replaced with something else of longevity. Some discussion took place regarding this matter and it was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T

Hooper that the statue is not restored and that in time, alternative artwork be considered. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

Councillor C Smith said that the grass needs cutting in the week commencing 30th May 2022 in time for the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. It was agreed that volunteers would tidy Doorstep Green in the evening of Wednesday 18th May 2022. The Chairman said that he would ask for volunteers via Facebook and in the newsletter. The Chairman said that he would seek volunteers to plant flowers in the planters around the gazebo. It was agreed that Councillors C Smith and M Rowe would move the goal forward to allow the worn grass to regenerate. It was noted that Colin Alford has opened up the drainage gully, laid the tarmac pad for the table tennis table and undertaken some extra turfing in the playing field.

15. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith said that the broken roof slates have been replaced.

16. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

17. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor G Rogers said that has yet to fix the labels to the trees. It was noted that Colin Alford has started work on the new footpath. The Clerk reported that she has received a plan of the land that Mervyn Chipman is seeking to transfer to the parish council and that she will contact Caunters for a quotation for the conveyancing works.

18. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 2nd April 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th May 2022

Councillor S Stevenson attended the market. It was a quiet market and there were no comments from parishioners. It was suggested that Councillor N Ball attend the market on 7th May 2022.

19. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that Cornwall Council was experiencing severe staffing shortages due to Covid. He said that Full Council will meet on Tuesday 12th April 2022 and amongst the issues being debated are: a vote to stand with Ukraine, a motion on “No Surprises” and a debate about the directly elected Mayor for Cornwall. He said that all households in Band A to D properties will receive a council tax rebate of £150.

Councillor C Smith said that during the recent power outages, many people were left without analogue telephones or mobile phone signal so were completely isolated with no means of communication. He asked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to raise the matter with Cornwall Council for consideration and action.

Councillor S Stevenson asked about the proposed directly elected Mayor for Cornwall. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that it is said to be cost neutral and the argument in favour is that it will enable Cornwall Council to have more power over the money it receives. He said the idea is that the Mayor is someone local who understands what is going on at a local level. He said that he has no idea how it would be funded or staffed. He said that it will be like any other election with candidates from political parties and independent people standing. 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 he and Matt Barbery undertook works to create a fire break on Goonzion in front of Jane Williams’ house on 21st March 2022.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard Cleaning – April 2022) - £310.70
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £131.99
James Hallam Ltd (Insurance Premium) - £3972.90
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting 28th January 2022) - £232.20
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £83.50

Cornwall ALC Limited (Annual Membership Subscription) - £447.05
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £221.02
Eddie the Roofer (Cott Yard) - £200.00
St Neot Village Hall (Room Rental) - £120.00
Eager Beaver (Tree Felling) - £636.00

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

21. 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 £136.50 had been received from Menheniot Post Office as rent for the Pavilion. The accounts balance at £105,018.62.

22. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 11th may 2022

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 11th May 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:45pm.