

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH JUNE 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, T Hooper, H Webb, T Thrussell, D Glanville, G Rogers and S Stevenson.

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 M Rowe, N O'Neill and N Ball.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th May 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors T Hooper and G Rogers declared an interest in item 11 on the agenda where it relates to quotations for cladding the pavilion.

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

None

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that the Treasurer of St Neot News has said that the cost of advertising in the newsletter has not increased for many years. It was agreed that advertising costs would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. He said that the damage to the cattle grid at Luna is getting worse. It was agreed that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva would report the matter to Highways. The Chairman said that the visit to St Neot pumping station has been arranged for Wednesday 15th June 2022 at 6:30pm. It was noted that the tree to commemorate the Platinum Jubilee has been purchased and is currently in Councillor N O'Neill's garden, awaiting planting.

The Chairman thanked everyone who was involved in organizing the Platinum Jubilee celebrations. He said he will also express his thanks via Facebook and St Neot News. It was noted that the letter sent to the Head of Planning Service expressing the parish council's concerns about the enforcement process has been acknowledged but a detailed response is awaited.

The Chairman reported that S W Lakes Trust has said that the Japanese knotweed near the old bridge at Colliford Lake is the responsibility of S W Water. He also said that a report has been received from PCSO Edsner.

The Chairman suggested that a group photograph of the parish council should be taken. It was agreed that the Chairman would ask Matt Thornhill to take the photograph prior to next month's meeting. He also reported that a parishioner had experienced issues with aggressive horses when using the new footpath from the orchard. It was agreed that this would be monitored.

The Chairman said that he had received an email from a parishioner living at Lampen bungalows complaining that the copper beech trees in front of his bungalow are a hazard and a sunblock. It was agreed that this was Cornwall Council's responsibility and that Cornwall Councillor P Seeva would follow up this matter.

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

Councillor T Thrussell said that it would be a good idea for councillors to have their photographs displayed on the parish council's website. It was agreed that Matt Thornhill could take individual photographs and the Clerk would put them on the website. The Clerk said that it was not compulsory for councillors to display their photographs on the website.

Councillor C Smith said that, on Tripp Hill, next to the salt bin, tracks have been made into the woods (owned by the parish council) by the owner of the adjacent property in order to gain access onto Goonzion. He said that they only intend to use the track to facilitate gardening. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to the parishioners who made the tracks, asking them to request permission from the parish council if they require access for vehicles, such as diggers.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Emergency Plan

To consider producing an emergency plan

Councillor T Hooper said that she has not progressed the matter further so it was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

9. Defibrillator

To consider purchasing an additional defibrillator

Councillor C Smith said that the defibrillator had recently been used and as a result, the parish council has received a request to finance the purchase of an additional defibrillator. He said that it needs to be sited in a location where people gather and that the batteries require regular replacement which costs approximately £200-£300. In addition, he said that it requires regular fault monitoring. He said that some organisations in the village are donating money towards the purchase of an additional defibrillator which costs between £1,200 and £2,000. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that an additional defibrillator be purchased and its siting agreed at a later date. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

10. Ukrainian Family

To discuss providing assistance (non-financial) and support to the Ukrainian family living in the parish

The Chairman reported that a request had been received from a parishioner for assistance and support to a new Ukrainian family living in the parish. The Clerk said that she had responded explaining that the parish council does not have the power to give financial assistance to individuals. It was noted that contact has also been made with St Neot United Charities, Neighbours Together and the Church. It was agreed that the Chairman will welcome the family to the parish via Facebook and St Neot News and invite them to join in parish activities. It was also agreed that, as individuals, support can be offered.

Councillors T Hooper and C Smith, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

11. Pavilion

To receive and consider quotations for the exterior cladding of the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith said that he had obtained quotations for the following works: cladding the external walls, provision of 3 UPVC windows, UPVC soffits, fascia and guttering, painting of uncladded posts, painting or cladding of the ceiling of

the canopy. He said that he had asked three contractors but had only received two quotations. He explained that the works amount to a significant sum of money and in view of the sums of money involved, it was agreed that Councillor C Smith would attempt to obtain further quotations and the matter would be discussed again at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillors T Hooper and G Rogers returned to the meeting.

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

It was noted that the tap in the kitchen is leaking. The Clerk said that she would ask Councillor N Ball to repair the tap.

12. 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 the new chess set was in place. The Chairman said that he had spoken to Derek and Sandra Fairhall about the replacement of the “missing” rose bush and they are considering the matter. The Clerk read out a letter from some children asking for some additional swinging apparatus including rings and bars. Councillor C Smith said that there is a suitable area for such equipment adjacent to the path continuing in a line from the gym equipment. He said that he had obtained quotations from the following companies: Schoolscape who would supply an 18m long bars and ropes combination in the sum of £8,241 plus VAT and Outdoor Play who would supply a similar length of balancing beams, a rolling log and monkey bars in the sum of £6,500 plus VAT. It was noted that £6,000 has been set aside in the precept for additional play equipment. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor H Webb that a budget of £10,000 be set aside for this equipment and some equipment for very young children. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor C Smith reported that he had undertaken some repairs to the play equipment.

The photograph of 350 people taken by Matt Thornhill as part of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations had been circulated prior to the meeting. The Clerk said that Councillor N Ball had commented on the inflatables to the rear of the photograph. It was agreed that the Jubilee logo should be put on the photograph. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor C Smith that a budget of £200 be set for production of the photographs. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

13. Cott Yard

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

Councillor H Webb reported that the granite post had been knocked again and is leaning on the roof. She suggested that a bollard might be a good idea. The Chairman said that he and Councillor M Rowe had cleaned out the drains to the rear of Cott Yard and agreed that a gridded gully is required adjacent to the raised kerb in order to capture the water coming down School Hill. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that, as these are emergency repairs, CJR Building Ltd be asked to upright the granite post and extend the drain at their earliest convenience. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor C Smith said that the ground source heat pump boiler was serviced 3 years ago. He said that he would arrange for it to be serviced.

14. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor C Smith said that “toilet twinning” would be a good idea where, by donating £60 to twin the public toilet, the parish council would help fund a project in a poor community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene. He said that when twinning takes place, the parish council would be sent a certificate to hang in the public toilet showing a photograph of the overseas toilet twin. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the Clerk arranges for the public toilet to be twinned. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor T Thrussell said that he thought it would be a good idea to install a mirror in the public toilet. It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Councillor T Thrussell sources a suitable safety mirror. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor G Rogers said the British Heart Foundation clothes bin has been emptied. It was agreed that the hedge to the rear of the car park will soon require trimming. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Gary Rogers and Isaac Oates undertake these works. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

15. St Neot Orchard

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

It was noted that Councillors C Smith and G Rogers have put the brass plaques on the trees in the orchard. Councillor C Smith said there were two incorrect spellings on two plaques. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that Councillor C Smith has these plaques re-printed. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor C Smith said the grass is very long and either the whole area needs strimming or a path cut through the existing grass. It was agreed that a working party will convene to tidy the area alongside the new footpath on 20th July 2022 commencing at 6:30pm and that on 3rd August 2022, at 6pm, the grand opening of the footpath will take place and the Platinum Jubilee tree will be planted. It was agreed that Andrew and Joan Bunt will be asked to open the footpath and that refreshments will be provided. It was agreed that the Clerk would order some signs, one saying "Platinum Jubilee Path to the Orchard" and two other directional signs saying "To the Orchard".

16. Internal Audit Report

To receive and consider the internal audit report for 2021/22

It was noted that the Clerk had circulated the Internal Audit report prior to the meeting and that the comments contained therein had been duly noted. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the report be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

17. Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements

To approve the Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements for 2021/22

- (a) It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the annual governance statement for 2021/22 be approved. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.
- (b) It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the accounting statements for 2021/22 be approved. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

18. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 4th June 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 2nd July 2022

There was no report from the market on 4th June 2022. Councillor H Bunt said that he would attend the market on 2nd July 2022.

19. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that a Full Council meeting was held and the same Leader, Chair and Deputy Leader were elected. He said that the Chair, Linda Taylor, will be visiting Liskeard on 19th June 2022. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he has a meeting next week at St Neot Primary School. He asked what the parish council's view is on requesting that the planning application reference number PA22/02979 - Application for discharge of a planning obligation pursuant to E2/06/00286/FUL dated 04.01.2007 at Bos Lowen, Tripp Hill, St Neot be considered by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee. It was agreed that this is how the application should be determined and that Councillor T Hooper will represent the parish council at that meeting. Councillor S Stevenson asked if there was an update on the Mayor for Cornwall. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said there was no update. Councillor G Rogers said that he has still not received a report from Will Glassop following their meeting to discuss highways issues in January 2022. Councillor H Bunt said there is considerable overhanging vegetation on verges at junctions. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council is totally dissatisfied with the enforcement process and planning protocol process. He said that parish councillors are the "eyes and ears" on the ground but there seems little purpose in having this role if no one at Cornwall Council is going to offer support.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that no one knew what the purpose of the testing cable across the highway at St Ive was. He said the speed cameras on the A38 Glynn Valley road are now operational, certainly in some sections. He said there is a campaign to make the A38 a safer road as the existing road is not up to standard in terms of flooding, angles and a low bridge. He said that St Cleer parish council has offered the parish council the mobile speed sign and he will ask them for some information about the sign.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £162.54
Julie Ball (Cleaning Services) - £310.50
Sue Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) - £2439.00
South West Water (Water for Cott Barn) - £29.13

Source for Business (Water for Toilets) - £97.96
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £13.04
Aalgaard Renshaw (Internal Audit Fee) £360.00
Matt Thornhill (Jubilee Photograph) - £100.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilets) - £19.65
Christian Smith (Play equipment repairs, Orchard, Jubilee, Toilet Cleaning) -
£211.29
Gary Rogers (Compost and Plant Feed) - £31.92

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor H Webb 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 said the accounts balance at £93,159.02.

22. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 13th July 2022

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 13th July 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:50pm.