

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 31ST AUGUST 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt, C Smith, H Webb, D Glanville, G Rogers, N Ball and M Rowe.

Poppy Crichton, Andy and Muriel Merrett-Jones, Sally Mollard, Jenny Robinson
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

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

Public Participation

Andy Merrett-Jones explained that one of the key elements of Cornwall Council's strategy for 2022 is localism which, in view of the fact that with only 2 weeks' notice, Cornwall Council and Go Bus have severed all public transport to the village by cancelling the 11 B bus service, is not true. He said that their rationale is that the size of the bus is unsuitable for the village. He said that 30 people have come forward saying that the bus service is their lifeline and its removal will seriously curtail their freedom. He asked that the parish council takes the matter on board and insist that the bus service is re-instated. He said that whilst only a few people use the bus, it is a vital service to them and that taxis are too expensive. He said that Cornwall Council claim to be working with communities to fill the gaps left by the absence of the bus service.

Muriel Merrett-Jones said that in August 2022, praise was given for the signage advertising the bus services. She said it is not just the elderly who use the bus service but the young people too, especially with the increase in the price of fuel. She said that she is looking into the possibility of the provision of a community bus.

Poppy Crichton asked the parish council to ascertain if Cornwall Council has a duty of care to the residents and to ascertain what is going to be put in place to fill the gap left by the absence of a bus service. She said that Neighbours Together intend to put notices on the bus stop to inform potential users of the alternative methods of transport that are available. She said that help for those who receive free transport needs to be addressed.

Councillor G Rogers asked how many people had come forward enquiring about taxi services for the next week. Poppy Crichton said no one had come forward as yet. Councillor M Rowe asked if there was any data published by Cornwall Council to justify their decision to remove the bus service. Poppy Crichton said the data has not been published.

1. Apologies

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from Councillors T Hooper, T Thrussell, S Stevenson and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8th June 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 20th July 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors H Bunt and N Ball declared an interest in item 10 on the agenda.

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

The Chairman said that he had been informed that December would be the best time to visit the salmon hatchery and that he will arrange a visit. He said that a picnic table has now been sited at the Holy Well and that defibrillators have now been purchased and the provision of storage boxes for them is awaited. He said that the Jubilee photograph is now on display in the Institute and the Jubilee plaque is work in progress.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that he had received a complaint that the hedges in the Draynes Valley are very overgrown. Councillor M Rowe said that this is a problem throughout the parish. The Chairman asked the Clerk to email Cornwall Councillor P Seeva and ascertain when the hedges will be cut. He said that he had also received a complaint that not all parishioners are receiving the newsletter. It was agreed that they should contact Heather Taylor and ask to be put on the mailing list. The Chairman thanked everyone who supported the Carnival and it was noted that the parish council won first prize which they donated to the Carnival funds.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that a considerable amount of rubbish falls from the recycling lorries and asked the Clerk to contact Cornwall Councillor P Seeva regarding this matter. In addition, he said that at the Polmenna junction and adjacent to the Luna cattle grid, Cormac's road signs have been abandoned in the hedges. In addition, he said that the cattle grids need cleaning out. Councillor G Rogers said that there is an aggressive stallion on Goonzion. Councillor M Rowe said that he would contact Bodmin Moor Statutory Commons Council regarding this matter. It was noted that the new Luna cattle grid is on order.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Bus Services

To receive and consider the proposed changes to the bus services

It was noted that St Neot is not the only parish affected by the removal of the bus service as parishes including Menheniot, St Germans and Bethany have all been affected. It was suggested that Cornwall Council could be asked to provide a smaller bus. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council needs to focus on the facts to know how to proceed and what funding is available to fill the gaps left by the absence of the service. He said that the parish council may be able to hire a 13-seater bus from other organisations. Councillor D Glanville said that it might be a good idea to ask Cornwall Council what funds are available to provide a smaller bus which could possibly serve more than one parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cornwall Council regarding these matters.

9. Housing Allocation

To receive and consider the housing allocation policy

Councillor C Smith asked if the parish council want more say in the housing allocation policy. It was agreed that details of the policy were unknown and that the Clerk would contact Cornwall Council and ask them to explain the housing allocation policy.

Councillors H Bunt and N Ball, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

10. St Neot United Charities

To receive and consider a request from St Neot United Charities for a financial contribution to help set up a winter wellbeing fund

It was noted that an email had been circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting asking if the parish council would consider donating £500 to St Neot United Charities to help set up a winter well being fund for the parish. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor C Smith that a donation of £500 be made to St Neot United Charities. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillors H Bunt and N Ball returned to the meeting.

11. Asset Inspection Report

To receive and consider the asset inspection report

Councillor C Smith said that he and Councillor H Bunt have inspected all the assets apart from the adits as they are overgrown with bracken. It was noted that the report was circulated to all Councillors prior to the meeting. He outlined the tasks that need completing in the coming months. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would ask Eager Beaver to remove the dead trees from the playing field as soon as possible as this is a safety issue. Councillor H Webb asked if these trees will be replaced. It was agreed that some of the trees from the Jubilee planting scheme would be used. Councillor C Smith said there were several minor works needed in the toilet building which Councillor N Ball said he would attend to. It was agreed that a Working Party would convene to undertake some of the minor tasks and that Councillor C Smith would obtain quotations for re-tarmac half of the car park and for painting the play tower. Some discussion took place regarding the lights in Doorstep Green which have not been working for a considerable period of time. Councillor N Ball said that solar powered lights might be a suitable alternative. The Chairman thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for his time spent on the report.

12. Pavilion

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

Councillor C Smith said that CJR Building Ltd will be commencing work on Monday 5th September 2022 and that the works will take approximately 3 weeks. He said that the Post Office will still attend and the scouts have been informed.

13. 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 play equipment will be installed week commencing 17th September 2022 and the new play train will be installed in October 2022.

The Chairman said that the new vicar will be inaugurated on Thursday 8th September 2022 and a request has been made to use the far end of the playing field for parking if it is needed. It was agreed that parking would be allowed in this area if the weather is dry.

14. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that CJR Building has yet to re upright the granite post and install the drain to the rear of Cott Yard. Councillor C Smith said that with increasing energy costs, the heating charge for the tenants must be closely monitored.

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 St Neot Orchard

It was noted that the grand opening of the footpath was well attended. The Chairman thanked everyone who helped and for attending the event. He also thanked Councillors G Rogers and C Smith for installing the brass plaques on the trees. It was agreed that the Clerk will write to Mervyn Chipman and thank him for cutting the hedge and bank by the side of the orchard. It was noted that the land transfer is still in the hands of the solicitor.

17. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 6th August 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 3rd September 2022

Councillor N Ball said there was no report. The Chairman said that he would ask Councillor T Hooper if she could attend the market on Saturday 3rd September 2022.

18. To receive reports from -

a) **Cornwall Councillor**

None

b) **Goonzion Commoners**

Some discussion took place regarding burning the bracken on Goonzion. It was agreed that Councillor M Rowe would ask the Commoners for their views. It was noted that M Barbery has not yet replaced the fencing around the field rented to Mr and Mrs Wilton.

Councillor C Smith said that Sam Tett has asked if he can install a pedestrian gate, 600mm wide through his hedge at Lee Moor, Bush Hill onto Goonzion. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor N Ball that this would be acceptable. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

None

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £134.34
Julie Ball (Cleaning Services - August) - £310.70
Julie Ball (Cleaning Services - September) - £310.50
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £516.00
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £23.79
Source for Business (Water for Toilets) - £92.93
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £11.80
The Grain (Signs for Orchard) - £210.00
A2Z Printing (Jubilee Photograph) - £84.00
A2Z Printing (Jubilee Photographs) – £45.60
Christian Smith (Carnival, Orchard, Pavilion) – £199.21
St Neot Institute (Cider for Orchard footpath opening) - £60.00

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor H Bunt 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 said the accounts balance at £88,285.80, with income having been received as follows: £30 for a website advertisement, £262.50 from Menheniot PO for rental of the Pavilion and £3070.49 VAT repayment.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 28th September 2022

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 28th September 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:15pm.