

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 12th OCTOBER 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,  
ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

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

Sandra Rowe, Andrew Tamblyn and Martin Eddy for part 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**

Sandra Rowe said that she understood that the parish council was intending to re-surface the car park which she said seems perfectly adequate in its current state. She questioned if there might be a better use of the funds. The Chairman explained that when the inspection of parish council assets was undertaken, it was identified as a potential project for the future. Councillor C Smith explained that the surface is showing some signs of wear and if it is left too long without repair, it will result in extremely expensive works in the future.

**1. Apologies**

None

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28th September 2022, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

Councillor G Rogers declared a prejudicial interest in item 14 on the agenda.

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

The Chairman said that no response had been received from the emails sent to Cormac and Cornwall Council regarding hedge cutting in the parish, cleaning out the cattle grids, bus services or housing allocation. However, it was noted that the abandoned road signs had been collected. It was noted that the works in the public toilet, which Councillor N Ball will attend to, have not yet been undertaken. The Chairman thanked those who participated in the Autumn tidy up in Doorstep Green and it was noted that the overhanging branch on Bush Hill had been removed. He said that Councillor T Hooper had informed parishioners, via

Facebook, that apples were available for collection in the orchard. He said that he had not yet spoken to the person responsible for the artificial flowers at the war memorial.

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

The Chairman said that he had received a request from some young people in the parish asking if a net could be placed on the basketball hoop and lines painted to mark out part of the netball court. He said that he has also received a request from Sam Tett regarding cutting the overhanging branches over his garden which are growing on Goonzion. It was noted that St Neot News is published on the village website as opposed to the parish council's website.

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

Councillor T Hooper said there is considerable enthusiasm for a community bus with many volunteers having come forward to assist with the project. She said that she has suggested that interested parties form a group and asked if the parish council want to have a representative on this group. It was agreed that Councillor N Ball would represent the parish council on this group.

Councillor G Rogers asked the Clerk to email Biffa and thank them for their regular diligent road sweeping in the village and ask them if they could sweep the Carnglaze Caverns' road into the village instead of the village itself on every other road sweeping visit.

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

None

#### **8. External Auditor's Report**

##### **To approve the External Auditor's Report for 2021/22**

It was noted that the external auditor had highlighted some minor administrative errors in this year's submission. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the External Auditor's Report for 2021-22 be approved. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

#### **9. Pavilion**

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

Councillor C Smith said that CJR Building Ltd had started the works on the Pavilion and have completed the fascias, soffits, guttering and windows. He said

that the green textured cladding would not be available until the end of December, at the earliest so the majority of councillors had agreed, via email, to proceed using slate grey textured cladding which has now been ordered. Councillor C Smith said that the electricity meter needs adjusting to reflect the increase in electricity costs.

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

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

The Chairman said that the Autumn tidy up in Doorstep Green took place on 8<sup>th</sup> October and was attended by approximately 15 volunteers. He thanked everyone for attending. He said that a further tidy up will be needed in December 2022.

Councillor C Smith said that the new play equipment has been installed and the grass is beginning to grow through the new safety matting. He said that there are a couple of minor issues with the equipment which will be rectified in due course. He said that the new play train will be installed in the next two weeks. The draft of the new wording for the Jubilee plaque was circulated and any comments are to be emailed to Councillor C Smith. Councillor C Smith said that he would order two new "No Dogs Allowed" signs to be erected at the entrances to the playing field. He said that a new basketball hoop and net would cost £170 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that this item be purchased. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor C Smith said that he would paint the lines delineating part of the court and that the back board for the basketball hoop and net would be bleached or re-vinylled. The Chairman thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for his hard work.

## **11. Cott Yard**

### **To consider renewing the lease for Cott Yard until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024**

The Clerk explained that Pertemps have asked if their lease for Cott Yard could be renewed on the same terms until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the lease be renewed until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024 under the same terms as existing. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. The Clerk said she would inform them that additional heating costs will be incurred due to the rise in energy prices.

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

Councillor C Smith reported that CJR Building has re uprighted the granite post and installed the drain to the rear of Cott Yard. Councillor C Smith said that he

had replaced the PIR sensor at the top of the stairway. He said that the parish council needs to supply a box for the defibrillator so that it can be sited outside Cott Yard. He said that a plastic/steel box would cost approximately £100 plus VAT and a specialist defibrillator box with an electricity supply, back up heater and LED light would cost £385 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor S Stevenson that the specialist defibrillator box be purchased. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was agreed that the box must not be locked as time is of the essence if a defibrillator is needed in an emergency. It was noted that Sandra Rowe will check all the defibrillators in the parish on a weekly basis and will offer training sessions in November 2022.

## **12. Toilets and Car Park**

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

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had erected the mirror in the public toilet. Councillor C Smith said that a professional contractor had inspected the car park surface and has said that the surface is starting to break up so it should be attended to before it deteriorates significantly. He has recommended that the entire car park would require re-surfacing in order to do a professional job. Councillor C Smith said that to lay a 40mm coating over the entire surface and undertake all associated works, including white lining, would cost between £10,000 and £20,000. He said these works would last between 20 and 25 years. Councillor N Ball said that the installation of an electric charging point could be considered at the same time.

## **13. St Neot Orchard**

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

Councillor G Rogers said that he had received a request from a parishioner that a handrail be installed on the steepest part of the gravel path to prevent walkers from slipping. It was agreed that wood would be the best material to use and that Colin Alford be asked to undertake the work. It was agreed that a dog bin is needed adjacent to the orchard footpath. Councillor T Hooper said she would empty the bin.

Councillor G Rogers, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

#### **14. PROW and Grass Cutting Contracts for 2023/24**

##### **To consider the PROW and Grass Cutting Contracts for 2023/24**

The Clerk explained that it is a few years since tenders were sought for these works but if councillors are satisfied that the existing contractors provide good value for money and undertake satisfactory work, the existing grass cutting contractor and PROW contractor could be the sole contractors asked to quote for 2022/23. It was agreed that the existing contractors undertake satisfactory works and no complaints have been received. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the existing contractors – Lanhydrock Gardening Services and Gary Rogers – be asked to provide quotations for the grass cutting contract and PROW contract respectively for 2022/23. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

#### **14. Farmer's Market**

##### **To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022**

Councillor S Stevenson attended the market on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2022 and he said that he had received a complaint that the junction at the road from Northwood with the Wenmouth Cross road was very overgrown and was restricting visibility. Councillor T Hooper said that she would ascertain ownership of this verge. In addition, Councillor S Stevenson said that he had received a complaint regarding a regular dog walker in the playing field. Councillor M Rowe said that he would speak to the person concerned. The Chairman read out a card from children in the village thanking the parish council for the new play equipment. Councillor T Thrussell said that he would attend the market on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022.

#### **15. To receive reports from -**

##### **a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva apologized for not attending the August and September meetings. In respect of the planning application at Bos Lowen, Tripp Hill, he said that whilst the parish council, Applicant and he asked for the application to be considered by the Planning Committee, the argument was heavily weighted against the application and therefore, Senior Planning Officers overrode this request. He said that he will assist the Applicant in their appeal against the decision. He explained that the enforcement notice at Dragons Corner had been appealed to the Secretary of State but additional medical evidence has now been submitted to support the appeal which Cornwall Council will not contest. Councillor T Hooper said that it will be interesting to see how

Cornwall Council handles the PR relating to this case. Councillors agreed that they were very disappointed by this and would write to Cornwall Council to that effect. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that Cornwall Council subsidises the bus services but they do not run them. He said that the bus service provision is reviewed on a 6 monthly basis. He said that there is £1049.02 available in the Community Chest. It was agreed that the Clerk would make an application for this amount to pay for the defibrillator boxes. Councillor S Stevenson said that he is a regular reader of Cornish Stuff and has noted that Cornwall Council is to be the guarantor for the cost of re-vamping Truro. He said that he has also noted that Cornwall Council has agreed to match fund any charity money raised, up to £20,000, for refugees and asylum seekers in Cornwall which will inevitably result in an increase in Council Tax. He commented by saying that the more that is done at a local level, the less central government will do. He also said that he understood that there is to be no consultation on a Mayor for Cornwall and that the person will be voted in by Cornwall Councillors. Councillor G Rogers said that the planning enforcement system has lost all credibility and questioned whether it is fit for purpose. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he had not seen any improvement in the service over the last two years. Councillor T Hooper said that she would draft a letter to Cornwall Council expressing the parish council's displeasure at the planning enforcement service.

#### **b) Goonzion Commoners**

Councillor M Rowe said that he had asked the Commoners for their views on burning the bracken and they have commented that it is down to the parish council if they want to bear the cost of a burn. He said that there were many negative comments received the last time a burn was undertaken. Councillor M Rowe said that the cattle grid at Luna has still not been repaired. He said there is an ongoing issue with near collisions occurring at the Crowpound junction on Goonzion. Councillor T Hooper said that she would write to Will Glassop asking that they re-consider their decision not to install stop signs at this junction. Councillor C Smith said that the salt bin at the top of Bush Hill needs replacing. The Clerk said she would contact Cormac in this respect. He said that 120 Jubilee tree saplings will be arriving in due course. The Chairman said that he will ask parishioners, via St Neot News, to make requests for these trees, up to a maximum of 6 per person. He said that Sam Tett is concerned about the trees on Goonzion overhanging his garden and has offered several solutions. It was agreed that Councillors would meet at the site on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2022 at 12 noon to discuss the best way forward to manage this area of woodland.

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

Councillor T Thrussell said that an extra ordinary meeting will be held on 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 to discuss the review of the partnership areas

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £134.34  
Sue Blaxley (Cornwall Local Plan x 2) - £20.00  
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £310.70  
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 19/08/22) - £258.00  
PKF Littlejohn LLP (External Audit 2021/22) - £360.00  
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £231.59  
CJR Building Ltd (Works to Pavilion and Cott Yard) - £5478.92  
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £258.00  
St Neot Parochial Church Council (Donation) - £100.00  
Christian Smith (PIR sensor for light in Cott Yard) - £18.10  
Classic Fire (Fire Extinguisher Servicing in Pavilion) - £42.00

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

### **17. 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 £87,664.40, with income having been received as follows: £126.000 from Menheniot PO for rental of the Pavilion and £16,526.96 from Cornwall Council as the second half of the precept.

### **18. Co-option**

#### **To receive and consider applications for co-option onto the parish council**

Andrew Tamblyn said that he has lived in the parish all his life and is very keen to become involved in the parish council. He left the room and it was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Andrew Tamblyn be co-opted onto the parish council. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

### **19. Date of next meeting**

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

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 9th November 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:40pm.