

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th NOVEMBER 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors H Bunt (Chairman), C Smith, D Glanville, G Rogers, T Thrussell, S Stevenson, T Hooper (Vice Chair), A Tamblyn, H Webb and M Rowe.

Sue Blaxley

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:45pm. He confirmed that no one was recording the meeting.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 12th October 2022

The minutes of the meeting held on 12 October 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 13 on the agenda and Councillor H Webb 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. Councillor G Rogers suggested that the Clerk contacts Cormac and Cornwall Council via their websites. It was noted that the works in the public toilet, which Councillor N Ball will attend to, have not yet been undertaken. The Chairman said there has been no update regarding consideration of the provision of a community bus. The Clerk confirmed that she had emailed Biffa regarding road sweeping along the Carnglaze Caverns' road. The Chairman said that the electricity meter in the Pavilion needs to be adjusted to reflect current electricity charges which he said he would organize via Daryl O'Neill. He said that the inscriptions for the Jubilee plaque had been circulated for any additional comments. He confirmed that Councillor C Smith had erected a new basketball hoop and "No Dog" signs in the playing field and that the new defibrillator is now in place outside Cott Yard. The

Chairman said that he had spoken to Colin Alford regarding the erection of a hand rail and the provision of a dog faeces bin in the orchard. He commented that the new cattle grid at Luna has still not been installed. Councillor T Hooper said that she has communicated with Cornwall Council regarding the provision of stop signs at Crowpound Crossroads and is waiting to hear from them regarding this matter.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that everyone has had ample opportunity to peruse the inscription for the Jubilee plaque. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the plaque be ordered at a cost of £481.00. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. The Chairman said that the jubilee trees had not yet been delivered. He said that the Clerk will be absent from parish council meetings in January, February and March 2022 and during this time, Diana Smith will attend and record the minutes, for which she will be paid at the same hourly rate as the Clerk. He said that she is very capable and will have knowledge of the issues and locations under discussion. The Chairman said that some of the trees at Ambrose Lake appear to have ash die back and there is concern that they might fall onto passing vehicles. He said that the cub leader reported that there was no electricity in the Pavilion when they used it last week. He said that Daryl O'Neill had attended to the matter. It was noted that the Clerk had emailed a precis of the facts to all councillors concerning the planning enforcement case at Dragons Corner. It was noted that the matter is in the hands of the Planning Inspectorate and Cornwall Council. The Chairman reported that the Glynn Valley road will be closed overnight week commencing 14th November 2022.

In terms of arrangements for Remembrance Sunday, it was agreed that Councillor S Stevenson will lay the wreath at the war memorial, on behalf of the parish council. It was noted that Nick Hart will arrange the buglars. The Chairman said that the additional artificial flowers have been removed from the war memorial.

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

Councillor M Rowe said that he had been asked by Goonzion Commoners why the parish council did not support the football club in their endeavours to use part of Goonzion as a football pitch. Councillor G Rogers said that the parish council resolved that Goonzion is an unsuitable location for a football pitch irrespective of whether it has been used in the past for this purpose. Councillor A Tamblyn said that the football club is in discussion with a landowner about the use of an alternative site for a football pitch.

Councillor G Rogers said that Malcolm Woodward will be retiring after summer 2023 and the shop will then be closed. Councillor C Smith said that Restgarth

have a lease on Cott Yard until 1st July 2024 so if consideration was to be given to using part of the building as a shop, it could not open until after that date. He said there are many other buildings in the parish which are suitable for a community shop if parishioners wish to pursue this further. It was agreed that the appetite of parishioners for a community shop will be judged to ascertain whether further discussion by the parish council is required.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Pavilion

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

Councillor C Smith said that CJR Building Ltd have nearly completed the works to the Pavilion.

9. 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 a problem has been identified with the table tennis table in that the legs are rusty. He said that the legs comprise numerous pieces of steel welded together and powder coated. He said that owing to the way the legs have been fabricated, galvanising them is not possible. It was noted that the manufacturer has offered £100 so that the repairs can be undertaken. It was agreed that this is not acceptable and it was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor C Smith that contact be made with the manufacturer, via Derek Fairhall, requesting a full refund so that a replacement table can be purchased. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that if the manufacturer refuses to refund the money in full, they be asked to provide a replacement table tennis table (possibly the table with the 9mm melanine top)

Councillor C Smith said that the large gate at the far end of the playing field is often left wide open and is possibly being used for turning vehicles. He said that a tidy up in Doorstep Green is needed before Christmas. It was agreed that this would be undertaken on 3rd December 2022 between 9:30am and 12pm. Some discussion took place about the future management and maintenance of Doorstep Green. It was agreed that this matter will be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor G Rogers said that the new play train and carriage is 25mm out of alignment and that the wooden boards in the play train could be a slip hazard. It was noted that the supplier will not put anything onto the boards as this could

present additional hazards. It was agreed that the play train and carriage be retained as supplied.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that the defibrillator has been erected outside Cott Yard but that it needs to be wired in to enable the heater. The Chairman said that he would ask Daryll O'Neill to attend to this matter.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor G Rogers said that the provision of an electric charging point in the car park would cost approximately £600 plus £300 installation. He said the nature of the available power supply needs to be ascertained.

Councillor T Thrussell said that the tap is loose on the sink in the public toilet building. Councillor C Smith said that a large water bill has been received for the toilet but this follows many estimated readings prior to this invoice. He said that the water consumption seems to be 175l/day which amounts to 20 flushes. He said that in order to confirm if there is a water leak, the toilet will be closed overnight for one night from 8pm until 8am.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was agreed that cutting of the orchard is not required at the present time.

Councillor G Rogers, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item where it related to the PROW contract.

13. PROW and Grass Cutting Contracts for 2023/24

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

The Clerk said that Lanhydrock Gardening Services has quoted £247.25 plus VAT/grass cut for the 2023/24 season, compared to £215.00 plus VAT for the 2022/23 season. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that this quotation be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. The Clerk said that Gary Rogers has quoted £1,630.00

for the PROW contract for 2023/24, compared to £1550.00 for 2022/23. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Webb that this quotation be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

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

14. Donation Request

To receive and consider a request from St Neot Primary School for a financial donation

Councillor A Tamblyn explained that 23 children from St Neot Primary School are going on a residential trip to Wales in May 2023 and that the school has a financial shortfall for this trip. He said that the PTA are working very hard to raise funds. Councillor C Smith said that money has been set aside in the precept to help parish organisations. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that a donation of £300 be made. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor M Rowe who abstained from voting as his wife will be attending the trip.

Councillor H Webb returned to the meeting.

15. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5th November 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 3rd December 2022

Councillor T Thrussell attended the market on 5th November 2022 and he said that he had received a complaint that the sink tap in the toilet building is loose and that one parishioner has not yet received their large jubilee photograph. Councillor G Rogers said that he would attend the market on 3rd December 2022.

16. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that he had met with the Chairman of the Commoners regarding burning the bracken and they consider this to be the best way forward. It was noted that councillors had inspected the trees at the top of Tripp Hill and

there are several sycamore branches overhanging Sam Tett's garden which he can cut back. Councillor C Smith said the sycamore trees and the beech trees in that area are not diseased but there are two dying ash trees which require removing by a professional tree surgeon as they are close to a telephone line. He said that the remainder of the trees do not need coppicing. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would contact Eager Beaver and ask him to remove the trees. Councillor C Smith said that the salt bin at the top of Bush Hill will cost £300 to be replaced. Councillor D Glanville said that he has a salt bin that could be sited in that location and Councillors D Glanville and M Rowe agreed to transfer the salt from the old bin into the new bin. The Clerk said that she would contact Cormac and ask them when they intend to top up the salt bins.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

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

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £134.34
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £310.50
Source for Business (Water for Toilet) - £375.24
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £29.08
Outdoor Play Devon Ltd (Play Equipment) - £6,902.40
St Neot News (Expenses July, August, September 2022) - £536.00
British Legion Poppy Appeal (Donation) - £50.00
Source for Business (Water for Cott Yard) - £68.24
Cornwall ALC (Planning Training) - £36.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting) - £258.00
Classic Fire (Fire Equipment Servicing – Cott Yard) - £102.00
St Neot Institute (Cleaning Materials for toilets) - £32.90
Christian Smith (No Dogs signs and basketball hoop) £137.59

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

18. 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 £82,531.30, with income having been received from Pertemps in the sum of £1,197.19 for the rent of Cott Yard.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 14th December 2022

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 14th December 2022 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.