

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 14th DECEMBER 2022 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

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

Diana Smith
Sue Blaxley

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 Cornwall Councillor P Seeva and from Councillors N Ball, T Thrussell and G Rogers.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th November 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 there has been no update regarding consideration of the provision of a community bus. He thanked everyone for attending Remembrance Sunday and to all those who took part, especially Councillor S Stevenson for laying the wreath. Councillor T Hooper said that a public meeting will be held on 17th January 2023 to discuss ways forward considering the news that the village shop is closing at the end of summer 2023. The Chairman reported that Derek Fairhall is still pursuing the reimbursement of monies paid for the table tennis table. He said that Councillor N Ball has purchased a new tap for the public toilet but he has not yet fitted it or undertaken the other minor works in the building. Councillor C Smith said that Eager Beaver will undertake works in February 2023 as follows: remove the dead ash and oak trees on Tripp Hill and coppice the hazel trees on Tripp Hill and remove the dead elm in the playing field as well as undertake clearance work alongside the river. It was noted that some of the

salt/grit bins in the village have been re-filled by Cornwall Council but others have not: Halfway Hill, Bush Hill cattle grid, Bush Hill next to the electricity box, Tripp Hill cattle grid, Tripp Hill by Lee Moor, village bridge, Ambrose Lake, Loveny Bridge and Carnglaze Bridge. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cornwall Council and ask for these bins to be re-filled. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council should consider buying pre-packed 20kg bags of salt/grit which could be stored in various locations and used as necessary. He said that storage of it in plastic sacks will preserve its life as it is not effective if it gets damp and that it will be more accessible if it is located throughout the parish. The Chairman said there had been communications on Facebook regarding the lack of salt/grit. He said that gritting by Cornwall Council is very sporadic and that some agricultural contractors will spread grit/salt for which they charge £100-£150 per mile. It was noted that parishioners had been using the stock too heavily and that only 25g/metre squared is required to be effective. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Councillor C Smith purchases a stack of 20kg bags of salt/grit up to £300. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor S Stevenson said that the Warleggan area is not salted or gritted and the roads are treacherous. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council can buy a grit bin which Cornwall Council will install. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the parish council purchases a new bin and grit in the sum of £270 which is to be sited in a level location on the road between Warleggan and the Colliford Crossroads. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that he had received an email informing him that a holly tree had fallen onto the Jubilee path. He said that the path has now been made passable. Councillor H Webb said that the gate latch at the start of the path is broken. The Chairman said that Colin Alford will mend this when he installs the new handrail in the orchard. The Chairman said that he is storing the Jubilee trees until they are planted. He said that there seems to be a delay in the receipt of St Neot News by those who receive it by post. In addition, he said that the newsletter is not available on the website. It was agreed that Councillor H Webb would speak to Heather Taylor and ascertain how the posting of the newsletter operates and the matter would be discussed at the meeting of the parish council in February 2023. Councillor C Smith said that the Jubilee plaque is now in his possession and consideration needs to be given to its siting. He said that there is a piece of granite available on which to site the plaque. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the meeting of the parish council in February 2023.

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

None

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 one or two snagging jobs to do to the works to the Pavilion.

9. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To consider the future maintenance and management of Doorstep Green

The Chairman reported that a working party had taken place in Doorstep Green and several volunteers had attended. He thanked everyone, on behalf of the parish council, for their hard work. He said that no one volunteered to co-ordinate the maintenance of the area. It was noted that, in the past, the garden was divided into plots and individuals were responsible for their own plots. Councillor C Smith said that it is now a well-established garden and a professional eye is needed to make suggestions for the future. However, he said that working parties could, in the future, concentrate on sections of the garden as opposed to undertaking a general tidy up of the whole garden. He suggested that a public meeting be held in early Spring 2023 to gain some additional volunteers. It was agreed that the parish council would go forward with maintaining the garden but attempt to get more community involvement, initially through a public meeting.

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

Councillor C Smith said that considerable damage has been done to the grass in the playing field, possibly by an animal feeding on the larvae underneath the grass. Councillor M Rowe said that there are limited pesticides that will penetrate the ground. Councillor A Tamblin said that he will ask an agronomist to have a look at the grass.

Councillor C Smith said that the bridge handrail is rotting and requires repair. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would ask CJR Building to have a look at the works required. It was noted that the large gate at the far end of the playing field is often left open and there is no sign on it asking for it to be kept closed or stating that access will be required at all times.

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 as it does not work if the temperature falls below 3 degrees celcius. Councillor C Smith said that he would wire it in as a temporary job until Daryl O'Neill hard wires the equipment. He said that the defibrillator at Ley has been damaged by a vehicle so the case cannot be opened. This will need re-fixing and the post reinstated in the ground.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

12. St Neot Orchard

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

The Clerk said that she had contacted Prydis on several occasions regarding the land transfer at the orchard but had not received a response. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Clerk writes a "stern" letter to Prydis requesting that they give this matter their most urgent attention. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

13. Precept 2023/24

To consider the precept for 2023/24

It was noted that figures detailing the end of year accounts for 2022/2023, the current year's Precept, the Income and Expenditure as at 31st October 2022 and an estimation of expenditure until 31st March 2023 had been circulated prior to the meeting plus figures detailing a draft proposal for the Precept for 2023/2024. These figures had been discussed in detail at a meeting of the Finance Committee in November 2022. Councillor C Smith said that total projected expenditure is £51,565 and total projected income is £47,472 so there will be a slight deficit of expenditure over income as a result of rising costs over which the parish council has no control. He acknowledged that there is capital available. He said that having considered all the information in detail, the Finance

Committee had resolved to recommend raising the precept by approximately 2.5% for 2023/24, taking the precept from £32,800 to £33,620. He said this would result in an increase of approximately £3.50 - £4.00 per eligible household next year. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the precept be raised by approximately 2.5% for 2022/23, taking the precept from £32,800 to £33,620. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor S Stevenson who voted against.

14. Donation Request

To receive and consider a request from St Neot Parochial Church Council for a financial donation towards the creation of a new access into the Churchyard

Councillor T Hooper said that it has been suggested that, next to the existing stepped gateway into the cemetery, a disabled access could be formed by removing part of the wall. She said that an approximate cost of this would be £7,000 and that the Church is seeking a financial donation towards the works. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council donated money several years ago to improve the existing access. It was agreed that the parish council may be able to support this project but require more facts to include the actual cost, what works are required and where other funds will be sourced.

15. Farmer's Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 3rd December 2022 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th January 2023

Councillor G Rogers attended the market on 3rd December 2022. Councillor D Glanville said that he would attend the market on 7th January 2023.

16. To receive reports from -

- a) **Cornwall Councillor**

None.

- b) **Goonzion Commoners**

None

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

None

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £191.06
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £310.70
Sue Blaxley (3 months' salary and expenses) - £2665.20
HMRC (PAYE) - £110.40
Christian Smith (Plants for Doorstep Green) - £38.22
Gary Rogers (PROW 2nd installment) - £775.00

It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor H Webb 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 £74,362.52, with income having been received from Heather Taylor in the sum of £571.50 for the rent of Cott Yard and £25.78 for electricity used in her suite, £136.50 from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the Pavilion and £1049.00 from Cornwall Council as a Community Chest grant.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 11th January 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 11th January 2023 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute at which Diana Smith will be Acting Clerk.

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