

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 11<sup>th</sup> JANUARY AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT  
INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

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

Arthur Hooper, Muriel Merret Jones

Diana Smith (Acting Clerk)

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

**Public Participation**

Arthur Hooper was representing the PCC. He explained that the PCC is looking to raise funds to create a disabled access ramp to the grave yard on Loveny Road. He presented drawings of what was planned, this being a path ramp of 22 metres with retaining walls and handrail. He said that the cost will be approximately £10,000 and that some donations have been received. He said that he was asking the parish council to consider helping with a financial donation.

Councillor N Ball asked if all the path would be resurfaced with tarmac. Arthur Hooper said only if more funds are raised. Councillor M Rowe asked what materials would be used. Arthur Hooper said local stone.

Councillor H Bunt explained that this would help many people with mobility issues to access the grave yard. Councillor N Ball asked if the Diocese would make a financial donation. Arthur Hooper said they would not be donating at the present time.

Councillor C Smith said that grants were becoming available for community projects from Cornwall Council. Councillor H Bunt suggested asking Ugaldes undertakers who have said that some funds from them may be available.

Councillors asked Arthur Hooper to request a suggested amount for a donation and this will be discussed at the February meeting of the parish council.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva and Sue Blaxley.

Councillor H Bunt said that he was sad to announce that Councillor Stuart Stevenson had passed away on 10<sup>th</sup> January 2023. He said that he will be missed on the parish council. One minutes silence was observed in his memory.

## **2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 2022**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> December 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**

Councillor H Bunt reported that a meeting had been called by Garry Swinton (Vicar) to discuss the village shop on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023. He said any councillors attending must do so as members of the public and not as representatives of the parish council. Councillor N Ball said that part of the Cott Yard development had been intended for use as a shop and this was stated on the grant application. Councillor H Bunt said that the current lease on the premises did not expire until 1<sup>st</sup> July 2024. He said that he did not feel that the suite would be big enough for a shop and that there are issues with parking and the junction. Councillor T Thrussell advised about funding which may be available.

Councillor N Ball said he is still to complete the work to the public toilet. Councillor C Smith said that he has ordered the bagged salt which is expected to arrive in 3 weeks' time. He said that a storage location will need to be found. It was noted that a temporary repair has been made to the latch in the orchard and the handrail has been installed by Colin Alford.

Councillor H Webb said that she has contacted Heather Taylor regarding details on how the St Neot Newsletter is created, printed and distributed. Heather has said that her deadline was 18<sup>th</sup> of the month for copy, it then goes to print and is collected and distributed by hand and post. 450 copies are hand delivered and 240 are posted. Councillor A Tamblyn asked if the newsletter could be made available online. Councillor M Rowe suggested that E mail copies may be an option. It was agreed that Councillor H Webb would invite Heather Taylor to the February meeting of the parish council to discuss the matter further.

Councillor C Smith said that he has collected the blue alvin stone donated, by a parishioner, on which to mount the Jubilee plaque. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that it should be located next to the Pavillion. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was suggested that an unavailing be held similar to the event for the Jubilee Tree and path.

Councillor A Tamblyn said that an agronomist inspected the damage to the grass in the playing field and reported that it was most likely to be crows digging it up to get chafer beetles which are present in the ground. He recommended treating the grass with Nemasys. Councillor A Tamblyn said he would obtain the product and treat the affected areas.

Councillor C Smith made various suggestions for capping the handrail on the bridge into Doorstep Green but he said that he was waiting to speak with contractor Chris

Rogers. He said that he has wired in the cable for the defibrillator at Cott Yard and all is working well.

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

The Chairman said there had been no reported crimes in the parish. It was reported that the broken shackle on the swing has been replaced by Councillor C Smith.

It was noted that councillors had visited the salmon hatchery at Colliford. The Chairman expressed thanks, on behalf of the parish council, for an informative visit.

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

Councillor T Thrussell said there is going to be tree planting at Kerdroya by the main carpark on the 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> February 2023 which has been arranged by the ranger at Colliford, he will go to represent the Parish Council. He also reported water run-off and deep pot holes at Treverbyn and said he will email Cornwall Council.

#### **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 the faulty windows had been rectified, but CJR Building Ltd have one or two snagging jobs which will be done very soon.

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

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

It was noted that Martin Eddy and Graham Sargent will take the lead to draw up a working plan for Doorstep Green for the future.

The options regarding the table tennis table were discussed. The three options are: a full refund but the parish council pays to transport the table back to the supplier; the supplier will replace the table with a laminated plywood type; the supplier will give £700 towards the cost of repairing the legs. Councillor C Smith said that the legs could be removed and new galvanized legs fitted which would cost at least £1000. He said that a full concrete table tennis unit will cost between £2445.00 and £3775.00 plus Vat. He said the cost to return the existing table to Kidderminster would be approximately £120.00 plus Vat. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the existing table be returned to the supplier. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was agreed that a replacement table tennis table will be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

It was reported that Diana Smith has planted bulbs and replaced compost in the planters around the gazebo and the remaining bulbs will be planted around the trees by Martin Eddy and Graham Sargent.

#### **10. Cott Yard**

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

It was reported that the defibrillator is now wired in and working.

#### **11. Toilets and Car Park**

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

Councillor N Ball said that he will complete the various works in the public toilet. Councillor G Rogers said that he has obtained a quote for the installation of an electric charging point in the car park which to supply and install 1 pedestal EV charge point, single phase 7.5kw on a galvanized pole with charge point sign, cable and glands and garage unit DB and protective devices will be £1715.00 plus Vat. He said this excludes any ground works. It was noted that there are various revenue streams in the software for charging customers.

#### **12. St Neot Orchard**

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

Councillors D Glanville and H Bunt said they had visited the site with the vendor, Mervyn Chipman, to discuss the transfer questions 1 to 9 which the solicitors, Prydis, had asked to be answered. Councillor D Glanville gave a summary to the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Clerk reports to the solicitor in accordance with the report. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. In respect of the TP1 transfer of rights, Councillor D Glanville supplied a summary saying that Mervyn Chipman did not require to reserve any rights over the land. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the Clerk reports to the solicitor in accordance with the report. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor H Bunt thanked Councillor D Glanville, on behalf of the parish council, for progressing this matter.

#### **13. Farmers Market**

**To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmers market on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2023 and appoint a representative to attend the farmers market on 4<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

Councillor D Glanville reported that a parishioner had not received any reply from Phil Seeva regarding the bus service. He said there were discussions and enquiries

about the shop and he advised parishioners of the open meeting being held on 17<sup>th</sup> January 2023 to discuss the matter. He said that concerns were again raised about the amount of water being pumped into the road from Carlyon House.

Councillor M Rowe said that he would attend the market in February. Councillor C Smith suggested that he ask for parishioners for suggestion about the newsletter.

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

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

Councillor H Bunt read out the following report from Cornwall Councillor Phil Seeva:

“Unfortunately, I can’t be with you this evening as I have a long-standing family engagement down in Truro tonight and I haven’t been able to reschedule it. Please accept my apologies for not being with you but seeing as it was a scheduled clash that I knew about in advance, I’ve at least been able to draft a written report for you.

Seeing as Cllr Stevenson has previously shown so much interest in the Spaceport project I thought I’d start with that. You probably saw the media coverage on the launch event earlier this week, which in my opinion positioned Cornwall in an incredibly positive light.

This project is the start of an emerging space sector in Cornwall and given time it will undoubtedly create well paid jobs for future generations. The reason I’ve been so supportive of this is because I believe we lose too many young, talented people when they leave Cornwall and don’t return. With this project we stand a much greater chance of retaining that talent here in the county and at the same time attracting much needed inward investment.

Obviously, the ultimate outcome of the initial launch was not completely favourable but as far as I’m concerned that’s an issue for the operator and not the Spaceport and Council themselves. Fortunately for Virgin Orbit, Richard Branson’s pockets are deeper than Cornwall Council’s so I look forward to see the next launch as soon as possible.

Back down to Earth, we have a Full Council meeting next Tuesday and one of the main agenda items will be the agreement in principle of bringing in a 100% premium for council tax on second homes in the county. This is part of a Bill that is currently going through Parliament and is expected to be given Royal Assent in the Spring.

Estimates suggests that there are over 13,000 properties classed as second homes in Cornwall and that in turn will generate an additional £27m in revenue. Should this go through (Parliament and Council) then it will be in place for next year, 2024.

Although neither are specified agenda items for next Tuesday’s meeting, both the Mayor for Cornwall and the annual budget will be debated at the Full Council meeting in February unless an extraordinary meeting is called in advance (possibly end of January).

I am happy to discuss any other issues at your next Parish Council on Wednesday 8th February but in the meantime, please relay any questions or casework to Sue who I'm sure will pass them on to me".

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

It was noted that the cattle grids are filling up with water.

**c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had attended two meetings at which the devolution deal was discussed and thought not to be a good idea. He said that he had emailed the Chair requesting face to face meetings instead of Zoom so that they can network more effectively and points can be properly debated.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £142.45  
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £310.70  
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavillion) - £80.21  
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for Toilets) - £32.90  
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting 9/12/22) - £258.00

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal, except Councillor N Ball who abstained from voting.

**16. Finance Report**

**To receive a current financial statement of the accounts and to review income and expenditure against budget**

The Clerk reported that no income has been received this month and the accounts balance at £71,851.93.

**20. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> February 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 9.15 pm.