

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY 2023 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

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Muriel Merret -Jones, Andy Merrett-Jones, Sally Mollard, Derek Fairhall, Joe Rowe, Harry Bennett and Heather Taylor.

Diana Smith (Acting clerk)

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

Public Participation

Muriel Merrett-Jones said there had been a meeting regarding the possibility of opening a community shop. She said that parishioners would like it to be in part of Cott Yard. She said that part of the building being used as a shop was shown on the original plan used to obtain grant funding to renovate the building. She said the area is currently used by Restgarth to store paperwork and that this should be moved elsewhere to other storage facilities.

Councillor H Bunt pointed out that Pertemps currently hold a lease on the premises until 1st July 2024. Councillor C Smith said that there was no longer paperwork stored in one of the suites they rent as it was used to store PPE for the leaseholder's business and that the ground floor was also used for staff training sessions.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Sue Blaxley.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on 11th January 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor T Hooper declared a prejudicial interest in item 9 on the agenda.

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

Councillor H Bunt deferred discussion regarding a financial donation for a ramp into the cemetery until the next meeting of the parish council. He said that Stuart Stevenson's funeral will be on 9th February 2023 at 10.30 am at Glynn Valley Crematorium followed by a wake at The Halfway House pub. It was agreed that

Councillor C Smith would attend to represent the parish council. Councillor N Ball said that he had fitted a new tap in the public toilet. Councillor C Smith said that he has purchased the bagged salt which has been delivered and is stored behind the Heart Foundation bin in the car park.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

Councillor H Bunt said the shop meeting had been well attended and he clarified that the parish council did not know that the shop was closing before the current lease on Cott Yard was signed. It was agreed that discussions about the parish map would be deferred until the next meeting. The Chairman said that the Luna cattle grid is being replaced at the end of February 2023 and that the appeal case for Dragons Corner will be heard on 21st February 2023. He said that Cornwall Council will continue to empty the waste bin in the car park until 1st April 2024.

The Chairman said that there is a public consultation meeting on the proposed Cornwall Devolution Deal at 6.30pm in the Public Hall, Liskeard on 9th February 2023. He reported that as her health has improved, Natalie O'Neill was now part of the shop steering group and that she may also consider rejoining the parish council should a vacancy become available.

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. St Neot News

To receive and consider a presentation from Heather Taylor regarding St Neot News

Heather Taylor reported that of the 450 copies of St Neot News, 210 were hand delivered and 240 posted. Councillor C Smith asked if email copies could be sent if parishioners supplied email addresses. Heather Taylor said that it was possible but did not feel it was a good option. She said it should be possible to put it on the St Neot Village Website as it had been previously and that this should be followed up by the Clerk. Councillor T Hooper said that if the newsletter was on the website, it would give people a choice as to how to access it but considers that the hard copy is important. She thanked Heather Taylor for the excellent standard of production of the newsletter. Concerns were raised about copies of the newsletter going to holiday lets. Heather Taylor said that she had one holiday let that pays to receive copies, but does not know which addresses on the distribution list are holiday lets.

Councillor H Bunt thanked Heather Taylor and her team, on behalf of the parish council, for their hard work and for attending the meeting.

Councillor T Hooper, having previously declared an interest, participated in the following item as a member of the public and not as a parish councillor.

9. Village Shop

To receive and consider a report from the steering group regarding a village shop

Joe Rowe, as Chair of the steering group, reported that since the public meeting, they had formed a steering group which is primarily a decision-making body for the St Neot Shop Project. He said that they had held meetings and established a Terms of Reference which was circulated to parish councillors for information. He explained that their aim is to formulate a plan to deliver a shop space which will provide the amenities that the community wishes to support. He said that a planning application to site a temporary portable cabin in the village could take up to 3 months to be determined. He said that grants could be available from £5,000 to £80,000 although there would be funding requirements in order to apply for grants. He said that the cost of a new portable cabin is between £15,000 and £20,000. He said that a permanent shop could be community or commercially based and that an existing site to consider is within Cott Yard. He said that a shop is considered essential for the village and for Mount and Warleggan. It was noted that the group are intending to visit other community village shops and will report their findings.

The group presented the parish council with questions to help them formulate their plan:

1. Of the sites owned by St Neot Parish Council does the Council have preference for a temporary shop site. Car Park, Playing Field, Cott Yard or elsewhere?

Councillor M Rowe, reporting from the farmer's market, said that comments included that a shop needs car parking and that Cott Yard did not have parking and that access was not very good. Councillor T Thrussell said that a shop needs to be visible: the playing field is out of sight and Cott Yard is obscured from sight. Councillor H Webb said that if a building is to be sited in the car park, it should not be too big and take up too many parking spaces. Councillor C Smith said that there is room for a 20-30ft cabin on the level area at the rear of the car park which would take approximately 5 spaces and that electricity and water is close by in the toilet block. He said that storage would also be needed which could possibly be accommodated in the toilet block store or bus shelter. He said that a portable cabin could be sited in the playing field on the flat area by the pavilion, parallel to the river. He said that electricity and water would be available and it would not take up parking spaces. He explained that the lease on Cott Yard runs until 1st July 2024 so is not suitable as a temporary site. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the principle of a temporary building of 10ft x 30 ft sited in either the car park or on the playing field be supported. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

2. Is the Council prepared to contribute towards the cost of a temporary building?

The steering group said that a grant would need to be applied for by end of March 2023. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council would want the project to succeed. He explained that the rental for a temporary portable cabin was approximately £6000 plus Vat for 12 months. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor A Tamblin that the parish council would support, in principle, up to 50% of the value of a temporary building up to a maximum of £10,000. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

3. Does the Council prefer a permanent shop site? Car park, Playing field, Cott yard or elsewhere.

Councillor C Smith asked if any of the existing buildings such as the Methodist Chapel or Village Hall should be considered. Joe Rowe said that if the Methodist Chapel were to close, it would be sold to the highest bidder, probably for development, and would probably not be considered for rental. It was suggested that the toilet block and bus shelter area could be used with the existing buildings being demolished and a new building erected for a shop, public toilet and shelter area. It was also suggested that the pavilion could be extended to create a shop area. It was noted that, at the present time, the parish council has an income from the Post Office in the pavilion and from tenants in Cott Yard. The steering group asked if the parish council would consider Cott Yard as a permanent site. It was agreed that a visit by the steering group to view the site is required to assess its suitability. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that, in principle, the use of part of the car park was the preferred option at this time, whilst not dismissing the other options. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

It was agreed that questions 4 to 8 are not applicable at this stage

9. Can the members of the steering group have a look at the potential shop space in Cott Yard?

A provisional date for a visit was agreed as Monday 13th February 2023 subject to agreement with the leaseholders.

10. Will the Parish Council consider contributing to the expenses of the Group as they meet to plan delivery of a village shop?

It was agreed that everyone, including the parish council, should be working together on the project. It was proposed by Councillor D Glanville and seconded by Councillor H Webb that expenses, up to the value of £100, towards meeting costs would be paid by the parish council, on presentation of invoices and the money would be taken from the turbine community fund. Furthermore, the steering group could use the pavilion free of charge. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

All members of the public left the meeting.

10. Coronation Celebrations

To consider organizing celebrations for the coronation of King Charles 111

It was noted that the Church are planning to have a big screen showing the television coverage of the coronation with drinks available and viewers will be encouraged to bring a picnic. It was noted that the WI wish to be involved but do not want to clash with any parish council plans. Councillor C Smith suggested that the parish council works together with the Church. Councillor H Bunt suggested that the parish council plants a tree to mark the occasion. Councillor T Hooper asked about the possibility of mugs or other commemorative memorabilia for the children. Councillor P Seeva said that he will forward a letter to the clerk with various links for information that may be of help and that the matter will be discussed again at the next meeting of the parish council.

It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that a tree be planted to commemorate the occasion. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

11. Church View

To consider a parking solution for all residents of Church View

Councillor T Hooper said that the parish council should ask Cornwall Housing to consider installing angled parking spaces in Church View. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that Councillor T Hooper writes to Cornwall Council and Cornwall Housing and Highways asking for angled parking spaces to be installed. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

12. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To receive and consider options for the replacement table tennis table.

This matter was deferred to the next meeting.

To receive and consider a request to use Doorstep Green and the Pavilion for a wedding celebration

Councillors had received an email in advance of the meeting from a parishioner who wishes to use Doorstep Green and the pavilion for part of their wedding celebrations on 14th, 15th and 16th April 2023. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that permission be given and the charge would be £60. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

To receive and consider a report on any other matters arising relating to Doorstep Green and the playing field.

Councillor C Smith said that he had obtained a quotation from Andrew Baker to paint and stain the playground tower in the sum of £704.00 for labour and £580.00 for materials. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the quotation be accepted for the labour but the the parish council would

purchase the materials as they are then entitled to claim back the VAT. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

13. Pavillion

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

Councillor H Bunt said that he had altered the electricity coin meter owing to the rise in electricity costs and he noted that the electricity meter contained £8 in £1 coins. Councillor C Smith said that the electricity rate currently with EDF was 27.64 per kw/hour and 50p standing charge. It was agreed that users of the pavilion must be asked to remove all rubbish after their use of the building. It was noted that there are still some snagging jobs outstanding on the cladding work.

14. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that the electricity cost for the Opus contract at Cott Yard is 16.1 per kw/hour and 36p per day standing charge.

15. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor C Smith reported that he had checked the water usage and found that there appears to be a minor leak of approximately 100 litres over a 24-hour period which would amount to £182.50 in a year. However, he said there are no signs of any visible leak. He explained that South West Water are offering free checks to the first 100 business that apply and he will investigate this further.

Councillor H Bunt said there is a loose stone on the step going out of the car park. Councillors C Smith and D Glanville said they will attend to this when they are fixing the Jubilee plaque.

16. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor D Glanville reported that Prydis have said that, in order to protect the vendors, Mervyn and Anne Chipman, the parish council should to take on a shared proportion of the upkeep and maintenance of the concrete access to the ground that is being given to them. It was proposed by Councillor D Glanville and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the parish council agrees to this. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor D Glanville reported that for the land transfer to complete, a new map was needed which is suitable for Land Registry purposes which would cost approximately £250-£300 to be drawn up. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt proposed and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that Councillor

D Glanville instructs an agent to draft a suitable plan. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor H Bunt said he was in contact with the Caradon Orchard Group for advice on pruning of the apple trees.

17. Farmers Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmers market on 4th February 2023 and appoint a representative to attend the farmers market on 4th March 2023

Councillor M Rowe reported that a parishioner had complained to Cornwall Council about leaves on the Carnglaze Caverns' road and that Cornwall Council have since swept this road. He said that a parishioner reported that the bank below Great Meadow Estate needed maintaining. It was agreed that this is owned by the housing association. He said that a parishioner had asked if the building at Lower Fawton had been given planning permission. Councillor P Seeva said he would enquire. Councillor H Webb said she will attend the March market.

18. To receive reports from –

a) Cornwall Councillor

Councillor P Seeva paid his respects to the late Councillor Stuart Stevenson, saying he will miss his input and their discussions. He said that double council tax on second homes has been approved by Cornwall Council which should raise an extra £27 million. Councillor P Seeva offered his support to the shop steering group and said that he will send a letter to Cornwall Planning Department regarding the planning application at Church View (PA22/10062). Councillor T Thrusell asked if he will attend the appeal hearing on Dragons Corner. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he will not be attending.

Councillor G Rogers asked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to follow up the issue of flooding on the Carnglaze Cavern's road that had been reported last year. He also asked about road sweeping areas saying that some areas are over cleaned whilst some are not done at all. Councillor P Seeva said he will raise this issue with Cornwall Council. Councillor H Bunt asked if anything could be done about the cattle grids filling up with debris.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe reported that the cattle grid at Luna is due to be replaced between the 27th February and the 17th March 2023, and that the fencing contractor will replace the fencing posts around the parish council's field on Goonzion which is rented to Mr and Mrs Wilton. Councillor H Bunt gave a report on the Bodmin Moor Statutory Commons Councils situation including possible future funding.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that the devolution survey had been discussed on a recent Zoom meeting and that the 24th April 2023 meeting is to be face to face. He said that if the groups become linked this could help raise awareness and be more proactive.

19. 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) - £310.50
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £216.73
Daryl O'Neill (Works to Pavilion) - £199.33
Source for Business (Water for Toilets) - £111.69
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £13.12
St Neot News (October, November, December expenses) - £563.00
Jon Abbiss (Parish map) - £750.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for Toilets) - £10.07
Christian Smith (Salt bags, stone cutting materials, defibrillator box handle, brackets for flower boxes) - £432.80

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

20. Finance Report

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

The Clerk said that the following income has been received: £7.07 interest, £1,000 community turbine payment, £241.50 from Menheniot Post Office for rental of the pavilion and £505.10 from Pertemps for utilities at Cott Yard. She said the accounts balance at £71,921.18

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 8th March 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 8th March 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 10.30 pm.