

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8th MARCH 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt (Chair), C Smith, D Glanville, A Tamblyn, M Rowe, T Thruswell and G Rogers

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Muriel Merrett-Jones, Andy Merrett-Jones, Derek Fairhall, Mim McCormack, Dudley Harris, Simon Ludlow, Karen Dickin, Janet Haley, Lawrence Harvey, Sally Attwell, David Attwell, Gary Thruswell, Susan Thruswell, Rob Thomas, Graham Montalque Rupert Hanbury-Tenison, Shoni Haswell and twin babies.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Diana Smith (Acting clerk)

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

Public Participation

Andy Merrett-Jones advised that he had received confirmation from Cornwall Council that they will reinstate a trial bus service to St Neot from Friday 7th April 2023 which will run every Friday to Liskeard and back, stopping at the Doctors and Morrisons. He explained that since his and Muriel's previous presentation on the cancellation of the bus services to St Neot, they had written to Strategic Directors in Cornwall Council pointing out that, under their Localism publication, they had taken away from vulnerable people in our parish the ability to receive medical attention or help, or to do shopping for food as well as their freedom of choice without incurring a £38 return taxi fare to Liskeard and that this went against all the principles of their statement of intent.

Councillor H Bunt thanked Andy and Muriel Merrett-Jones for their report and the work they had put in to achieve this.

Muriel Merrett-Jones spoke saying she had been unable to look at the Shop Steering Group report online and wants to know why the proposed shop is to be in the playing field and not in Cott Yard. Councillor H Bunt said that the Shop Steering Group will be reporting to the parish council under item 8 of the agenda. He said that locations had been discussed at the last public meeting regarding the shop and that the public voted that the playing field was the best location for a temporary shop. Councillor C Smith said that the parish council were acting on what the Shop Steering Group were requesting from them.

Karen Dickin spoke representing the residents of Temple and their concerns regarding the information sent to them from Ms Haswell regarding her plan for a 3-day festival at Blacktor Downs. She said that they have very serious concerns that the festival would have on the local environment, its landscape, nature conservation

and the archaeology of the area. She said there is open access to the land and it is grazed year round by Commoners. She said that an event of this type could not be set up without causing harm and the single-track road and track access is unsuitable for large service vehicles. She said the festival is likely to cause traffic chaos and potential backup of traffic onto the A30. She said that a large area would need to be fenced off but there is concern that people could spread out of the site onto the wider moor. She said that she hoped the parish council will feel able to take the strength of their concern into consideration as and when they are given the opportunity to make representation to Cornwall Council or other relevant authorities regarding the festival. Councillor H Bunt said that the parish council will not be voting tonight on the matter as no formal applications have been received for consultation. He said that he had also been contacted by Charles Masters (Secretary of Blacktor Downs Commoners). Gary Thrussell said that he holds the same concerns as Karen Dickin has reported.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Sue Blaxley and Councillors T Hooper, N Ball and H Webb

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th February 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

10. Festival

To receive and consider details for a proposed festival in the parish

Shoni Haswell said that she had sent an email to the parish council, which had been circulated to all councillors, which outlines her aims to hold a 3-day festival at Blacktor Downs. She said that the proposed activity involves a music and arts festival in the pasture fields and excludes the natural marsh grassland and historic site. She said that she hopes this could raise £100,000 plus per annum, which would be used for improvements within Bodmin Moor, distributed via small grants. She said that the funds would be used for conservation projects, educational programs and archaeological restoration. She said that she is consulting with Cornwall Council Safety Committee, Natural England and the AONB and protected sites team, Cornwall Council Environmental health team and Cornwall Environmental Consultants to ensure that the running of a festival is safe, legal and has no long term impact on the landscape or environment. She said she would not go ahead if local concerns outweigh the benefits.

Councillor H Bunt asked how many people would attend. She said she would take advice from the agencies but approximately 2500 attendees would be needed to ensure the festival is cost effective.

Councillor C Smith asked about Shoni Haswell's relevant background. She said she was a director for an NHS charity and that events organization has been a sideline. In addition, she said she worked with the Boardmasters festival and various other venues and has several contacts within events and festival organizations.

Councillor T Thrussell asked if Shoni Haswell had applied for funding from other sources that are available. She said that she was aware of them and agreed to explore these. She said she had not decided if the event should be under CIS or a registered charity, but either way it would be a nonprofit making event.

Councillor H Bunt recommended that an open meeting may be a way of generating support for the festival. Councillor T Thrussell asked if the parish council would call a public meeting. Councillor H Bunt said this was up to the Applicant.

The Chairman thanked Shoni Haswell and the members of the public attending regarding the festival. They left the meeting.

8. Village Shop

To consider paying for the planning application for a temporary village shop

To consider paying for the advertisements for expressions of commercial interest for a village shop

To receive and consider a report on any other matters arising relating to a village shop

Derek Fairhall spoke on behalf of the Shop Steering Group. He said that obtaining planning permission is of urgency if the shop is to be in place by the end of August 2023. He said that Ray Clarke has agreed to submit the application and that the cost for a pre-planning application would be up to £320. He said that a full planning application would incur additional costs.

Councillor H Bunt said that alternative locations for the shop had been discussed at the last public meeting regarding the shop and that most of the public voted that the playing field was the best location for a temporary shop. He said that he and Councillor C Smith had a meeting with Derek Fairhall and Simon Deacon on site to look at their suggestions for the location of the building in the playing field. At that meeting, it was suggested to move away from having a portable cabin and have a building of timber construction instead. It was noted that the latter can be built wider to accommodate the shop's need. Derek Fairhall said that the proposed building would be 5m x 10m and would cost approximately £15,000 plus Vat in its basic form but additional costs would be incurred to make it suitable for a shop area. He said that the cost was not much more than a portable cabin and would give more space. He circulated a plan showing the position of the proposed site for the building and asked if the parish council will pay for the pre application which will cost up to £320.

Derek Fairhall asked if the parish council could set up a subcommittee to enable decisions to be made more quickly than the monthly meeting. It was agreed that advice would need to be sought regarding this matter.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva offered to speak to a Planning Officer at Cornwall Council on behalf of the Steering Group.

Councillor T Thrussell asked if the building was to be designed by Ray Clarke. Derek Fairhall said that it would be a pre-made building which would comply to building regulations. He said that the temporary building would give the opportunity to ascertain if the shop is successful and that it could be used as a community amenity in the future.

Councillor C Smith said a full planning application would cost approximately £460.

Councillor G Rogers asked if the shop store shown on the plan was additional to the main building. Derek Fairhall said it was, making the total length of the building 15m. He said that the shop store would add to the cost.

Councillor C Smith suggested that the parish council should own the building but Derek Fairhall said that his understanding was that the Plunket grant scheme requires asset lock. Councillor C Smith explained that the parish council took out loans for the Cott Yard development and considers that permanent buildings on parish council land should belong to the parish council.

Derek Fairhall said the Shop Steering Group would advise the parish council on future developments each month.

Councillor G Rogers asked if the Shop Steering Group knows whether the playing field is on a flood plain. He said that he was investigating this matter but the pre planning application should clarify this.

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the parish council agree to pay for the pre application submission up to a value of £320. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Derek Fairhall said advertising for expressions of commercial interest for a village shop would be made in the Cornish Times, St Neot News and via social media. He said that the cost for the Cornish Times advertisement is £130 plus vat.

Councillor H Bunt said that he had been contacted by Karenza Moore from the Cornish Times asking him for information about the proposed shop. He said that he had directed her to the Chair of the Shop Steering Group. Derek Fairhall said that he would follow this up.

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the parish council pay up to £130 plus Vat for the advertisement in the Cornish Times. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor M Rowe said that clarity on Cott Yard needs to be made by the Shop Steering Group so that parishioners understand why this is not being considered at the present time.

Councillor H Bunt thanked Derek Fairhall for his presentation. Derek Fairhall and Mim McCormack left the meeting.

Councillor C Smith said that the parish council needs to consider ownership of the shop building, as it could be used for other community groups in the future. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that his advice would be that the parish council should own the building to avoid any problems in the future. Councillor M Rowe said that the parish council needs to continue to work with the Shop Steering Group to achieve a good outcome for the community. Councillor H Bunt said that if the building is to be on parish council land, the parish council should own the building. Councillor D Glanville said that the parish council could consider paying for a building up to the value of £20,000.

Councillor T Thrussell asked what the loans from the Public Works Loan Board cost, Councillor C Smith said their interest rates are very low and it is operated by HM Treasury specifically for parish councils.

A proposal was made by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor C Smith as follows:

Following outcomes of investigations by the Shop Steering Group, the Parish Council will wish to investigate further the ownership by the parish council of a building on parish council land. The parish council wishes to continue working with the Shop Steering Group to achieve their aim of a village shop and consider further financial commitment to it.

All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

The Chairman said that the item regarding a disabled ramp at the Cemetery will be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. He said that various other matters will be raised under the relevant items on the agenda.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that Mrs Bowden, Head of St Neot Primary School has said there is to be a celebration in July 2023 as the school is 20 years old. He said that she has asked if a bouncy castle can be plugged into the power supply on Doorstep Green and what the cost would be. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the electricity and venue be supplied free of charge subject to a risk assessment being in place. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Chairman said that Julie Ball has asked if a tree in memory of Nick Hitchcliff can be planted in the playing field. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded

by Councillor G Rogers that this be allowed and that she liaise with the parish council to find a suitable position. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor H Bunt thanked Councillor C Smith and Councillor D Glanville, on behalf of the parish council, for putting in the stone ready for the Jubilee plaque.

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

9. Coronation Celebrations

To consider organizing celebrations for the coronation of King Charles 111

Councillor C Smith said there is a big screen viewing of the TV coverage of the coronation being held in the Church on Saturday 6th May 2023. It was suggested that, on Sunday 7th May 2023, a high tea in the playing field is organized and, on this occasion, the Jubilee plaque will be unveiled. In addition, it was suggested that a tree be planted to celebrate the coronation. It was suggested that the parish council would fund and supply some food and ask for help from the WI, Village Brew and volunteers. Councillor T Thrussell said King Charles III has great interest in the environment and a suitable tree should be used. He also suggested that he would speak with SW Lakes Trust about the possibility of another tree planting day on Monday 8th May 2023.

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that up to £500 be put towards the occasion. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor H Bunt said that he will put details in the St Neot News.

11. Parish Map

To receive and consider an update on the parish map.

Councillor T Thrussell said that key numbers and points of interest need to be added to the map and he what to include. He said there will be copies of the artwork that can be used as posters. Councillor H Bunt said that circle on the map is smaller than the map. Councillor T Thrussell said he would investigate this and get drafts for the next meeting and present a further update.

12. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

To receive and consider the method for returning the existing table tennis table and which replacement table tennis table to purchase

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

Councillor C Smith said in order to return the table by pallet carrier the table needs to be dismantled and wrapped ready for collection. Councillor M Rowe offered to help and take the pallet to his farm for collection. It was agreed that this be undertaken on Wednesday 15th March 2023 at 6pm.

Councillor C Smith showed 3 different options for a replacement table tennis table and explained details of the styles, prices and warranties. Councillors asked if details for a polished top option could be sought and brought back to next month's agenda.

A date for the next clean up at Doorstep Green is to be held on 18th March 2023 at 9am for approximately 2 hours.

13. Pavillion

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

Councillor C Smith said that the snagging jobs had been completed by CJR Buildings Ltd and his final invoice has been received for payment.

14. Cott Yard

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

None

15. Toilets and Car Park

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

It was reported that a corner of the carpark entrance wall has been damaged and needs to be repaired and a loose step into the car park needs re-concreting. Councillor C Smith said that Colin Alford can undertake the works for approximately £100. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that Coiln Alford be instructed to undertake the works. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

16. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor D Glanville reported that the boundaries of the land to be transferred still need to be confirmed and that a detailed topographical map is required which will cost between £500 - £600. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that a topographical map be acquired. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

17. Farmers Market

To receive and consider a report from the councillor who attended the farmers market on 4th March 2023 and appoint a representative to attend the farmers market on 1st April 202

Councillor H Webb sent her report saying that one person had raised concerns about the proposed festival and that two people had raised concerns that the parish council is against having the village shop in Cott Yard.

18. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva reported that the reinstated bus service 455 starts on April 7th 2023 and will be run by Cornwall Transport. He said that council tax will increase by 4.99% in April 2023. He said that he is meeting with the Planning Department next week regarding the ongoing planning application at Church View and that he is also meeting with Highways concerning the flooding on the Carnglaze Caverns road.

He said that he has been contacted by people expressing concerns about the proposed festival. He said that there has been no application made yet so he thought it unlikely that it will go ahead this year due to the time scales involved in the application process. He said that there was nothing to update regarding Dragons Corner and that he will chase up about the tree cutting required at Great Meadow, Bush Hill.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that the repair to the cattle grid at Luna has been delayed and no new date has been set.

c) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel

Councillor T Thrussell said that he will attend the next face to face meeting.

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 and holiday pay) - £435.95
Sue Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) - £2405.22
Western Web (Website hosting) - £126.00
St Neot Social Club (cleaning materials) £10.89
Richards Builders Merchants (materials to mount jubilee plaque stone) £81.61
CJR Buildings Ltd (Final balance payment for Pavillion) £6614.60
St Neot Village Hall (Annual bill for room hire 12 meetings @ £12.00) £144.00

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour, except for Councillor G Rogers 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 reported that income had been received from Pertemps for the rent of Cott Yard in the sum of £1197.19 and that the cccounts balance at £71,980.05.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 12th April 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 12th April 2023 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 10.30 pm.