

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 13th SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt (Chair), D Glanville, A Tamblyn, M Rowe, N Ball, T Hooper, T Thrussell and G Rogers.

Jenny Hart at the beginning of the meeting.
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

Jenny Hart said she had acquired a finger post sign which needs to be erected on Goonzion.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors C Smith and H Webb and from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

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

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

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

The Clerk read out the following statement:

Following consultation with Simon Mansell, Monitoring Officer at Cornwall Council, as the Proper Officer, I am granting all councillors a dispensation to participate in discussions relating to the village shop project and to vote. This is because the project is in the interest of parishioners and is for the benefit of the community and parishioners. It will enable everyone to be able to participate with a clear conscience and it will ensure we have sufficient knowledge and challenge about the matter.

However, any pecuniary interest must be declared this evening or as appropriate if things change. The dispensation will be in place for 1 year from the date agreed.

The exception to this is if there is employment in the shop project. This would create a disclosable pecuniary interest which would need to be declared and, in this case, relevant councillors would have to declare an interest and leave the room during discussions relating to the shop project. They would not be permitted to participate in discussions or to vote.

This raises the issue of employment of councillors and partners of councillors in other areas, namely Cott Yard, the pavilion, car park and toilets and whether an interest should be declared. The advice would suggest that it should.

A pecuniary interest are your business interests, such as employment, trade, profession, contracts or any company with which you are associated and your wider financial interests such as trust funds, investments and assets. These are different from personal or non-pecuniary interests which may arise from family or personal relationships, involvement in community, social or other cultural groups that may include an interest of a financial nature.

Councillors H Bunt and G Rogers declared a pecuniary interest in the village shop project, Councillor N Ball declared a pecuniary interest in the public toilet, Cott Yard and the pavilion and Councillor T Hooper declared a non-pecuniary interest in St Neot Social Club bar committee, St Neot Parochial Church Council and St Neot United Charities.

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

The Chairman said that there has been no response from the Case Officers regarding the parish council's concerns at their failure to consult the Planning Committee correctly in respect of planning applications at Black Tor Barn, St Neot and The Vicarage. In respect of the recent planning application at Quarry Bank, he explained that the Case Officer is looking into whether the sewage system is adequate. Councillor G Rogers said that the planning application has now been approved. The Chairman said that the final plans for the new village shop had not yet been completed. He said that the overgrown hedge between the garden of a property in Loveny Road and the school has now been cut. He reported that a tidy up of Doorstep Green was undertaken and some minor repairs to the play equipment and rubbers on the gym equipment had also been undertaken. He said that Pertemps have confirmed that they will continue to occupy their suite on the first floor of Cott Yard on a month-by-month basis.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that he and Councillor C Smith had attended the meeting of the Shop Steering Group and that it was reported that the official opening of the temporary shop in Cott Yard had gone very well. He said that many parishioners are thanking the Village Shop Steering Group and the parish council for their hard work with the project.

The Chairman thanked everyone who took part in the Carnival in which the parish council won first prize which was donated to Malcolm Woodward's retirement gift. He reported that a monthly report had been received from PCSO S Edsner. It was noted that Councillor T Thrussell has erected the new parish map at Colliford Lake and that he had circulated a report on the improvement works to the A38 and the Tamar Bridge tolls. The Chairman said that Councillor C Smith had repaired the light in the kitchen in Cott Yard and had erected signs for the new shop. He said that the rubbish bin outside the shop will be emptied by shop staff.

It was noted that the hedge between Doorstep Green and the school has been cut, the cattlegrid at Luna has still not been replaced and there is a small chip in the cladding on one of the corners of the pavilion.

He said that parishioners had raised concerns about the copper beech trees adjacent to the bungalows in Lampen Lane as the dead branches and sap are falling onto vehicles parked in the vicinity. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the matter to Cornwall Council. He said that recent fly tipping on Goonzion had been cleared by Councillor G Rogers. Councillor T Thrussell said that is some fly tipping at Colliford which Cornwall Council will not remove as it is not on the highway.

It was agreed that the playing field could be used as an overflow car park for those attending a funeral in the Church on Monday 18th September 2023.

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

None.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

Councillors G Rogers and H Bunt, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

8. Village Shop Project

To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to the Village Shop Project

Councillor T Hooper said that, so far, there has been good support for the shop. She said that the Village Shop Steering Group are relentlessly chasing the final plans and documents for the planning application for the new shop. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the Architect and ask him to give the matter his urgent attention as it is imperative to move the project forward so that the shop is viable and sustainable in the longer term and the grant applications are time limited. She said that Councillor T Hooper said that her and Mark Rodwell had attended the farmer's market and they had received some very welcome feedback regarding the new shop, especially the opening hours, the range of stock and the prices. She said that some who were less supportive of the shop have used the facility. She said that the operator of the shop is liaising with local businesses in attempt to stock goods in the shop from a local network.

Councillors H Bunt and G Rogers returned to the meeting.

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 agreed that the Doorstep Green tidy up on 23rd August 2023 was a success. The Chairman said the users of Doorstep Green for the smite competition thanked the parish council for allowing them to use the space. Councillor T Thrussell said that he had installed the plaque lectern for the St Neot statue.

10. Pavillion

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

Councillor T Thrussell suggested that the parish map could be erected on the pavilion. The Chairman said that Malcolm Woodward would like the display cabinet removed from the wall adjacent to the old shop. It was agreed that the location of parish maps and the repositioning of the display cabinet would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

11. Cott Yard

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

The Clerk reported that a periodic electrical test must be undertaken in Cott Yard for safety reasons. She said that two electrical contractors had been asked to provide quotations for the work but that only one had responded. She said this was Lockside Electricals in the sum of approximately £600. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. The Clerk said that, as landlord, a risk assessment of the use of Cott Yard as a shop, in terms of highways issues, should be undertaken, as agreed at a previous meeting of the parish council. Councillor T Hooper said she would undertake the risk assessment.

12. Toilets and Car Park

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

The Clerk said that quotations for the re-building of the wall adjacent to the car park are being sought for the insurance company.

13. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor D Glanville reported that Prydis has submitted several plans to the Land Registry and have finally had approval of the plan. The Land Registry has confirmed that the land is partially in the name of the Chipmans and partially in the name of Cornwall Council. Councillor D Glanville said that the remaining piece of land owned by Cornwall Council is a triangular piece from the end of the fence to roughly the end of the seat against the hedge. This piece of ground was not fenced off by the council and is roughly 2.5 metres by 5 metres. He explained that Prydis has said that the parish council could continue to amend the plan and resubmit it until the Land Registry are happy that it only contains land belonging to Mr and Mrs Chipman or that the parish council accepts that the plan is slightly wrong and accept that the Chipmans can only transfer what they own. The latter would result in the transfer being completed within a week. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded

by Councillor A Tamblyn that the latter option be the way forward. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor G Rogers asked the Clerk to contact Cornwall Council and ask them to cut the vegetation that is growing from their land across the footpath in the orchard. He said there is a dead apple tree in the orchard and the Queen's celebratory tree is not looking very healthy. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Gary Rogers be authorised to purchase a replacement tree. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Asset Register

To approve the asset register for 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the asset register for 2023/24 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

15. Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Financial Controls, Financial Risk Assessment

To approve the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Financial Controls and Financial Risk Assessment for 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Standing Orders, Financial Regulations, Internal Financial Controls and Financial Risk Assessment for 2023/24 approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor T Hooper suggested that the Code of Conduct should also be put on the parish council's website.

16. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 2nd September 2023 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th October 2023

Councillor H Webb attended the farmer's market on 2nd September 2023. She reported that she had received a few positive comments about the shop and that she took the most up to date plans she had of the proposed shop for people to see and that was of interest. She said that one parishioner mentioned they would like to run a Christmas window display in the village this December to raise money for charity. Councillor T Hooper said that Councillor H Webb had commented that the table at the farmer's market looks very bland and that it may be a good idea to put a copy of the parish map on the table. Councillor N Ball said he would attend the farmers' market on 7th October 2023.

17. To receive reports from -

- a) **Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva had submitted a report which was circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting and read as follows:

Although it has been a relatively quiet summer, there has been one major change to the structure of the Cabinet at Cornwall Council with Connor Donnithorne moving from his role as Portfolio Holder for Transport on to a brief that oversees Digital Transformation at the council.

Transport and particularly parking charges have been a hugely controversial issue in recent months and although there are no 'paid for' parking in this parish, it does have a significant impact in nearby towns such as Liskeard, Bodmin and possibly Looe which residents here, probably use.

We have a Full Council meeting next Tuesday and one of the main issues will be the debate (and vote) on a Motion that is being brought forward to support improvements to the A38, which passes right through the division. Naturally, I will be supporting this motion and I would expect every other Cllr from SE Cornwall to do the same, regardless of the different political parties that we represent.

It should be noted that Cornwall Council is ultimately not responsible for this road and that National Highways are instead. However, in the absence of any improvements to date, I believe that the council should be putting as much pressure on Government as possible to bring forward any proposed improvements.

As has been raised with me separately, I have reported the fly tipping issue up at Colliford Lake and have asked that the Highways team to let me know once it has been done. I also note that the sign at Loveny Road has still not been replaced (as of earlier this week) so I will chase this up again this week.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor G Rogers said that the gorse hedges on Goonzion need cutting. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Ben Symons, Denzil Alford and Martin Rice and ask them to meet Councillor G Rogers who will explain the requisite works and to provide quotations for the work.

The Clerk said that the logs from the tree felling on Tripp Hill remain in situ. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith could collect and use the logs and share them with his neighbours who had previously shown an interest in having some of them.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell had circulated a comprehensive report to all councillors prior to the meeting. He said there are 3 main issues: urging Cornwall Council to take the improvement works to the A38 more seriously; the proposed increases to the tolls on the Tamar Bridge and funding to revamp the Smugglers Trail which runs through St Neot parish.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £180.77
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £311.17
Sue Blaxley (3 months' salary and administration expenses) - £2581.02
St Neot News (Newsletter expenses April, May, and June 2023) - £577.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for toilets) - £42.56
Thomas Thrussell (Parish Map printing) - £156.00
Lockside Electrical Contractors (Works at Cott Yard) - £185.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £890.10
Christian Smith (Signs and postbox for Cott Yard) - £113.39
Thomas Thrussell (Materials for steel lecturn and cleaning materials) - £18.80

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour, except for Councillors T Thrussell and N Ball who abstained from voting

19. Finance Report

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

The Clerk reported that income has been received this month as follows: Menheniot Post Office for Pavilion rental - £126.00, Heather Taylor for utilities for Cott Yard - £24.79, Heather Taylor for rent for Cott Yard - £571.50, Pertemps for rent and utilities for Cott Yard - £1122.27 and £105.08 from the toilet donation box. She said that the accounts balance at £69,534.59.

20. Co-option

To receive and consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

None

22. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th October 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 11th October 2023 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute.

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