

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 11th OCTOBER 2023 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors H Bunt (Chair), C Smith, A Tamblyn, M Rowe, N Ball, T Hooper, H Webb and G Rogers.

Nick Bailey, Arthur Hooper, Josie Williams
Cornwall Councillor P Seeva
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

Arthur Hooper said that St Neot PCC are asking the parish council for a donation of £5,000 towards the installation of a ramp at St Neot cemetery. He said the project will cost approximately £10,000. He said that St Neot PCC has £2,600 which will come from donations or tradespeople who will undertake some work free of charge. In addition, St Neot PCC will donate £2,000. He explained that any financial shortfall will be made up with donations and fund raising and free of charge labour. He said that he is also asking local undertakers to make a financial contribution. The Chairman asked if grant funding was available for the works. Arthur Hooper said that he did not think so at this stage. Councillor M Rowe asked what the timeframe was for the installation of the ramp. Arthur Hooper said he would like to see the works undertaken as soon as possible. Councillor G Rogers asked how the sum of £10,000 had been calculated. Arthur Hooper said he had priced it in his professional capacity.

He also said that St Neot PCC is seeking a financial contribution from the parish council towards maintenance of the cemetery. He said the current cost of maintenance is approximately £1,000pa.

Nick Bailey explained that he is the Agent for St Neot AFC in the submission of a planning application for a change of use of land in Lampen Road from agriculture to a football pitch. He said that the pitch will be available for use by the community. He said the landowner will grant a lease for the land and that assurances will be given to the owners of Carnglaze Caverns that the existing parking arrangement will remain in place. He said that he hopes that the parish council will support the planning application. The Chairman explained that the parish council cannot comment until the planning application is sent out for consultation but that the parish council has, in the past, said that they will do their best to support St Neot AFC in securing a football pitch.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors D Glanville and T Thrussell.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th September 2023, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor T Hooper declared an interest in item 15 on the agenda, Councillors H Bunt and G Rogers declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda and Councillor N Ball declared an interest in items 10, 11 and 12 on the agenda.

Councillor T Hooper, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

15. St Neot Parochial Church Council

To receive and consider a request from St Neot Parochial Church Council for a financial contribution towards maintenance costs of the cemetery and the provision of a ramp into the cemetery

Councillor N Ball commented that the Diocese has adequate funds but that the parish council has donated £300 towards cemetery maintenance in the past. Councillor C Smith said the parish council has a lot of financial commitments especially in relation to the new shop and that St Neot PCC have had many opportunities to raise money for the installation of a ramp into the cemetery. Councillor N Ball said that the parish council receives a payment of £1,000/pa for use in the community from the Tredinnick turbine and that could be donated towards the project. He said that the installation of a ramp would result in peoples' last journey being more respectful and it would facilitate access for visitors to the cemetery. Councillor M Rowe said that the facilities in the cemetery need to be improved but questioned the percentage of parishioners who use the cemetery. He said precept money should be used for the benefit of all parishioners, not just a few. Councillor C Smith said that donating money from the Tredinnick turbine community payment could be justified. Councillor A Tamblyn said that the works need to be undertaken and that the parish council should offer some financial support. It was suggested that some money may be available through Cornwall Council's Community Chest and that grant funding should be explored. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the money from the Tredinnick turbine community payment for 2024 and 2025 be donated towards the project – a sum of £2,000. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

In terms of maintenance of the cemetery, Councillor G Rogers said that £300 has been donated in the past. Councillor H Webb said that the parish council should be supporting this parish facility. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor N Ball that a donation of £350 be made this year and that the matter will be considered again early in 2024. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor T Hooper returned to the meeting.

18. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that the money required for improvements to the A38 is such a large amount that it must be considered by Cabinet before it is considered by Full Council. He said there is a current consultation on the toll prices for the Tamar Bridge and for the Torpoint ferry. He said that it was proposed to cut transport for school children but, because of public consultation, this plan has now been scrapped. He said that he has allocated £500 Community Chest money to the village shop project. Councillor G Rogers asked why there is a financial shortfall in respect of the Tamar Bridge. Councillor T Hooper said that it is probably due to investment. Councillor G Rogers said that the crossroads at Crowpound requires white lining.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that the new Luna cattle grid should be ready for installation week commencing 9th November 2023. He said that parishioners have expressed concerns that the cattle are congregating on the roads on Goonzion and that the installation of signs saying "Beware of Cattle" should be installed. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Cornwall Council to consider this request. Councillor G Rogers said that he had acquired 3 quotations for hedge cutting on Goonzion. After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the quotation from Ben Symons in the sum of £90 plus VAT be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

None.

Councillor T Thrussell emailed a letter to all councillors prior to the meeting in which support to the efforts of the Tamar Toll Action Group in their campaign for an affordable long-term solution to the tolls on the bridge is given. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell be authorized to send the letter.

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

The Chairman said that the issues will be discussed under the agenda items. He said that Malcolm Woodward has said that the display cabinet on the wall next to the old shop can remain in place provided it is kept unlocked. The Chairman said the overgrown trees at Lampen Bungalows and the overgrown vegetation next to the orchard had been reported to Cornwall Council Highways.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that it was agreed by councillors, via email, that a financial contribution would be made to help cover the cost of the repairs to the laptop which Heather Taylor uses to publish St Neot News. He said that notification has been

received of a road closure for Tripp Hill on 14th November 2023. He also said that a pizza van has expressed an interest in visiting the village one or two evenings a month. It was agreed that the pizza van could park in St Neot car park although a parking space cannot be guaranteed. It was agreed that Gary Harding would be asked to lay the wreath, on behalf of the parish council, on Remembrance Sunday

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 turnover in the temporary shop has evened out but it has not yet reached its viability target. She explained that she has undertaken a highways risk assessment for the temporary shop, the details of which she outlined. After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor A Tamblin that the following be implemented to mitigate the risk to users of the shop and all users of the highway: a sign erected inside Cott Yard warning pedestrians egressing the yard of vehicles on the highway; Cornwall Council be asked to consider imposing a 20mph speed limit from the bottom of Bush Hill to St Neot Primary School; mobility scooters be permitted to park in Cott Yard; the seat outside the shop be retained for people to gather and chat and that dogs can be tethered to the hook outside the shop but aggressive dogs will be banned. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor T Hooper said that the planning application for an extension to the pavilion to accommodate a permanent shop has been submitted to Cornwall Council without consulting the parish council or the Village Shop Steering Group. She said that the Village Shop Steering has raised concerns that the use of the pavilion as a tea room was not set out clearly in the planning application. She explained that Laura Rowe, from the Scouts, has joined the Village Shop Steering Group. Councillor T Hooper said that if the permanent shop does not go ahead, any monies donated will be given to charity, following consultation with the community.

Councillors H Bunt and G Rogers returned to the meeting. Councillor A Tamblin left 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

None

Councillor N Ball, having previously declared an interest left the meeting during discussion of items 10, 11 and 12.

10. Pavillion

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

None

11. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that a periodic electrical test will be undertaken in Cott Yard on 14th and 15th October 2023.

12. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

Councillor N Ball returned to the meeting.

13. St Neot Orchard

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

It was noted that the land transfer, as agreed at the parish council last month, is being undertaken by Prydis.

14. Parish Map

To consider locations for the parish map

It was noted that many councillors had not yet seen the parish map at Colliford Lake. It was agreed that councillors would look at the map and other locations for the map would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

16. External Auditor's Report

To approve the External Auditor's report for 2022/23

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the external auditor's report for 2022/23 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

17. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 7th October 2023 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 4th November 2023

Councillor N Ball attended the farmer's market on 7th October 2023. He said that a parishioner had asked if yellow lines could be painted on the bridge as parking on the bridge is dangerous. Councillor D Glanville said he would attend the farmers' market on 4th November 2023.

19. 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 (Planning Application fee for extension to Pavilion) - £295.00
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £161.74
J V and C Alford (Repairs to Car Park wall) - £1536.00
BDOLLP (External Audit Fee) - £378.00
Ray Clarke (Site location plan for planning application) - £20.39
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £211.28
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting) - £593.40

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 reported that income has been received this month as follows: Menheniot Post Office for Pavilion rental - £136.50, Cornwall Council for the second half of the precept - £16,810.00 and Cornwall council for the PROW grant - £1,641.97. She said that the accounts balance at £82,684.09.

21. Co-option

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

Josie Williams said that she would like to be co-opted onto the parish council. She gave a brief outline of her past and what she could bring to the parish council. Chairman thanked Josie Williams, on behalf of the parish council, for attending the meeting.

Josie Williams left the meeting.

After considerable discussion, it was proposed by Councillor H Webb and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that Josie Williams be co-opted onto the parish council. Three councillors voted in favour of this proposal and four against. The proposal was not therefore carried. It was agreed that someone with more experience and insight into the village and community is required on the parish council at the present time

Under The Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 Sec 1 (2), members of the public will be excluded from the meeting at this point due to the sensitive financial and commercial business to be discussed.

22. Future Purchases

To consider possible future purchases for the parish council

There was nothing further to report on this matter.

22. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 8th November 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 8th November 2023 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:40pm.