

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 8th NOVEMBER 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, D Glanville and T Thrussell.

Josie Williams
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

Tracey Hooper explained that she is President of Warleggan Young Farmers and that this year, their chosen charities are Hugs Foundation and Farmwell. She said that Warleggan Young Farmers are requesting a financial donation towards the fireworks which were held on 4th November 2023. She said the aim is to cover the cost of the fireworks and that all other money raised is donated to the chosen charities. She said that, last year, Warleggan Young Farmers raised approximately £8,000 for charity. Councillor C Smith asked how much was raised at the fireworks event. Tracey Hooper said that £1,400 was raised and the fireworks cost £600.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor G Rogers and from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th October 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 16 on the agenda, Councillor H Bunt declared an interest in item 8 on the agenda, Councillor N Ball declared an interest in items 10, 11 and 12 on the agenda and Councillor M Rowe declared an interest in item 16 on the agenda.

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 he had not heard further from the owners of the Pizza van and that he had asked Gary Harding to lay the wreath on Remembrance Sunday. He said that he had not received any response regarding the parish map following his item in St Neot News.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that all councillors had received a copy of an email explaining how the parish council could apply for funding next year to get a 20mph speed limit through the village. He explained that he has contacted Colin Arthur regarding obtaining funding for environmental works on Goonzion via FIPL. He said that works to replace the cattle grid at Luna are in progress and that all councillors had received a copy of PCSO S Edsner's report. He said that Heather Taylor was seeking volunteers to undertake house to house collections for the British Legion Poppy Appeal. It was noted that the A38 will be closed at night from 13th November 2023 until 18th November 2023. He thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for cleaning the war memorial. The Chairman reported that a parishioner had reported that dog faeces are often left on the footpath adjacent to Manor House into Doorstep Green and on the tarmac by the fitness equipment. It was agreed that the Chairman will remind parishioners, via St Neot News, that dogs are not allowed in the playing field or Doorstep Green. He said that the question had been raised as to whether St Neot PCC should be obtaining three quotations for works to the cemetery. However, it was noted that whilst the parish council are supporting the works financially, St Neot PCC are not bound by the parish council's standing orders. It was noted that, at Remembrance Sunday, the names of the fallen are not usually read out by a member of the parish council. The Chairman said that a public meeting of the Shop Steering Group will be held on 28th November 2023.

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

Councillor T Thrussell said that Golden Tree Productions have not received sufficient funding for the Kerdroya Project and that whilst the project will be completed, staffing has been reduced to a single director. Councillor N Ball asked if there was sufficient funding when the project commenced. Councillor T Thrussell said that, as far as he is aware, there is funding to finish the project. Councillor C Smith said that there were different designs for the project depending on the amount of funding received but that it needs to be completed to a standard to allow public access and that the parish council need to be assured of this given that it is in St Neot parish. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the Clerk writes to Golden Tree Productions explaining that the parish council is fully supportive of this project and that an assurance needs to be given that the project will be completed to an acceptable standard to allow public access. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

Councillor 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 the planning application submitted by the parish council for an extension to the pavilion to accommodate a village shop was noted at the parish council's Planning Committee meeting. She said there are no comments on the planning portal and that the deadline for a decision to be made on the application is 4th December 2023. She said that, once planning permission is granted, consideration will need to be given to applying for Building Regulations. She said that Cornwall Council's plan charge will be £621.00 and the inspection fee will be £824.00. In addition, she explained that a professional fee will be incurred for drawing the plans for submission for Building Regulations. She said these costs will fall to the parish council. She said that a preliminary application for Levelling Up funding will be made to Cornwall Council at the end of the week and they may fund 90% of the cost of the build. She said that she has letters of support from the Scouts and the WI to support the application. She explained that the Shop Steering Group is undertaking a survey of shop users' views on the temporary shop, the results of which will be discussed at the public meeting on 28th November 2023. In addition, at this meeting, progress on the planning application will be discussed and it is hoped that someone from the community will join the Village Shop Steering Group.

Councillor C Smith said that the parish council needs to be more proactive in advertising the shop and he suggested installing a sign outside the shop next to the post box. It was suggested that Country Lane Enterprises should be encouraged to put a regular item in St Neot News promoting the shop. Councillor T Hooper said there was an item in the Warleggan and Cardinham newsletter. Councillor H Webb said there is a billboard outside the shop advertising the opening times and that it is not a good idea to have too many signs in the vicinity of the shop. It was noted that Country Lane Foods often relay information regarding the shop via Facebook. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that a small double-sided sign saying "Village Shop" be mounted into the pavement next to the post box. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillors H Bunt 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 a working party will take place in Doorstep Green on Saturday 9th December 2023 between 9am and 12 noon. Councillor C Smith said there is considerable leaf debris on the footpath into Doorstep Green adjacent to Manor House which needs urgent attention. Councillor M Rowe said that he would clear the leaf debris. Councillor T Hooper said that she would empty the bin by the gazebo on a fortnightly basis. Councillor H Webb commented that there are quite a few stray dogs in the village.

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

The Clerk said that she has received an expression of interest from a mobile hairdresser who would be interested in renting one of the suites in Cott Yard when one becomes available. Councillor C Smith reported that there was a problem with the heating in Cott Yard but this has been resolved by fitting some new thermostats.

12. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor C Smith said the grass verge at the rear of the car park needs strimming which will cost approximately £100. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that Gary Rogers be asked to undertake these works. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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

Councillor D Glanville reported that the land transfer is now complete. However, it will be 6 – 8 months before Land Registry finalise the plans but the parish council is now the legal owners of the land. Councillor D Glanville said that Mervyn Chipman would like the stone from the boundary hedge. It was agreed that the Clerk will write a letter to Mr and Mrs Chipman thanking them for donating this land to the parish council. The Chairman thanked Councillor D Glanville, on behalf of the parish council, for his work regarding this matter.

14. Parish Map

To consider locations for the parish map

Councillor T Thrussell said that the cost of additional maps will be between £70 and £80. He explained that the map is mounted on a composite aluminium surface and is UV protected and graffiti proof. It was agreed that additional maps would be placed on the wall of the toilet building at Golitha Falls, on the wall of the toilet building in St Neot car park and in the vicinity of the Halfway House pub (subject to permission of the landlady). In addition, it was agreed that the draft map would be given to St Neot Primary School and that a paper copy would be given to the archive

and additional paper copies be offered for sale in the village shop and at the Farmers' Market.

15. British Legion Poppy Appeal and Remembrance Sunday

To consider donating to the British Legion Poppy Appeal and to receive and consider arrangements for Remembrance Sunday

The Chairman said that Gary Harding will lay the wreath and that everyone should gather at the war memorial at 10:45am on Sunday 12th November 2023. He said that he has planted two shrubs in the planters at the war memorial. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that a donation of £50 be made to the British Legion Poppy Appeal. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillors T Hooper and M Rowe, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

16. Warleggan Young Farmers

To consider donating to the cost of the fireworks for Warleggan Young Farmers

It was agreed that the parish council has considerable financial commitments going forward. After discussion, it was agreed that no financial donation will be made.

Councillors T Hooper and M Rowe returned to the meeting.

17. Signs on Goonzion

To consider the signs and location of the signs to be erected on Goonzion

It was noted that only red warning triangular signs will be allowed by Cornwall Council highways. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the Clerk asks Cornwall Council to erect two signs warning of Wild Ponies at Crowpound Crossroads and at the junction on Goonzion just past Moorsview.

18. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 4th November 2023 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 2nd December 2023

Councillor D Glanville attended the farmer's market on 4th November 2023. He said that a parishioner had asked if he could set up a book swap in part of the bus shelter. It was noted that there is already one in the Institute. It was agreed that a detailed proposal should be submitted to the parish council for consideration. Councillor D Glanville said that a parishioner has said that the number of dropped kerbs in the village are limited. It was agreed that Cornwall Council would be made

aware of this issue. Councillor D Glanville said that a parishioner said that the culvert at Trenay has been replaced with a pipe which often gets choked. The Chairman said that this matter is in hand. Councillor G Rogers said he would attend the farmers' market on 2nd December 2023.

19. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that the new Luna cattle grid is being installed. He said that Ben Symons has cut the hedges on Goonzion. Councillor M Rowe said that the layby at Crowpound Crossroad is full of potholes. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that 10 tonnes of gravel be delivered and spread in the layby. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had attended a Working Group on Transport, Economy and Housing which relates to the A38 improvements and the Tamar Bridge tolls and their effect on the economy.

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

Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass cutting) - £296.70
Gary Rogers (Replacement silver birch tree) - £69.00
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire Extinguisher Servicing – Pavilion) - £160.56
Christian Smith (Thermostats for Cott Yard) £77.21
Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £180.77
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £311.17
Country Lane Enterprises Ltd (Air conditioning unit for Cott Yard) - £1,261.61
St Neot News (Newsletter expenses July, August, September 2023) - £639.00
Heather Taylor (Repairs to Laptop) - £105.50

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

21. 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: Interest - £102.86, Country Lane Enterprises - £631.13 (rent for Cott Yard) and £76.73 (Electricity for Cott Yard) and Pertemps (rent for Cott Yard) - £598.61. She said that the accounts balance at £79,504.56.

22. Co-option

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

None

Josie Willaims asked when she could be re-considered for co-option. The Clerk said she did not know but would ask the question of CALC.

Josie Williams left the meeting.

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

23. Future Purchases

To consider possible future purchases for the parish council

There was nothing further to report on this matter.

24. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 13th December 2023

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 13th December 2023 commencing at 7:30pm in St Neot Institute.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:20pm.