

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 10th APRIL 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE VILLAGE HALL SOCIAL CLUB MEETING ROOM, ST NEOT

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

Josie Williams, Harry Bennett
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

Harry Bennett, Treasurer of St Neot News, explained that, on occasions, he is unsure as to whether to make a charge for advertisements in St Neot News. He said that businesses are charged for advertising space and charities advertise free of charge but some advertisements do not fall into either category. Councillor C Smith asked what revenue is received from advertising. Harry Bennett said that the revenue is approximately £100/month which is usually paid annually in advance. He said that, as production costs have increased, this may be a good time to review the charges for advertising in the newsletter.

PCSO S Edsner said that he had sent his report for last month to the Clerk. The Clerk said this had been circulated to all councillors prior to the meeting. He said that, in addition to the crimes listed in his report, a theft had occurred between 31st March 2024 and 1st April 2024. He said the time of year is approaching when travelling criminals are around. He said that a new Rural Crime Prevention Officer has been appointed. He said that the public are being encouraged to have crime prevention methods in place, such as CCTV. Councillor H Bunt asked PCSO S Edsner where CCTV cameras can be located. PCSO S Edsner said that CCTV can be erected on private land provided they do not point into peoples' bedrooms or bathrooms. Councillor M Rowe asked what procedures are followed when a theft is reported to the Police. PCSO S Edsner explained that management decide where police resources are allocated. Councillor A Tamblyn said that there is an abandoned Nissan truck at the bottom of Pengelly Hill. PCSO S Edsner advised him to report it to Cornwall Council's Environmental Protection department. The Chairman said that PCSO S Edsner was welcome to attend the monthly farmers' market.

PCSO S Edsner left the meeting.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor T Thrussell and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 13th March 2024, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in item 17 on the agenda and Councillor N Ball declared an interest in items 9, 10 and 11 on the agenda.

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

The Chairman said that he and the Vice Chair have not yet visited the owners of Cott regarding the hedge that is overhanging the pavement. The Chairman said the table tennis table has now been repaired. The Chairman said that Cormac are holding spring workshops with one taking place in Bodmin on 19th April 2024. Councillor G Rogers said he will attend. The Chairman thanked Councillor L Jones for installing an additional handrail on the bridge leading from Water Meadow across the river. He reported that the dangerous tree in the orchard had now been attended to by Councillor G Rogers and that the signs he had put up closing the footpath through the orchard had now been removed.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman said that he and Councillor C Smith had attended a meeting with Martin Eddy to discuss the additional information needed for the grant application for the extension to the pavilion. He said that Councillor H Webb had reported that the goal mouths were very muddy and, as a result, Councillor M Rowe has moved the goals. The Chairman said that Councillor G Rogers had circulated photographs of Tripp Hill before and after it was cleaned and there was little, if any, difference because the road was clean prior to cleaning. He said that Councillor G Rogers has contacted Cornwall Councillor P Seeva asking for clarification on the rationale behind the frequency of road cleaning. The Chairman said that he had received an email from a parishioner regarding development at Siblyback Lake but he thought the parishioner had confused this with development at Siblyback Farm. He said that a response is awaited from National Grid regarding the easement for the HV cable diversion in the playing field and that National Grid has asked if there is a 3rd party involved as they do not have any paperwork for where the HV cable goes over the river.

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

14. St Neot News

To receive and consider the advertising costs for St Neot News

Councillor H Webb said that The Granite Post charges 4 times more for advertising than advertising in St Neot News and they impose a minimum of 3 months for an advertisement. However, it was noted that The Granite Post is distributed to 1300 people whereas St Neot News reaches approximately 450 people. Councillor N Ball said that the production costs have increased so the charge for advertisements should also increase. Councillor H Bunt said that the parish council does not want to deter businesses from advertising in the newsletter. Councillor C Smith said the charges should be increased by a reasonable amount. Councillor L Jones said that registered charities have costs so they should be paying too. Councillor H Webb said that some of the advertisements are for non-profit making community events. It was agreed that such events are important for the community. Councillor T Hooper asked if the advertising costs cover the production costs. It was noted that they do not cover the costs, but the newsletter is important to the community and the community like it. After considerable debate, it was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the advertising costs be increased so that a full-page advertisement costs £30/month, a half page advertisement costs £20/month and a quarter page advertisement costs £10/month. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was proposed by Councillor L Jones and seconded by Councillor N Ball that businesses pay 100% of the charge, charities and chargeable community events pay 50% of the charge and that events which are not for profit and where there is no charge, do not pay to advertise. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor H Webb that the charge for putting a flyer in St Neot News is £50. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that the postage costs charged to recipients remain the same and that the changes to the charging structure for advertising would be effective on renewal for those who have paid in advance. Councillor H Bunt said that the list of telephone numbers in the newsletter should be prefixed with dialling codes. Councillor N Ball said that some of the telephone numbers listed are incorrect.

8. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

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

Councillor C Smith said that a spring tidy up of Doorstep Green is needed. It was agreed that this would take place on Wednesday 1st May 2024 between 6:30pm and 8:30pm. Councillor M Rowe said that he had put soft flexible plastic pipes into the holes of the goal anchor pipes but they had been removed and thrown around. He said that he will devise an alternative solution. It was noted that the table tennis table legs have been replaced. Councillor C Smith said that bungs are needed in the box work to prevent finger entrapment.

9. Pavillion

To receive and consider a report on the extension to the Pavilion

Councillor T Hooper said that the final grant application has been submitted to Cornwall Council and that, as the bid has increased substantially, the parish council's contribution will also be increased. She said that the Building Regulations

application has now been submitted and that whilst feedback was expected by 22nd March 2024, the Officer dealing with the application was on leave but she anticipated that feedback should be given soon. She said that the planning permission granted for the extension shows tiles for the roofing materials, but this has been changed to box profile sheeting to incorporate solar panels so a revised planning application needs to be submitted. She said that she was waiting for confirmation from Cornwall Council as to what qualifications the QS requires. Councillor C Smith said it was not clear whether a QS will be required. He said that prices have been set against each part of the project and the invoices will have to match the work done. He said that Ray Clarke has quoted £520 (plus Cornwall Council's charges) to amend the Building Regulations and to submit a revised planning application. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that this quotation be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor C Smith said that he has obtained a quotation from Ray Clarke for the PM role in the project, working alongside Simon Deacon as a volunteer. The Clerk said that, given the sum of money involved, further quotations for this role should be sought. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the Clerk contacts other professionals to obtain further quotations. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillor C Smith said that a PM cannot be appointed until the parish council is in receipt of the grant offer letter. Councillor C Smith said that Ray Clarke does have indemnity insurance. Councillor L Jones raised several issues regarding the contract with the PM which will be clarified on appointment.

Councillor T Hooper sought clarification on the role of the Village Shop Steering Group going forward. Councillor C Smith said the parish council needs their continued support. Councillor M Rowe said the Steering Group should remain as a community link. The Chairman thanked the Steering Group, on behalf of the parish council, for all its hard work with the project to date.

Councillor C Smith said that the parish council needs to ensure that there is adequate insurance for the Pavilion when the building works are taking place. He said that the terms of the lease with the prospective tenant needs to be agreed in advance of the build. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that a meeting of the Finance Committee be held with the prospective tenant to discuss this matter. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor C Smith said that the existing shop in Cott Yard is covering its costs but it is not a sustainable location in the long term. Councillor T Hooper said the next public meeting will be held on 7th May 2024.

10. Cott Yard

To receive and consider the heating and other charges for the tenants in Cott Yard

Councillor C Smith explained that Pertemps have now vacated Cott Yard and that prior, to leaving, they had the suite professionally cleaned. The Clerk said they have paid all outstanding invoices in full. It was noted that Country Lane Enterprises may

rent the suite but until they have decided, the suite will remain empty. It was agreed that the matter of the slates which have come off the roof will continue to be monitored.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was noted that Councillor G Rogers had attended to the fallen tree and the footpath was reopened.

13. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 6th April 2024 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 4th May 2024

Councillor H Bunt attended the farmer's market on 6th April 2024 when the following issues were raised: concerns about the erection of an agricultural building 60m x 40m opposite the entrance to Lampen Mill; report of a dead sheep; problems on the Two Waters Valley footpath and request for an update on the new shop and easement costs. Councillor N Ball said that he will attend the market on 4th May 2024.

The Chairman thanked Jenny Hart, on behalf of the parish council, for all the work she had done on the footpaths.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

The Clerk said she had contacted Cornwall Councillor P Seeva regarding non delivery of a wheelie bin/black sack to her home. There was no report from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said he had cleaned the signs on Goonzion.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

There was no report from Councillor T Thrussell.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £177.79
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £311.82
K Dunmore Refrigeration (Repairs to heat Pump) - £128.76
James Hallam (Insurance Premium 2024/25) - £4592.30
Stephens Scown (Legal Fees for Easement) - £1836.00
Geldards (Legal Fees for Easement) - £1176.00
J V and C Alford (Repairs to Table Tennis Table) - £696.00
Gary Rogers (Tree in Orchard) - £100.00
Cornwall ALC (Annual Subscription) - £474.27
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £344.38
St Neot Village Hall (Room Rental for Shop Meetings) - £144.00
St Neot Village Hall (Room Rental for Parish Council Meetings) - £177.00

It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour except for Councillor G Rogers who, having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting.

16. 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: Country Lane Enterprises - £351.11 (electricity for Cott Yard). She said that the accounts balance at £49,493.51.

17. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 15th May 2024

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 15th May 2024 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall Social Club meeting room.

The meeting was closed at 9:30pm.