

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 14th AUGUST 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT

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

Heather Taylor and Harry Bennett.
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor T Thrussell.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 17th July 2024, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors H Bunt declared an interest in item 13 on the agenda and Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in item 17 on the agenda.

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

The Chair said that her and Councillor D Glanville will inspect the parish council's assets on 20th August 2024 at 7pm. In respect of the alterations which have been made to land owned by the parish council adjacent to the house under construction at the top of Tripp Hill, the Clerk reported that she has not yet received any documents delineating ownership of the land. It was agreed that Councillors T Hooper and D Glanville would visit the owner of the property to discuss the matter further. The Clerk reported that she has not received a response to the letter regarding the installation of a new parking meter at Colliford Lake. The Chair thanked those who had helped to clear the area in front of the Pavilion to allow building works to commence and those who helped to move the train. Some discussion took place about entering a float into St Neot carnival but it was agreed that councillors have insufficient available time to prepare a float. It was agreed that a tidy up of doorstep Green would take place on Wednesday 21st August 2024 commencing at 6pm.

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

13. St Neot News

To receive and consider the policy for the cost of advertising in St Neot News

All councillors had received a copy of the income and expenditure for St Neot News for 2023/24 and for the first 3 months of 2024/25. It was noted that in the first 3 months of 2024/25, there is an excess of expenditure over income in the sum of £712. The Clerk said that a budget of £3,300 was set in the precept for 2024/25 for St Neot News. This amounts to 10% of the precept. It was noted that the advertising costs are as follows: £10 for a quarter of a page, £20 for half a page and £30 for a full page with businesses paying the full price, charities and community events paying 50% of the charge and not for profit events paying zero. However, it was agreed that this is not a clear policy for the editor and treasurer to implement so further clarification is needed. Councillor C Smith said that the community needs the newsletter but the precept money has to be used sensibly and professionally so the parish council cannot afford to subsidise the newsletter too heavily. He said that postage costs have increased as do the printing costs year on year. Councillor L Jones said that the newsletter is important to residents and it encourages participation in many events and activities. Some discussion took place as to how the policy for advertising could be simplified so it is easier to implement. Suggestions included charging 50% for those that are fundraising and no charge for events where no money is involved, charging businesses 100% and everyone else advertises free of charge and emailing the newsletter to those happy to receive it via these means instead of supplying hard copies. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that businesses pay the full advertising costs and everyone else advertises free of charge. 7 councillors voted in favour of the proposal and 2 against. The proposal was therefore carried.

Harry Bennett and Heather Taylor left the meeting. Councillor H Bunt returned to the meeting.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

It was noted that the monthly PCSO report had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair said that some concern had been raised about weeds left in Doorstep Green by a volunteer gardener, but these were subsequently removed. The Chair said that the gate post on the gate at the Holy Well had collapsed but this has since been repaired. The Clerk confirmed that she had reported the faulty cattle grid on Goonzion, near to Moorsview. It was noted that Councillors H Bunt and T Thrussell had attended the Commoners' meeting and there is an open event for the Kerdroya project on 27th September 2024, which Councillor C Smith will attend. The Chair said there are now two burnt out caravans at Colliford, on land owned by SWW. It was agreed that the Clerk would alert PCSO S Edsner to this matter. Councillor T Thrussell has been attending the SE Cornwall CAP meetings and has suggested it would be a good idea to encourage Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to attend the meetings. It was noted that there has been a lot of drone activity over the village. The Chair encouraged all councillors to complete Cornwall Council's Have Your Say questionnaire.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that part of the footpath from Trenant Chapel to Berrydown is collapsing. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform Cornwall Council's Countryside Officer.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

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 M Rowe said that the trees at the far end of the playing field on the boundary hedge are looking dead and that a tree stump needs removing.

9. Pavillion

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

The Chair said that a pre-construction meeting had been held with the contractor and the parish council's appointed PM (South West Community Builds). She said the JCT is in place and that the building works will commence on Thursday and will initially involve fencing the site and stripping the topsoil. It was noted that the materials which are dug out will be left on site so that the flat area in front of the pavilion can be extended when building works are complete. She said that access to the scout store will be maintained by putting a door into the rear of the store.

Councillor C Smith said that the 3-phase installation will take place on Tuesday 20th August 2024. Councillor N Ball commented that the pavilion must be reserved for the scouts on a Thursday afternoon/evening and that other organisations must be able to use the facility too when works are completed.

The Chair explained that the recent community meeting regarding the extension to the pavilion was well attended and that she had asked attendees to describe their current enjoyment and perception of accessibility to the pavilion. She said that the following comments were made: the building is dark, damp, dated and always locked; the only reason to use it is to go to the Post Office and dogs cannot be taken to the site. She said that an attendee had suggested planting a Christmas tree in the playing field. She said that she will be undertaking a survey of how the pavilion is perceived now and will undertake another survey when the building work is complete. It was agreed that the building work will be documented for the archive. The Chair thanked St Neot Historians for use of their projector and screen for the community meetings.

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

None

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that a power failure had occurred this week when a vehicle reversed into the pole opposite Cott Yard. He said that National Grid responded very quickly, providing a temporary fix within 3 hours and a permanent fix the next day. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact commercial agents - Kivells, Stags and Jefferies – to provide quotations for marketing the vacant suites in Cott Yard. It was also agreed that the vacant suites would be advertised in St Neot News.

Councillor C Smith said that tap in the kitchen drips intermittently. Councillor N Ball said he would replace the tap.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

It was noted that Gary Rogers has cut the bank to the rear of the car park and that the toilet donation box has been emptied of money for deposition in the parish council's bank account.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was agreed that Councillor G Rogers will meet Warleggan Young Farmers in the orchard to discuss the works to be done in respect of trimming the hedges.

14. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 3rd August 2024 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th September 2024

Councillor H Bunt said that the following issues had been raised at the market on 3rd August 2024: adequacy of disabled parking outside the pavilion when the shop is relocated; thank you to all involved in the Village Shop Project; confirmation that the picnic tables will remain as useable for all not just users of the tearoom when building works are complete; concern whether the market will survive when the shop opens in the pavilion; considerable tarmac wear on halfway Hill; the 100 steps footpath should be being maintained by Cornwall Council; new defibrillator pads are required for the defibrillator in Cott Yard and the location of one of the other defibrillators was questioned.

It was agreed that Councillor H Webb would attend the market on 7th September 2024.

16. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor H Bunt said that he attended the commoners meeting and that questions were raised as to whether Bodmin Moor Commons Council is still viable. He explained that funding is available which would assist with matters such as gorse clearance and the provision of additional drinking troughs as well as registering with the SFI scheme (for which the parish council would receive payments). He said that he is in contact with the advisor on this matter. Councillor H Bunt said the commoners would assist with controlled burns on Goonzion.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

None

17. 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) - £279.82
Richards Bilders Merchants (Screwdriver Bit) - £8.52
Gary Rogers (Strimming Car Park Banks) - £105.00
Cornwall Council (Business Rates for Cott Yard) - £326.00
St Neot News (Newsletter Expenses) - £712.00
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £36.65
Thomas Thrussell (Parish Map Posters) - £76.15
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) – £638.40
N J Blanchard Plant Hire (Digging Trench for HV diversion) - £2976.00
National Grid (3 Phase Connection) - £2048.15 ALREADY PAID

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

18. 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: website advertisement - £30, £1103.31 (Electricity for Cott Yard) and £144 interest. The Clerk reported that the accounts balance at £52,054.43.

The Clerk said she was in the process of transferring the balance of the money from the Barclays account (approximately £38,000) to the Unity Trust account to facilitate cash flow for the building works. She said that she has made the first claim under the CLUP grant for funds ahead of submission of invoices to Cornwall Council to facilitate the cash flow.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 14th August 2024.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 14th August 2024 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 8:50 pm.