

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12<sup>th</sup> MARCH 2025 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

**Present:** Councillors T Hooper (Chair), C Smith, N Ball, M Rowe, H Bunt, G Rogers, T Thrussell.

Andy Merrett-Jones  
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

**Public Participation**

Andy Merrett-Jones explained that the recent planning application to create off-street parking at 4 Lampen Terrace was refused by Cornwall Council and they have decided not to appeal this decision. He thanked the parish council for their support with this application. He explained that they purchased 4 Lampen Terrace in 1975 and never envisaged that they would not be able to park in the car park in St Neot. He said that the problem is exacerbated by cars being parked in the car park for extended periods of time. He asked if the parish council would consider allocating spaces in the car park specifically for residents of Lampen Terrace or allow some parking at the bottom end of the playing field.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors L Jones, H Webb D Glanville, A Tamblyn and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th February 2025**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> February 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

None

**13. Parking**

**To discuss matters arising relating to parking in St Neot**

The Chair said that over the last 7-8 months, residents have expressed their concerns about parking in the village. She said this is exacerbated by cars being left in the car park for extended periods of time and the pressure on parking is particularly high on certain evenings. She said that the location of the new shop means that cars are coming in and out of the car park all day. She said that other issues are parking very near the bridge, use of the chapel car park and pressure on

parking outside the school. She said that Councillor H Webb has collated a proposal which suggests that parking could be provided at 3 possible locations in the playing field.

Councillor T Thrussell said that parked vehicles should ideally be restricted to one area. Councillor M Rowe said that the creation of additional parking will result in a "free for all" in terms of parking. Councillor G Rogers said that restricting spaces in the car park to certain residents would increase the pressure on other parking. He said that residents want to park as near as possible to their homes. Councillor H Bunt commented that the parish council does not have the funds to invest in additional parking. He said it might be possible to remove the hedge adjacent to the playing field and allow parking adjacent to the road. Councillor C Smith said that the playing field is a recreational area, valuable for children to play and that individual residents cannot be favoured in terms of creating specific parking spaces, using public money. He said in the long term, the parish council could seek to purchase additional land. Councillor G Rogers said that cars and ball sports in the playing field would not be a good mix. Councillor N Ball said that the playing field should be retained for that purpose. He said that it is only on certain nights of the week that parking is difficult. Councillor C Smith said that it is not really that congested and that people generally park respectfully. Councillor T Thrussell said that additional spaces could be created in the car park such as on the site of the bus shelter.

The Chair summarized the discussion by saying that there is no appetite for using the playing field for parking and that people should be encouraged to walk/cycle or car share. She said that she will seek advice on re-modelling the car park to create additional car parking spaces.

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

The Chair said that Cornwall Housing are sending an Officer to look at the faulty street light at Lampen Bungalows. She said that no volunteers have come forward to co-ordinate the Poppy Appeal. She said that the Police have spoken to the owner of the vehicle left in the car park and it is taxed and has an MOT and is waiting to be towed away. It was agreed that the Chair would ask the owner to re-instate the number plate. She said that this is not how the car park is meant to be used and that people should be more respectful, as it is not a storage facility. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the Chair writes to those people who are leaving their cars in the car park for long periods of time and not using them regularly. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Chair thanked those who had attended the working party in the orchard on 15<sup>th</sup> February 2025. She commented that a burn had not taken place on Goonzion and that a meeting has not been held with the owners of Inkys and Cornwall Councillor P Seeva. She thanked Councillor T Thrussell for circulating the Peninsula Transport Plan which is out for consultation.

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, Councillor C Smith said that the owner has moved the pedestrian gate back to where it was originally and that the beech hedge has been erected as a screen. It was agreed

that Councillors T Hooper and G Rogers would visit the owner of the site and ask him to sign a declaration to the effect that he has no ownership of the land where the beech hedge has been planted.

#### **5. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

The Chair said that the responses from the 20mph speed consultation are being collated. She said that she had received correspondence raising concerns about the extensive fly tipping in the half-moon car park near Colliford Dam. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to South West Lakes Trust again asking them to close off the car park. Councillor T Hooper said that PCSO S Edsner's monthly report has been circulated and that it was noted that Liskeard Police Station is now open from 10am – 3pm.

The Chair said that the cyclists from St Neots will be leaving St Neots on 3<sup>rd</sup> May 2025 and arriving in St Neot on 5<sup>th</sup> May 2025 and they are bringing an acorn. It was agreed that St Neot would reciprocate the gift with a "fish plate" and that the History Group could put on an exhibition. She said that Marazion Town Council are collating the responses to the Vote of No Confidence in Cornwall Council's Planning and Enforcement Department.

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

Councillor N Ball said that further development of the site at Dragon's Corner is taking place and there may be additional people living on the site. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the matter to Cornwall Council's Planning Enforcement Team.

#### **7. To receive a report from the Clerk**

The Clerk said that all parish and town councillors stand down at the end of April 2025 for elections on 1<sup>st</sup> May 2025. She said that she will have application packs available for those councillors wanting to stand again.

#### **8. 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 next working party to tidy up Doorstep Green will take place on Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> March between 9am and 12pm. Councillor G Rogers said that the inside edge of the hedge adjacent to the playing field requires cutting. It was agreed that this could be done during the Doorstep Green working party.

#### **9. Shop and Community Hub**

##### **To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to the shop and community hub**

Councillor C Smith said that the building works are complete (apart from one task in the disabled toilet) with the electrician having one days work left to complete now

that the 3 phase supply has been connected by EDF. He said the solar panel commissioning can now be completed. He said the shop is open and the tea room will be open on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2025. He explained that a meeting has been held with the scout leaders to discuss a draft agreement with them for their use of the building. He said that a Fire Risk Assessment needs to be undertaken prior to the first use of the building by the scouts. The Chair thanked everyone for their hard work with the project. Councillor T Thrussell said the signs look good. The Chair said she will put an item in St Neot News thanking those who helped with the cleaning and painting of the old Pavilion and that she will give consideration to the erection of a plaque thanking those who have contributed to the project and will send out invitations for the opening event. She explained that the final survey on peoples' thoughts on the new project will be circulated for completion. It was agreed that the new building should be added to the asset register.

It was agreed that, at the opening event, food and beverages will be provided by the parish council, there will be local entertainment, an Easter egg hunt, a display by the historians, a guess the weight competition and Nigel Yeo will take photographs. It was agreed that the Chair will ask Martin Eddy and Jo Rowe to officially open the facility.

Councillor C Smith said that, in the tea room, the existing plastic chairs and folding tables are being used but in the future, he suggested purchasing cushioned fold up chairs. He said that he was unsure when the Post Office will be moving back into the hub.

## **10. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor C Smith said that the lease has been signed for use of the ground floor suite as a hairdressing salon – St Neot Hair Lounge. It was noted that the tenant will be having an opening day on 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2025 and is open for business on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025. He said that the suite has been re-decorated and re-floored at the tenant's expense. He said the upstairs suite will be marketed by Jefferies in due course. Councillor C Smith said it would cost approximately £7,000 to split the unit into 2 separate spaces. He said that, in the meantime, the Historians will use the suite as an exhibition space and, as they are registered as a charity, business rates will not be payable.

## **11. Toilets and Car Park**

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

The Chair said she was not sure if Councillor A Tamblin had undertaken a leak test.

## **12. St Neot Orchard**

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

None

#### **14. Farmer's Market**

**To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 1<sup>st</sup> March 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025**

Councillor T Thrussell said he would attend the market on 5<sup>th</sup> April 2025.

#### **15. To receive reports from -**

**a) Cornwall Councillor**

None

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

None

**c) SE Cornwall CAP**

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had attended the CAP meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> March 2025. He said that Saltash Town Council are offering training for Speedwatch volunteers. He said that, in the last 15 years, only 1032 social houses had been delivered. He said that ideas are being explored for funding the Tamar Crossing in the long term and that average speed cameras are to be installed between Trureelfoot and Carkeel roundabouts. He explained that the funding to parish councils from the double council tax imposed on holiday lets is to be clarified.

#### **16. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including -**

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £163.06

Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £247.62

Julie Ball (Holiday Pay) - £111.42

Western Web (Renewal of Website Domain) - £126.00

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor N Ball who abstained from voting.

#### **17. Finance Report**

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

The Clerk reported that income of £404.73 had been received from Country Lane Enterprises for electricity in Cott Yard, £1,000 from Cornwall Council as the

Community Turbine payment and £748.56 from Heather Taylor as rent for Cott Yard. She said that at 29<sup>th</sup> February 2025, the bank account balanced at £1270.96 but since then, the VAT in the sum of £13,226.25 has been received.

**18. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025.**

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> April 2025 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.