

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 9th APRIL 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, H Webb and A Tamblyn.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva

Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

30 seconds silence was observed in memory of the late Bill Miners.

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 Councillors T Thrussell and D Glanville.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 12th March 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that was his last parish council meeting of the electoral cycle. He said that he has arranged a meeting with Inkys and other parties to discuss the ongoing parking problems at Golitha Falls. He said that the meeting will take place towards the end of April 2025. He said that Cornwall Council is £1.3 billion in debt but 25% of this is invested debt. He thanked the parish council and the Clerk for their support over the last 4 years. The Chair thanked Cornwall Councillor P Seeva for dealing with most of the matters of importance to the parish over the last 4 years and thanked him for the Community Chest funding.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that gorse is overhanging the highway on Penkeastle Moor. The Chair questioned whether a risk assessment should be undertaken in respect of possible fire outbreak on Goonzion Downs. It was agreed that a risk assessment would be needed if a controlled burn was undertaken. Whilst the bullocks are effective in trampling down the bracken and gorse, it was agreed that the area does need some management. It was agreed that this would be discussed at the June meeting of the parish council. In the meantime, Councillor M Rowe said he would speak to the residents and commoners about a controlled burn. It was noted that trees have fallen near the adit which makes the water inaccessible for animals. It was agreed that Councillor G Rogers would clear this area.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

None

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

The Chair circulated a draft letter which will be sent to those people who are leaving their cars in the car park for long periods of time and not using them regularly. Councillor T Hooper said that this would indicate to parishioners that the parish council is attempting to resolve the matter. Some discussion took place as to the creation of additional parking spaces in the car park for disabled parking. It was agreed that disabled parking spaces are large, and consideration would need to be given to the accessibility and topography of the spaces.

The Chair thanked those who attended the recent Doorstep Green working party.

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 T Hooper circulated a draft declaration to the effect that he has no ownership of the land where the beech hedge has been planted. She said that her and Councillor G Rogers would get the document signed.

It was noted that S W Lakes Trust has said that they would close the half-moon car park at Colliford Dam. Councillor C Smith said that, since parking charges have been introduced at Colliford Lake, many vehicles are parking on the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to South West Lakes Trust and alert them to this issue.

The Chair said that the cyclists from St Neots will be arriving in St Neot on 5th May 2025. She also said that Cornwall Council has acknowledged receipt of the complaint regarding activity at Dragon's Corner.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that Heather Taylor had expressed concern about the sign on Cott Yard advertising The Hair Lounge. Councillor T Hooper has advised Heather that she can erect a sign outside her suite advising her music studio if she would like to. It was noted that Suite 3 in Cott Yard will be used on a temporary basis by the Historians as an exhibition space. She confirmed that the scouts will commence

using the community hub at the end of April 2025. It was noted that PCSO S Edsner's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair said that she would be having a discussion with Reverend Swinton regarding the possibility of a visiting parish nurse.

Councillor T Hooper said that Sandra Rowe wants to hold a car boot sale in the playing field on May 31st or June 14th 2025 to raise money for Warleggan Young Farmers. It was agreed that she will require her own public liability insurance. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that this event can go ahead subject to favorable weather conditions and that adequate insurance cover is provided by the organizer. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that residents of Loveny Road are concerned about the overgrown land behind their homes on the north side of the road. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to the landowner. He said that a resident of Great Meadow is concerned about the vegetation growing on top of the electricity substation. It was agreed that the Clerk would write to National Grid. He also said that residents have expressed concerns about cars being parked on the pavements in the village. It was agreed that the Chair would put an item in St Neot News reminding parishioners that this is a Road Traffic offence.

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk said that all returning councillors must complete their expenses forms at the next meeting of the parish council.

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 H Webb said that there is a hole in the plywood on the play tower. Councillor C Smith said the entire structure needs to be examined to ascertain the repairs that are required. The Chair said that Jenny will be planting Phil's tree on Easter Monday. Councillor C Smith said there is currently no power in Doorstep Green as there is an earth to live fault which may be because of damage to the cable during excavations for the new shop. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would obtain a quotation for the testing and repair of the cable.

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 thanked everyone who attended the official opening of the shop and community hub on Saturday and for planting a tree for him in recognition of the work he had undertaken in respect of the project. He said that a detailed

drawing of the ramp is required before Building Regulations can be signed off. It was agreed that the Clerk would chase up obtaining a Fire Risk Assessment for the community hub. The Chair said that the survey deadline for the community hub has passed, and that Natalie O'Neill will collate the responses. It was noted that the Post Office will remain in the Social Club until the Post Office installs a new broadband line. He said that the solar panels have been connected and produce more than 36% of the electricity being used.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith said that St Neot Hair Lounge is now operational. He said the upstairs suite will be marketed by Jefferies and that a new EPC certificate has been done.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor A Tamblyn said that he had undertaken a leak test and there is no significant loss of water. It was noted that a new solar powered light next to the steps from the car park is now operational.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

None

13. VE Day Celebrations

To discuss the arrangements for VE Day celebrations

Councillor T Hooper said that the government is encouraging celebrations to be held on Monday 5th May 2025. Councillor G Rogers said he would put up some bunting and a silhouette outside the community hub and that people will be encouraged to gather in the playing field and Doorstep Green and bring a picnic. The Chair said that when the cyclists from St Neots arrive, representatives from the parish council and Reverend Gary Swinton will host them. It was agreed that they will be given a parish map.

14. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5th April 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 3rd May 2025

Councillor N Ball said he would attend the market on 3rd May 2025.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £183.06
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £250.79
Sue Blaxley (Salary and Expenses) - £2712.70
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £69.16
James Hallam (Insurance Renewal Premium) - £5303.71
Christian Smith (items for Community Hub including key safe, paint and brushes, under sink heater, sink and fittings, hand drier, PIR light, mirror, shelf, cement, guttering and sample chairs) - £1175.77
Tracey Hooper (Expenses for Community Hub opening) - £43.75
Cornwall ALC (Annual Subscription) - £497.34
Country Lane Enterprises (Food for Community Hub opening) - £295.40
A2Z Signs (Signs for Community Hub) - £51.60
Energy Performance Services (EPC for Cott Yard) - £234.00

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor H Webb 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 £557.24 had been received from Country Lane Enterprises for electricity in Cott Yard, £100 donation from Country Lane Enterprises for the community hub project, £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises for rent for the new shop, £344.50 from Heather Saunders as rent for Cott Yard, £23,729.00 from Cornwall Council as the first half of the precept and £31,539.37 CLUP final grant payment. She said that the bank account balances at £65,140.07.

The Clerk said that St Neot Community singers held a concert in the Village Hall and asked for donations from those that attended. She explained that they have donated £150 to the parish council from the money given which they would like to be put towards a baby changing facility in the new public toilet. Thanks were expressed to St Neot Community Singers for this generous donation.

18. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting

Some debate took place as to the date of the next parish council meeting which will be the AGM. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 21st May 2025 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room. All councillors voted against the proposal except for Councillor N Ball who voted against.

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