

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 21st MAY 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, D Glanville and A Tamblyn.

Mim McCormack, PCSO S Edsner
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

PCSO S Edsner said that all the crimes reported in last month's report related to one address and that, since then, there has been a further threat of criminal violence from the same address. He said that this month, there has been a crime reported of criminal damage to a property near Golitha Falls. He said that he gave a talk to the WI and will be giving a talk to the Welcome Group on 26th June 2025 as well as attending Midsummer Madness and the Liskeard Show. In addition, he said that he attended the Farmer's Market in May 2025. He explained that he attended a meeting regarding the parking issues at Golitha Falls. It was noted that the car which has been parked for an extended period in St Neot car park has now been removed.

Mim McCormack said that she was attending in her capacity as an ex-village liaison person for the Village shop Steering Group in order to bring attention to several matters relating to the use of the community hub by the scouts. She said that the scouts want to be permitted to display their posters and their flags in the building on a permanent basis and commented that this would make the interior of the building more visually pleasing. She said that the scouts would like the building to be referred to as the scout hut, community hub and tea room.

1. Apologies

None

2. Election of Chairperson

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that Councillor T Hooper be elected as Chair. No other nominations were received. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor N Ball who voted against. Councillor T Hooper was duly elected and took the Chair.

3. Election of Vice Chair

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that Councillor G Rogers be elected as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

4. Election of Planning Committee

It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that Councillor T Hooper be elected as Chairperson and G Rogers Vice Chair of the Planning Committee and that the following councillors form the Planning Committee: Councillors C Smith, H Bunt, M Rowe and D Glanville. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

5. Election of Finance Committee

It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that Councillor C Smith be elected as Chairperson and that the following councillors form the Finance Committee: T Hooper, N Ball, G Rogers and D Glanville. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

6. Election of Representatives

a) Goonzion Downs Commoners

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Councillor M Rowe be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

b) Village Hall Management Committee

It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that Councillor N Ball be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Councillor T Thrussell be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

It was agreed that Councillor A Tamblyn would undertake the weekly inspections of the play and gym equipment in the playing field.

It was agreed that Councillors T Hooper and G Rogers would undertake an inspection of the parish council's assets.

7. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 9th April 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

8. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors G Rogers and N Ball declared an interest in item 21 on the agenda.

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

The Chair said that a meeting had been held with Cornwall Councillor P Seeva, PCSO S Edsner and the owners of Inkys to discuss the parking issues at Golitha Falls. It was noted that pinch points on the highway were identified and a solution involving the placement of granite boulders in the pinch point gap and replacement of the damaged boulders would be effective. This work will be undertaken by Cornwall Council Highways. The Chair said that she had put a letter on all the cars parked in the car park one lunchtime asking them not to leave their cars there for long periods of time and asking for feedback on how to improve the parking in the village. She said that she has put an item in St Neot News asking people to keep the pavements free of cars.

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 said that her and Councillor G Rogers would get the document signed.

It was agreed that the Clerk would contact the landowner regarding the overgrown land behind homes on the north side of the Loveny Road and ask him to create a fire break.

10. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that Heather Taylor had expressed concern about the noxious smells emanating from the hair salon when the door to the communal area was left open. Councillor T Hooper said that she had asked Heather Saunders to keep the door closed. Councillor T Hooper advised that she has circulated a document to all councillors regarding a meeting which was held with Reverend Swinton and others regarding the possibility of a visiting parish nurse for St Neot, Cardinham, Lanlivet, Nanstallon and Warleggan. She explained that the nurse's role would be to direct people to get the help they need.

The Chair said that the cyclists from St Neots arrived on 5th May 2025 and were introduced to various people in the village. She said they gave a bag of significant gits, and this was reciprocated with a parish map.

Councillor T Hooper said that she has received a letter from some children in the village asking for bike jumps to be installed in the playing field. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

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

Councillor C Smith said that there are prolific weeds in the village and that there are 3 options for removing them: spraying, scraping or the use of a blow torch. Some discussion took place and it was acknowledged that the latter two options would damage the environment in which the weeds are growing by breaking up the surface of the ground. It was acknowledged that, last year, there was some criticism when the weeds were sprayed as it was considered damaging to the environment but there was a lot of positive feedback too. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and

seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the weeds be sprayed using a pet friendly, COSHH regulated spray. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor C Smith said that, currently the bins for dog faeces at Lampen Bridge and outside the school are emptied by parish councillors. It was agreed that this is beyond what a councillor should be expected to do. Two options were considered: remove the bin by the school and erect a notice asking people to use the large bin by the bridge in the village and ask the owners of Carnglaze Caverns to empty the bin at Lampen Bridge or install a larger bin by the school and pay to have it emptied at a cost of approximately £400pa. After some discussion, it was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the latter option be chosen. Three councillors voted in favour of the proposal and six against. The proposal was not therefore carried. It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the first option be chosen. Five councillors voted in favour of this proposal and four against. The proposal was therefore carried.

12. To receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk said that all councillors must complete their expenses forms and return them to her at the end of the meeting for posting to Cornwall Council. She said that there are two vacancies on the parish council and these will be filled (if prospective candidates come forward) at the meeting of the parish council in July 2025.

13. 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 there is currently no power in Doorstep Green as there is an earth to live fault. He said that 45m of new cable will cost approximately £1,000 and that Brad Bolitho has offered to dig the trench free of charge. In addition, he said that a new powder coated aluminium box and breakers at the Doorstep Green end will cost approximately £400. He said that if some volunteer labour is used, Brad Bolitho digs the trench and a qualified electrician connects the cable and signs off the work, the total cost will be approximately £1,500. Councillor N Ball said there are other priorities for expenditure, namely the provision of heating in the community hub. Councillor C Smith said that he is looking into the most suitable and cost effective heating system for the community hub. It was proposed by Councillor D Glanville and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that a new cable, aluminium box and breakers be installed at a cost of approximately £1,500. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor N Ball who voted against.

In addition, Councillor C Smith said that the planter around the gazebo in Doorstep Green needs replacing for which the materials will cost approximately £500. It was agreed that Kent Gossmeier would be asked to make the planter.

Councillor T Thrussell asked if more picnic benches were required outside the shop and community hub. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell would obtain a quotation for a new, wheelchair friendly picnic bench and table.

Councillor N Ball said the play train appears to be sited in a dangerous position. It was noted that ROSPA are happy with its location. Some discussion took place about moving the train but a flat location, where parents can congregate safely to watch their toddlers play is not readily available. It was also noted that every time the train is moved, it weakens the structure.

Councillor C Smith said that the ROSPA report highlighted several issues that need attention: relocation of some of the picnic tables, swing basket shackles need replacing, chipped paint on the rocking cow and fitness equipment and dirty goal post. It was agreed that these issues would be addressed by a working party on 30th June 2025 from 5pm onwards.

Councillor C Smith said that the play tower needs significant repair although it is not currently unsafe. He said that replacement of the plywood panels with plastic cladding, replacing any flooring needed, re-staining the existing flooring and painting the roofs would cost approximately £5,000. He said this work would extend the life of the play tower by approximately 5 years. He said that an alternative would be to refurbish it by patching it up with new plywood and painting it.

Councillor C Smith said the cost of supplying and installing a new play tower and the associated matting would be a minimum of £40,000. Councillor N Ball reiterated that there are other priorities for expenditure, namely the provision of heating in the community hub.

It was agreed that Councillors C Smith and D Glanville would collate a specification for a repair using plastic cladding and obtain some quotations and make a report to the next meeting of the works involved and the costs of patching it up using plywood.

14. Shop and Community Hub

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

The Clerk said that the fire risk assessment for the community hub has been done and whilst she has asked for the report, it has not been forthcoming from Classic Fire. She said that she will follow up this matter. The Chair said that a draft lease has been prepared for use of the community hub by the scouts between the Scout Commissioner, scout leaders and the parish council which she will circulate to all councillors for discussion at the next meeting.

Councillor N Ball said that too many signs have been erected advertising the tearoom, one of which is on parish council property (the toilet building). Councillor T Hooper said that she would ask them to request permission before erecting any more signs. She said that the Building Regulations have now been signed off for the community hub and shop.

15. Cott Yard

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

Councillor N Ball said that Heather Taylor is shutting the gate to Cott Yard at night which blocks the view of the defibrillator. It was agreed that the Chair would speak to Heather about this matter.

16. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

17. St Neot Orchard

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

None

18. Goonzion

To consider the future management of Goonzion

The Chair said there are several options for grant funding for the future management of Goonzion. She said that Stags could undertake a Register of Interest for grant funding or she could attempt to undertake the task. Councillor C Smith said that what is required is the installation of fire breaks and some gorse removal so that the moor is managed and safe. Councillor M Rowe said that he has spoken to many parishioners who would like to see the moor “opened up” again. It was noted that there are 3 options: flail cutting the gorse, shearing the gorse and having controlled burns or grabbing and ripping out the gorse. Councillor M Rowe said that the method which gives the biggest impact should be used. Councillor C Smith suggested trying all the options to ascertain which is most effective. Councillor T Hooper said that consideration needs to be given to the watercourses and flora and fauna on the site and the effect of any works on other areas of the moor. She said that the works need to be undertaken on a rotational basis. Councillor M Rowe said that the works need to be undertaken in the winter months. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again at the September meeting of the parish council.

19. Farmer’s Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer’s market on 3rd May 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer’s market on 7th June 2025

Councillor N Ball said that he attended the market on 3rd May 2025 and received a complaint from a parishioner that their grandchildren’s names were not included on the Coronation plaque. He said that he explained that their grandchildren did not fulfil the criteria for inclusion on the plaque. Councillor A Tamblyn said that he would attend the market in June.

20. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) SE Cornwall CAP

None

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £183.06
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £250.79
St Neot News (Newsletter Expenses February and March 2025) - £351.00
Hatti Webb (Domain Renewal – stneot.org) - £9.00
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £871.49
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £53.04
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £54.00
Source for Business (Water for Toilets) - £115.87
Brad Bolitho (Drawings of Ramp for Building Control) - £192.00
Playsafety Ltd (Play Equipment Inspection) - £153.60
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £319.20
Gary Rogers (Clearance around watercourse on Goonzion) - £50.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for toilet) - £25.60

It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillors N Ball and G Rogers, who having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting.

22. 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 £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises for rent for the new shop and £23,729.00 from Cornwall Council as the first half of the precept. She said that the bank account balances at £53,165.36

23. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th June 2025.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11th June 2025.

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