

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 11TH JUNE 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 and D Glanville.

Dudley Rowe
Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

Dudley Rowe explained that parishioners are concerned about speeding traffic on Loveny Road. He said that he is in receipt of a letter from Anna Geldard, MP, who confirmed that the parish council supported a vehicle activated speed sign on Loveny Road but this was rejected by CAP due to the cost of such a sign. He said that parishioners are also concerned about the speed of vehicles travelling on the Carnglaze Caverns Road especially during school drop off and pick up times. The Chair explained that the parish council is working with Cornwall Council to implement a 20mph speed limit throughout the village but have not been given a date for its implementation. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell would re-submit an application for a speed activated sign in Loveny Road to CAP. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would support the application.

Dudley Rowe said that he was pleased that the parish council are investigating the possibility of creating a fire break in the field at the rear of gardens in Loveny Road.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor A Tamblyn.

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

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 21st May 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record subject to an amendment to item 13, paragraph 2, line 2 changing “the planter around the gazebo in Doorstep Green needs replacing for which the materials will cost approximately £500” to “the planter around the gazebo in Doorstep Green needs replacing for which the materials will cost approximately £200 - £250”

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

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 have delivered the letter of agreement to protect the parish council's position in respect of the land.

The Chair thanked Councillor C Smith for removing the bin by the school. She said that the bin by the bridge in the village is being well used. Councillor N Ball said that he would empty the bins at Lampen Bridge and in the playing field.

The Chair thanked Councillor G Rogers for planting the planters around the gazebo. Councillor N Ball said that he would speak to Kent Gossmeier about building one new planter.

Councillor T Hooper said that she has spoken to Gary King regarding the sign advertising the tearoom which has been fixed to the toilet building. He said that he had fixed it using an existing hole in the wall. Councillor N Ball said that a further sign has been erected on the lamp post at the entrance to the car park advertising the café and that this should be removed. The Chair said that she would speak to Gary King and ask him to put a temporary board out when the café is open.

The Chair said that the defibrillator in Cott Yard is visible when the gate is closed.

The Clerk said that she has contacted the landowner's representative regarding the overgrown land behind homes on the north side of Loveny Road and has requested that a fire break be created. She said that he was not totally opposed to the idea but would like the parish council to obtain a quotation from a contractor.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that PCSO S Edser's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors. She reported that Will Glassop has said that Cornwall Council does not have funding in the budget to undertake the proposed traffic management scheme at Golitha Falls. It was agreed that a bid should be submitted to CAP for the scheme. Councillor C Smith suggested speaking to Natural England about supporting the work. Councillor Sean Smith said that he will pursue this matter with Highways because it is considered to be a safety issue.

Councillor T Thrussell said that SWW has invited the parish council to visit Park Pit. He said that he will accept this invitation on behalf of the parish council. The Chair expressed her thanks to Owain Burrows who is addressing the issue of knotweed on Goonzion. She said that she had received communications from a parishioner who is concerned that the opening of the yellow gate in the playing field saying that it is dangerous to toddlers as they could run out if it opens when they lean against it. It was acknowledged that toddlers are supervised by their parents/grandparents/carers and therefore any risk that may exist lies with them.

The Chair thanked Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith for forwarding details of possible funding streams.

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

Councillor C Smith asked if parish councillors would be interested in building a float for the carnival on 23rd August 2025. It was agreed that some councillors would like to get involved. He said that he has received notification that a sycamore tree on the boundary between Lea Moor and Ivy Crag is dangerous as it is diseased with basil root rot. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would obtain a quotation for the removal of the tree.

It was noted that the following 3 councillors can authorize payments from the parish council's bank account: Councillors C Smith, T Hooper and G Rogers.

8. To receive a report from the Clerk

The Clerk reminded all councillors that they must complete their Register of Interests form electronically.

9. Doorstep Green and Playing Field

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

Some discussion took place regarding the provision of bicycle jumps in the playing field including their design, purchase cost and the insurance implications. It was noted that some of the children place portable jumps in the playing field and it was agreed that the parish council should listen to that age group of children. As a solution, it was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that some landscaping takes place behind the goal to accommodate the childrens' request. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor G Rogers said that the bell on the train is missing. Councillor C Smith said that he would order a new bell. Councillors were reminded that maintenance of the play equipment will take place on 30th June from 5pm.

Councillor C Smith said that he and Councillor D Glanville are in the process of collating a specification for works needed to the play tower.

Councillor T Thrussell said that a new octagonal, wheelchair friendly picnic bench and table would cost £700 plus delivery. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that Councillor T Thrussell be authorised to order this picnic table. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

9. 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, as requested by Andy Curtis, Scout Commissioner, has been undertaken and several issues have been raised. Councillor C Smith explained that the issues raised are tolerable faults and that he will action the works necessary for compliance. He said that it should be

noted that the fire risk assessment is only valid for 12 months and the cost of renewing it is £300 - £400pa. It was agreed that the discussion on the draft lease for use of the community hub by the scouts will be postponed until the matters raised by the Fire Risk Assessment have been resolved.

Councillor C Smith said that concerns have been raised about the absence of heating in the community hub. Councillor M Rowe said that he would obtain some quotations for some suitable heating in the building. Councillor N Ball suggested using the old wall heaters which were removed during the refurbishment works.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that the upstairs suite is now being used by the Archive and that this has resulted in the business rates being significantly reduced to £89/pa.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

It was agreed that the hedge to the rear of the car park will soon require cutting. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Gary Rogers attends to this. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was agreed that the orchard will soon require strimming. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that Gary Rogers attends to this matter. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

13. Financial Accounts 2024/25

a) To register any conflict of interest with BDOLLP

There are no conflicts of interest with BDOLLP.

b) To approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the Annual Governance Statement for 2024/25 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

c) To approve the Accounting Statements for 2024/25

It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the Accounting Statements for 2024/25 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 7th June 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 5th July 2025

There was no report from the market for 7th June 2025. Councillor N Ball said that he would attend the market on 5th July 2025.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

The Chair welcomed Councillor Sean Smith to the meeting. He said that he will sit on 3 committees: Appeals, Pensions and Standards and that he is happy to help with issues that the parish council raise. He said that the Community Chest has been reduced to £1,400pa, which is a reduction of 50% although attempts are being made to review this. He confirmed that he will be attending CAP meetings.

Councillor G Rogers said that the road sweeper sweeps the same roads in the village too often and asked if the resource could be re-deployed on occasions to sweep other roads in the parish. Councillor Sean Smith said that he would follow this matter up.

Councillor G Rogers said that it was disappointing not to meet Councillor Sean Smith prior to the elections and asked that if he does not attend a parish council meeting, to send a report.

Councillor H Bunt said that the parish council is not notified of all road closures. Councillor Sean Smith said that he would follow this matter up. Councillor Sean Smith said that there is a process on Cornwall Council's website where individuals can ask for alerts relating to road closures to be sent to them.

Councillor Sean Smith said that he was impressed with the work of Neighbours Together. The Chair said she would pass on his thanks to the co-ordinator of Neighbours Together.

b) Goonzion Commoners

It was agreed that some councillors would meet on Goonzion to discuss management options for Goonzion.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

None

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 (3 months' salary and expenses) - £2629.05
LJC Bookkeeping Services (Internal Audit) - £225.00
James Hallam (personal Accident Insurance) - £483.99
St Neot Village Hall (Room Hire) - £180.00
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire alarm Service – Cott Yard) - £126.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) – £638.40
Richards Builders merchants (Building materials) - £27.61

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor N 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 the following income has been received: of £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises for rent for the shop, £30 for a website advertisement, £675.10 rent from Heather Taylor for Cott Yard and £7416.58 VAT refund. She said that the bank account balances at £56,001.20.

18. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 9th July 2025.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 9th July 2025. It was noted that there will not be a meeting in August 2025 and that the September meeting will be on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:15pm.

