

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 9TH JULY 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, A Tamblyn and D Glanville.

Andy Curtis
Jenny Hart

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 Curtis explained that he is the Chair of St Neot Trustees Scout Group and that, in consultation with members of the parish council, he has drafted a user agreement for the scouts' use of the community hub which he would like progressed simultaneously with the remedial works to the building required under the Fire Risk Assessment. He said there is not a plan to accompany the agreement as this needs to be agreed with the parish council. He confirmed that the scouts would book use of the kitchen as required and that the kitchen is not part of the user agreement. The Chair asked Andy Curtis if both parties would require indemnity insurance. Andy Curtis said they would not as, in the event of an injury to a person or property or scouts' equipment during their use of the building, neither party would pursue the other. He said that during the scouts' use, they would be responsible for fire safety. Councillor C Smith said that the requirements of the Fire Risk Assessment have now been complied with.

Jenny Hart said that the 100 steps footpath is very overgrown. Councillor G Rogers said that this path is a silver one and is maintained by Cornwall Council if they chose to do so. Jenny Hart also said that if any amendments are proposed to footpaths in the parish, these need to be submitted to Cornwall Council by 2030.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor H Bunt.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th June 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors G Rogers and N Ball declared an interest in item 16 on the agenda.

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. However, the owner of the house has refused to sign the letter of agreement. It was agreed that a beech hedge has been planted on common land. It was proposed by Councillor D Glanville and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the Chair writes to the owner of the property saying that the parish council is considering removing the beech hedge and returning it to him, in the absence of a signed agreement. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor C Smith who abstained from voting.

Councillor T Thrussell said that Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith has suggested asking Cornwall Council to undertake speed surveys in the village with the goal of building evidence to secure funding for a flashing speed sign in the village. It was agreed that Councillor T Hooper would ask PCSO S Edser to request that speed surveys be undertaken at both entrances to the village.

Councillor T Thrussell said that he has a contact in Natural England which he will speak to regarding the installation of granite boulders and the reinstatement of plastic bollards at Golitha Falls to alleviate the parking situation. He said that the aim would be to acquire funding for the works through CAP. He said the visit to Park Pit will take place on 17th July 2025 at 10am.

The Chair thanked Councillor N Ball for emptying the bins. It was noted that Kent Gossmeyer is making the planter for the gazebo in Doorstep Green.

Councillor G Rogers said that he would attempt to obtain a quotation for cutting the overgrown land behind homes on the north side of Loveny Road to install a fire break.

Some discussion took place regarding the parish council's entry into the carnival in August and the theme for the float was agreed.

Councillor C Smith said that he would obtain further quotations for the felling of the tree on the boundary of Ivy Crag and Goonzion.

It was noted that all Registers of Interest are now complete and the Chair thanked Councillor C Smith for installing a new bell on the play train and thanked all those who attended the working party to maintain the play equipment.

Councillor T Hooper said that Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith has followed up issues raised at last month's meeting and the frequency of road sweeping will be changed and notices of road closures will be circulated.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that PCSO S Edser's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors which cited an incident of eggs being thrown at a car. She also said that

she had supplied Alan Pottinger with some information regarding the Community Hub which will be used to publicise the CLUP scheme. The Chair brought councillors' attention to a complaint from a parishioner regarding bale wrapping being left on the public highway. It was agreed that the Chair and Councillor G Rogers would follow up this matter.

The Chair reported that a parishioner considers that the car park is being used as a car lot for valeting vehicles. These concerns were noted.

The Chair updated councillors on the suggestion of a parish nurse explaining that the nurse would be there to support volunteers, undertake health checks and monitor blood pressure and liaise with GPs. She said that the Diocese is being asked for funding towards this provision and that Mount, Warleggan and St Neot would need to make a community donation.

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

None

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 C Smith said that the electricity supply to Doorstep Green is now working. Thanks were expressed, on behalf of the parish council, to Clive Waterman, for fitting the electrical equipment. Councillor C Smith said that he had dug the trench to accommodate the cable.

Councillor D Glanville said that he has collated a specification for works needed to the play tower and it was agreed that quotations would be invited. Councillors G Rogers and A Tamblyn said that they would speak to the children regarding the provision of bicycle jumps in the playing field. The Chair thanked all councillors who attended the working party to maintain the play equipment. Councillor A Tamblyn confirmed that he will inspect the play equipment on a regular basis.

The Chair said that parishioners have requested that a sun umbrella be erected on one of the picnic tables. Councillor C Smith said that he would ask the social club if they have any spare umbrellas.

Councillor M Rowe said that Warleggan Young Farmers have asked if they could trim the far end of the river bank to enable them to see the ducks during the duck race. This was agreed subject to the retention of all saplings and trees.

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 requirements of the fire risk assessment have now been met. He said that routine fire checks are the responsibility of the tenant, not the landlord. He said that Classic Fire will inspect the premises every 6 months.

In terms of the lease agreement for use of the Community Hub by the scouts, it was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that Councillors T Hooper and C Smith, in consultation with the Clerk, progress the lease to a conclusion to enable use of the building by the scouts from 4th September 2025. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal except for Councillor N Ball who abstained from voting.

Some discussion took place regarding a request from the Village Brew to use the community hub every Tuesday afternoon to provide tea and cake. It was noted that this is a non-profit making event. It was agreed that the Chair would liaise with the organizer of the Village Brew and the tenant to achieve an acceptable solution.

Councillor N Ball said that some of the slabs on the steps outside the shop are loose.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that he has fitted a new toilet seat and that a potential tenant has viewed the upstairs suite.

The Clerk said that the electricity contract for Cott Yard terminates in January 2026 and that she has obtained some new prices for the electricity supply from that date. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the Parish council signs a 3 year contract with EDF from January 2026 which will represent a significant saving on the current prices. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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 the donation box has been removed. Councillor T Thrussell said that he would make a replacement box. Councillor C Smith said that the bus timetable sign and post should be removed as it is no longer applicable.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was noted that the orchard has been strimmed by the contractor.

13. Internal Audit Report 2024/25

To approve the Internal Audit Report for 2024/25

All councillors had received a copy of the report prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the report 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 5th July 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 2nd August 2025

Councillor N Ball attended the market on 5th July 2025 and said that a parishioner raised concerns about speeding along Loveny Road and a parishioner complained that hedges are not being cut by Cornwall Council. Councillor A Tamblyn reported that he had attended the market on 7th June 2025 and that he had received a complaint that vegetation at Quarry House is growing into the road and that a car is frequently parked on the pavement in Luke's Yeat. The Chair said that she would follow up the issue of the car parking on the pavement.

The Chair said that Councillor H Bunt volunteered to attend the market on 8th August 2025.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Councillor G Rogers said that he was disappointed not to have received a report for the meeting from Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith but he thanked him for following up the issues raised at last month's parish council meeting.

b) Goonzion Commoners

It was noted that some councillors would meet on Goonzion on 14th July 2025 at 6:30pm 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) - £250.59
Classic Fire (Notices for Community Hub) - £126.00
St Neot Historians (Business Rates for Cott Yard) - £87.32

Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £638.40
Gary Rogers (Orchard Strimming/Strimming bank to rear of car park) – £404.00
Christian Smith (Toilet seat/play equipment maintenance items) – £107.47
Duloe Carpentry (Works to doors in Community Hub) – £350.00
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £297.07

It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillors N Ball, C Smith and G Rogers 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, £1344.50 rent from Heather Saunders for Cott Yard and £3.06 wayleave payment. She said that the bank account balances at £50,586.47.

18. Co-option

To consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

None

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 3rd September 2025.

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

