

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH OCTOBER 2025 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors T Hooper (Chair), C Smith, M Rowe, H Bunt, G Rogers, T Thrussell, A Tamblyn and D Glanville.

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

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor N Ball.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 3rd September 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

The Chair reported that an application had been made to Cornwall Council for the provision of temporary bollards at Golitha Falls to ease the congestion caused by parking. However, this application was rejected as the provision of temporary bollards only applied during Covid. She reported that Natural England has erected some parking signs at the site.

Councillor T Hooper said that she would remind parishioners in St Neot News that the Post Office is now operating from the community hub as opposed to the social club. She thanked those who attended the opening of St Neot AFC at Mount.

It was noted that the new 20mph signs on Tripp Hill to replace the old ones are classed as de-cluttering by Cornwall Council in that the "Please Drive Slowly" sign is no longer in place. It was agreed that the parish council would like this sign re-instated. In addition, it was noted that the new 20mph sign entering the village from Carnglaze Caverns has been placed halfway down Loveny Road and that it should be sited as the residential area is entered which is before Coombe Farm House by the orchard.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said the placement of the signs should be where the residential properties begin. It was agreed that the Chair would ask Will Glassop to visit St Neot to review the new signage.

It was noted that 10mph signs are still on display across the moors and that these signs should be removed when works are complete.

The Chair thanked those who attended the site meeting to discuss possible works at Doorstep Green. She also said that she has written to PCSO S Edser regarding the vehicle which is consistently parked too close to the junction of the A38 and the Carnglaze Caverns' road.

Councillor T Hooper said that she has written to PCSO S Edser regarding building evidence to secure funding for a flashing speed sign in the village. He responded saying that the speed data for the last two years does not support the provision of a flashing sign.

Councillor C Smith said that he has obtained a further quotation for the felling of the tree on the boundary of Ivy Crag and Goonzion in the sum of £625. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by A Tambllyn that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Chair reported that she has written to Clive Waterman to thank him for his work in repairing the electricity supply to Doorstep Green.

The Clerk said that maintenance of the vegetation on the roof of the substation on Bush Hill is now on National Grid's work schedule.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that PCSO S Edser's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors. She said that there is a consultation on Cornwall's Local Plan in Liskeard on 14th October 2025.

The Chair reported that Neighbours Together has considerable funds from Cornwall Foundation – Surviving Winter Fund which are available to donate to families in need.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that an application to the Community Chest Fund for a parasol for the picnic table in the playing field should be made to the relevant Officer. The Clerk said she would make the application.

The Chair said that she had received an email from a resident thanking Natural England for the new signs at Golitha Falls.

It was noted that one of the swings in the playing field is broken.

The Chair said that the Remembrance Sunday service will be held in the Church on Sunday 9th November 2025. She said that the silhouettes will be distributed as usual

but there is not a British Legion Poppy Appeal Co-ordinator or volunteers to collect donations. It was agreed that a serving or ex-service person will be invited to lay the wreath on behalf of the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Clerk orders a wreath and makes a donation to the British Legion Poppy Appeal on behalf of the parish council, the total sum being £50. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

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

Councillor T Thrussell said that many of the fences around Colliford Lake are broken which means that cows and their calves are at the water's edge and are often intimidating walkers, especially those with dogs. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact S W Lakes Trust regarding this matter.

Councillor T Thrussell explained that Kerdroya is closed until Spring as the height of the walls is being increased. He questioned whether Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith could send less emails as there may be a danger of missing very important ones, given the volume of emails. However, it was agreed that Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith would continue sending emails informing the parish council of various matters and for which the parish council is very grateful.

Councillor G Rogers said there is a fallen tree at Water Meadow which he will attend to. He also questioned when the salt bins will be topped up. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that Cornwall Council charge for this service. He said that he would report the broken salt bin by the bridge in the village to Cornwall Council.

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

The Chair said that it is imperative that inspections of the play equipment take place. Councillor A Tamblyn said that he would do this over the winter months. He said there is considerable mud in the play train and on the roof as well as on the swing poles. He said there is also a lot of litter in the playing field following Youth Room on a Wednesday evening. The Chair said that she would speak to the Youth Room coordinator. Councillor C Smith said that a new baby swing seat is required. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that a new seat be purchased at a cost of £129. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Councillors C Smith and A Tamblyn agreed to replace the bushes on the fitness equipment. It was also agreed that the handles and gate spring on the new fencing in the playing field would be repaired and the damaged sign will be replaced.

Following the site meeting at Doorstep Green, it was agreed that there are several seasons works required in the garden. It was agreed that the area should be returned to grass with specimen plants and shrubs remaining in place as well as the

hard landscaping. In the first instance, it was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that the area of the garden on the left-hand side after the bridge be tackled first and that a contractor be employed to do this, with someone overseeing the works, up to a maximum budget of £2,500. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was also agreed that Kent Gossmeier would be asked to repair the broken bench.

The Chair said that Councillor N Ball has reported that the bottom of the bin in Lampen Lane is rusted. It was agreed that Councillor H Bunt would install a new base in the bin.

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 heating for the Community Hub will soon be installed. He said that there appears to be a fault on the automatic toilet light and the store room light as well as on two of the emergency lights. He said that he has asked the electrician to rectify these faults. The Chair reported that the Scout Leader is happy with the facility. It was noted that the key safe for the shop has been tampered with. It was agreed that PCSO S Edser would be asked to patrol the playing field on a Wednesday evening when he is on duty.

The parish council noted the sad death of Nigel Lapthorne.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that the agent has received an enquiry from a prospective tenant for the upstairs suite in Cott Yard for use as a therapy centre which will include a therapy dog. It was agreed that this would be acceptable if the dog is well behaved. It was agreed that the hours of the operation of the business could be from 7:30am until 7pm although this would be flexible depending on the type of business.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that Councillor T Thrussell be authorized to purchase a donation box for the public toilet. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. He said that he would install the donation box and that he had erected the parish map on the wall of the public toilet.

It was noted that there is a vehicle parked in the car park which, it is believed, has no insurance. The Clerk said that she would write to the owner of the vehicle and ask for it to be removed.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

None

13. External Audit Report

To receive and consider the report from the External Auditor

Comments from the External Auditor were read out by the Clerk. It was noted that the levels of general reserves were low in April 2025 due to the expenditure on the shop and community hub. However, the level of reserves has since increased and will be monitored. The External Audit report was approved.

14. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market in September 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market in November 2025

Councillor T Hooper attended the market in September 2025 and the following issues were raised: overhanging hedges and branches on the Carnglaze Caverns' road and overgrown gorse onto the highway at Gooseneck towards Colliford Lake. In addition, a parishioner suggested that Beating the Bounds might be a good idea. The Chair said that she would refer this to Martin Eddy.

Councillor G Rogers volunteered to attend the market in November 2025.

The Chair expressed congratulations, on behalf of the parish council, to Martin Eddy on becoming a Bard.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that Cornwall Councillors have received a 3.6% rise in the expenses they are paid. He said that car parking charges have increased by 6%. He explained that Cornwall Council is looking into the sale of some of the land currently occupied by tenant farmers. He explained that this decision is currently scheduled for a Cabinet decision but councillors are asking for it to be considered by Full Council.

He said that he has visited residents at Golitha Falls asking for more evidence regarding the parking problems at the site. In addition, he said that parking vehicles on the road below the dam at Sibilyback Lake is also causing concern.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith reported that he has not received a response from Cornwall Council regarding the 100 Steps footpath.

Councillor G Rogers questioned why there is a 20mph circle on the road on Bush Hill but not in other locations in the village where the new 20mph signs have been erected. He also questioned where the money acquired from the speeding fines goes.

Councillor G Rogers said that the Callywith College bus which goes from Liskeard to Callywith College appears to be very overcrowded. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would follow this matter up.

Councillor A Tamblyn left the meeting.

b) Goonzion Commoners

It was noted that some councillors had met on Goonzion to discuss management options for Goonzion. Councillor T Hooper said the priorities identified were the provision of fire breaks and adequate visibility so that drivers can see the grazing animals and that a budget of £5000 had been set aside at the last meeting of the parish council for the management of Goonzion. It was agreed that the money would be spent as follows: the roadsides to be trimmed 4m in from the road edges and the main pathways opened up considerably to divide the moor into manageable sections. If there is money left in the budget, it was agreed that fire breaks would be created around the adits. It was also noted that volunteer labour has been offered to attend to the triangular area in front of Moorsview.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that a meeting of SE Cornwall CAP had been held on 7th October 2025 at which various presentations were given. He said that he would circulate the documents to all councillors.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith left the meeting.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £183.06
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £557.79
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £319.20
BDO LLP (External Audit Report) - £756.00
Kedel Limited (Materials for Play Tower) - £1355.43
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £319.20
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) - £26.33
Christian Smith (Materials for Play Equipment) - £232.73

It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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: £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises for rent for the shop, £23,729.00 as the second half of the precept, £300.44 from heather Saunders for utilities in Cott Yard, £1344.50 from heather Saunders for rent for Cott Yard and £789.93 from heather Taylor as rent for Cott Yard. She said that the bank account balances at £66, 906.14 at 30th September 2025.

18. Co-option

To consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

None

PART 2

Members of the press and public are excluded from item 19 on the agenda due to the confidential financial and personal information to be discussed

19. Parish Council Employees

To review the terms and conditions for parish council employees

The Clerk left the meeting during discussions relating to her terms and conditions of employment.

The terms and conditions for both parish council employees were discussed and reviewed and agreed. Some discussion took place in respect of an error that had occurred in the payment process for the Clerk and it was agreed that this should be resolved. Furthermore, it was agreed that safeguards should be put in place to prevent this from occurring again.

20. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 12th November 2025.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 12th November 2025.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 10:30pm.

