

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 14TH JANUARY 2026 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

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

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th December 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

Councillor H Bunt said that he has replaced the bin at Lampen and it was noted that Councillor A Tamblyn has sent the play equipment inspection reports to the Clerk. Councillor H Bunt said that he had not yet advertised for sale the surplus furniture from Cott Yard. The Clerk reported that she has written to South West Lakes Trust regarding the closure of the half-moon lay by near the dam at Colliford Lake. They responded, saying that they would close the lay by, but this has not yet been done. Councillor C Smith said that he has not yet repaired the drain outside the community hub but he has put a new door mat inside the shop. The Chair confirmed that a salt bin has been ordered for Whitebarrow Cottages.

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 she had received notification that the fencing to an adit at the top of Tripp Hill was damaged. Councillor M Rowe reported that he has mended the fencing. It was noted that Councillor H Bunt has collected the surplus furniture from Heather Taylor's suite in Cott Yard.

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

Councillor C Smith said that some of the salt bins in the parish require re-filling. He said that, whilst the parish council does have some salt in reserve for emergency use, additional grit/salt needs to be purchased. He said that a 1 tonne dumpy bag will cost £176.50 from Cormac if it is collected but if Cormac re-fill the bins on the parish council's behalf, it will cost, on average, £180/bin. It was noted that purchasing small bags of salt/grit would be far more expensive. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Councillor C Smith will collect a dumpy bag of salt/grit from Cormac and Councillor M Rowe will re-fill the bins. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Chair said that she would circulate the asset inspection report.

Councillor C Smith said that the gates to the war memorial require shot blasting and powder coating. It was agreed that Councillor D Glanville will obtain some prices for this work. It was noted that the railings to the rear of the war memorial need some repair but this can be done in situ.

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 thanked all those who attended the working party in Doorstep Green on Saturday 13th December 2025. She said that the garden was tidied and the canopy raised. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that a contractor be employed to grade and re-seed one section of Doorstep Green before the summer. Specimen trees will be removed prior to this work. 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 Chair said that a new lease for the shop, commencing on 1st February 2026, has been sent to the tenants which omits the community hub and the kitchen but allows them to use the kitchen free of charge for the preparation and cooking of goods sold in the shop. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that 20 place settings of crockery be purchased for the kitchen for use by the community. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

It was agreed that a cleaner is required for the Community Hub, kitchen and toilet for 1 hour a week as it is being used for hire. Councillor C Smith said that this should be

on a self-employed basis so that holiday pay does not have to be paid and holiday cover sought. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the Clerk contacts the cleaner who previously cleaned the pavilion and ask her if she would be interested and what the charge would be. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor N Ball who abstained from voting.

Councillor C Smith reported that he has replaced the battery in the disabled alarm for the toilet and he has put the fallen roof tiles back in situ as well as cleaning out the gutters to the front of the building.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that the replacement of the fire extinguishers and the emergency lighting will take place on 23rd January 2026. It was noted that Heather Taylor will not be replacing carpet in her suite.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor C Smith reported that he has tightened the toilet seat and Councillor T Thrussell reported that he has erected the donation box.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

The Chair thanked everyone who attended the Working Party 10th January 2026. Councillor H Bunt said that he has removed the wire from the orchard. Councillor C Smith said that Martin Eddy was disappointed that the wassail was not financially supported by the parish council. Councillor C Smith said that, at the Working Party, views were sought on the creation of the car parking area adjacent to the orchard. It was agreed that the personnel gate and 1m of wall would be retained. It was agreed that Colin Alford be asked to go ahead with these works.

13. PROW

To receive and consider the PROW contract for 2026/27

The Clerk reported that Gary Rogers has submitted a quotation for the PROW contract for 2026/2, excluding the paths on Goonzion in the sum of £1460. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor D Galiville that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Parish Council Website

To receive and consider changes to the parish council's website

The Clerk said that, since last year, Assertion 10 has been added to the requirements for the AGAR for 2025/26 and whilst the webmaster has updated the website platform for St Neot Parish Council to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.2 Level AA can be achieved, as required by 2025/26 AGAR Assertion 10, the content on the website should also be tested regularly to ensure compliance with WCAG 2.2 level AA, and the Accessibility Statement on the website is required to show when the test was performed. The website for St Neot Parish Council was last tested on 5th March 2021, and therefore should be retested. She said that the webmaster can run a WCAG 2.2 Level AA compliancy check using a number of recognised tools on the website, identify and where possible resolve compliance failures and update the Accessibility Statement for a fee of £45 + VAT. It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that this test be done. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Clerk said that Assertion 10 does not require parish councils to use a .gov.uk domain but it is the preferred option but Assertion 10 requires council owned email accounts, not personal email accounts such as Gmail, Outlook, Hotmail, etc., to be used for communications. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that no action be taken in respect of this matter at the present time.

15. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 3rd January 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th February 2026

Councillor D Glanville attended the market on 3rd January 2026 and the following issues were raised: choked gullies on Bush Hill; a salt bin is required at the bottom of Halfway Hill; the salt bin at the top of Halfway Hill is full of water as the lid blows open. It was agreed that Councillor M Rowe would re-locate the salt bin at the top of Halfway Hill to the bottom of the hill.

Some discussion took place as to the merits and dismerits of a councillor attending the monthly market. It was agreed that engagement with the public would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor N Ball volunteered to attend the market on 7th February 2026.

17. To receive reports from -

- a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he was happy to attend the Farmers' market on a quarterly basis. It was noted that Cormac do not grit the roads into and out of the village. Councillor H Bunt asked Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith to ask Cormac if they would add the Carnglaze Caverns Road to their schedule for road gritting.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he had received a complaint to the effect that farmers who are feeding their animals on common land are ripping up the ground with quad bikes. It was agreed that this is not the case.

He said that he is dealing with concerns from residents at Golitha Falls regarding the flooding which is alleged to have been caused by the opening of the wall and the use of sandbanks next to Inkys. The Chair confirmed that the parish council will be submitting a CAP application for funding for the management of parking at Golitha Falls.

In respect of the overcrowding on the Callywith College bus which goes from Liskeard to Callywith College, he said that changes have been made to the bus routes and the buses with surplus seats have been diverted so the issue of overcrowding on the buses has been resolved.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that the proposed budget for 2026/27 is out for consultation with the proposal being to increase the budget by 4.9%. He said that the proposal to increase the administration fee for Tamar tag holders from 80p to £2/month has been put on hold and a consultation will now take place.

Councillor C Smith asked Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith to ascertain the ownership of the land opposite Quarry House as it needs attention.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe reported that the cattle grid at Luna has still not yet been cleared and the cattle grid at the top of Bush Hill requires cleaning. The Clerk said she would report these matters to Highways. It was noted that all works around the adits and edges of the moor plus the creation of firebreaks and pathways is now complete.

Councillor H Bunt said that FIPL has 3 years of funding available for works, such as the further management of Goonzion. The Chair said she would follow up this matter.

Councillor C Smith said that the sycamore tree has been felled between Lea Moor and Ivy Crag, as agreed. He reported that the beech tree next to it came down in the recent storm and caused damage to a shed, play equipment and garden furniture. He said that the tree surgeon has quoted £1075 to clear the tree and £675 if the wood is left in longer lengths. He said that, as the work is an emergency, the Clerk, Chair and himself agreed that the works should go ahead at the earliest opportunity.

Councillor C Smith said that a limb of a magnolia tree has fallen in Doorstep Green which will be attended to free of charge by the tree surgeon.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that a meeting was held on 6th January 2026 and included presentations from the Police, Neighbourhood Watch, Suicide Prevention and a discussion on the Tamar Bridge tolls. He said that the next meeting is in March 2026.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £319.45
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £161.33
Sue Blaxley (Backpay) - £333.39
EDF (Parish Lighting) - £297.43
Christian Smith (Battery for Disabled Alarm) – £3.93
Diana Smith (Toilet Cleaning) – £112.50
Source for Business (Water for Toilet) – £228.86
Source for Business (Water for Pavillion) – £47.26
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning materials for Toilet) – £26.33
J R Agriculture (Works on Goonzion) – £960.00
St Neot News (Newsletter expenses) - £556.00

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 and C Smith, who abstained from voting.

19. Finance Report

To receive a current assessment of the accounts

The Clerk reported that income in December 2025 comprised: £675.10 from Heather Taylor as rent for Cott Yard, £1344.50 from Heather Saunders as rent for Cott Yard, £675.10 from Country Lane Enterprises as rent for the shop and £181.50 rent for Goonzion. She said that the accounts balance at £52,803.87.

20. Co-option

To consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

None.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th February 2026.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11th February 2026.

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

