

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH FEBRUARY 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, G Rogers 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 Councillors A Tamblyn and T Thrussell.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th January 2026, 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 had not yet advertised the surplus furniture for sale from Cott Yard and Councillor C Smith said that he has not yet repaired the drain outside the community hub. Councillor C Smith said that some of the salt bins are full of water and some of them require stabilizing before they are re-filled. In addition, he said that some of the salt bins are half full. It was agreed that the salt bin near the school would be re-filled and the bin at the top of Halfway House Hill would be re-located to the bottom of the hill. The Chair said that she has circulated the Asset Inspection report and Councillor C Smith reported that he has purchased crockery and washing up equipment for the Community Hub. The Clerk confirmed that she has reported the cattle grid at Luna being full of mud to Cornwall Council and they responded saying they will attend to the matter. The Chair said that she has prepared Terms and Conditions for use of the Community Hub and that she has submitted an EOI for funding for traffic management at Golitha Falls. She said that she has not yet investigated the FIPL funding.

## **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 from Highways that it is proposed to "stop up" a vehicular access on a footpath/bridleway at Wortha. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Councillor T Hooper said that the Leader of Cornwall Council will visit the shop and Community Hub on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2026 at 1pm. It was agreed that members of the Steering Group would be invited to the event.

It was noted that the abandoned car parked on Loveny Road has been forwarded to the Traffic Police for action.

The Chair said that a meeting will be held at Golitha Falls at 9am on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to discuss the highways issues. She said that various interested parties will be in attendance.

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

Councillor G Rogers asked the Clerk to contact Openreach regarding the considerable number of offcuts of wire and plastic left by the engineers when they were working at the Openreach box outside Manor House.

Councillor M Rowe asked if a request could be submitted to the Village Hall for improved facilities for projecting material on to a screen during meetings.

Councillor M Rowe said that the hedge and verge are projecting significantly into the road at the bottom of Halfway Hill, outside Drawbridge Bungalow. The Clerk said that she would report this to Highways.

## **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 he has met with the contractor regarding the grading and re-seeding of one section of Doorstep Green before the summer. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that a budget of £1,500 be allocated for these works. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was noted that the parish council will undertake the re-seeding.

Councillor C Smith said that the area next to the bridge on the playing field side is flooded so he has asked a contractor to clean out the drainage ditch and remove the resultant debris.

## **9. Shop and Community Hub**

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

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. The Clerk reported that she has contacted the cleaner who previously cleaned the pavilion, but she does not wish to resume this role. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that the post be advertised. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor T Hooper said that she has drafted some Terms and Conditions for users of the community hub which will be sent to those who hire the facility.

Councillor C Smith reported that the frost stat on the heating has been adjusted to stop it from coming on on its own.

## **10. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor C Smith reported that Classic Fire have replaced the fire extinguishers and the emergency lighting in Cott Yard although one emergency light still requires a replacement, and the stairwell lighting requires repair or replacing. He said that he has asked an electrician to look at this work.

## **11. Toilets and Car Park**

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

Councillor T Hooper reported that some areas of the car park surface are breaking up and may constitute a trip hazard. It was noted that the "back half" of the car park surface up to the toilets is in good condition. It was agreed that Councillors G Rogers and D Glanville will seek quotations from contractors for the required patching work. Councillor H Bunt said there is not a sign on the donation box. Councillor C Smith said that he will attend to this matter.

## **12. St Neot Orchard**

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

The Chair said that the wassailing event went well and she congratulated the team involved in organising this event.

## **13. Telecommunications Resilience**

### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to telecommunications resilience**

The Chair said that she and a representative from Neighbours Together are to meet with the Emergency Planning Officer at Cornwall Council to discuss this matter further. She questioned the ownership and purpose of the mast on Bush Hill. It was noted that this mast is for TV reception only and that there is not a telecommunications mast in the village although there are a number in the parish. Councillor T Hooper said that she would ascertain the relevant providers of the masts and question whether the masts have battery back-up.

#### **14. Public Engagement**

##### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to engagement with the public**

Some discussion took place regarding the parish council's engagement with the public. It was agreed that this takes various forms: the website, newsletter, Farmers' market and generally talking to parishioners in the community. It was agreed that, at the next meeting of the parish council, discussion would take place regarding hosting a parish council open day so that parishioners can familiarise themselves with the work of the parish council.

#### **15. Parish Nurse**

##### **To discuss the provision of a parish nurse**

The Chair explained that Reverend Paul (Bodmin) and Reverend Gary had met with the Warleggan and Mount Committee and herself to discuss the idea of a nurse visiting the parishes and offering low level nursing services to those in need. As a result, she said that a nurse has been appointed for Cardinham and that she will monitor the outcomes.

#### **16. Storm Damage**

##### **To receive and consider compensation for storm damage to a parishioner's property**

Councillor C Smith reported that, during Storm Goretti, a beech tree owned by the parish council fell and caused significant damage to the play equipment in the garden of a property. He said that the Clerk contacted the parish council's insurers and this would be covered under the Public Liability section of the policy but is subject to a £500 excess in the event of a successful claim. Some discussion took place regarding this matter as the owner of the property has requested a sum of £600 to replace the play equipment. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that £600 be paid by the parish council to replace the play equipment as opposed to pursuing a claim through the insurance company. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from one councillor who voted against and Councillor C Smith who abstained from voting. The proposal was, therefore, carried.

It was agreed that it is due diligence to inspect trees in the parish council's ownership on boundaries and adjacent to highways and that the Clerk would ask the insurance company for the criteria appertaining to such inspections.

## **17. Farmer's Market**

**To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 7<sup>th</sup> February 2026 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026**

Councillor T Hooper said that she attended for a short time and the following issues were raised: telecommunications resilience in the parish and the abandoned car on Loveny Road.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Councillor N Ball if he could attend the market on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

## **18. To receive reports from -**

### **a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he was happy to attend the Farmers' market on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2026. He said that he has not yet ascertained the ownership of the land opposite Quarry House. He reported that there is a planning appeal in progress for Little Tamar, St Neot. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that there is no action regarding the flooding on the Carnglaze Caverns Road but that he is pursuing the matter. He said that the owners of Carnglaze Caverns have lodged an appeal following the revocation of their entertainment license, so they are able to hold events whilst the appeal is being heard. He said that he will pursue the matter of the necessity to clear out the eight cattle grids in the parish.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that the government has issued a directive for 4,700 homes to be built in Cornwall in the next 10 years but so far 2,700 are planned so sites for housing are being sought.

Councillor G Rogers asked Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith for his opinion on the proposal to start charging for the 12 car parks in Cornwall that are currently free. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he is against the proposal. Councillor G Rogers commented that Cornwall Council is not spending money wisely. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that an alternative budget is being submitted. Councillor G Rogers said that road sweeping is illogical as it is done too often in places that do not need sweeping and is not done at all in places that do require sweeping. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that it is likely that the contract requirement is incorrect and that he will pursue this matter.

He apologized for not being able to attend the March meeting of the parish council.

### **b) Goonzion Commoners**

None

### **c) SE Cornwall CAP**

None

## **19. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including –**

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £259.45  
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £161.33  
Sue Blaxley (Backpay) - £333.39  
EDF (Parish Lighting) - £482.19  
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £65.59  
Classic Fire (Fire Equipment Testing - Pavillion) - £55.80  
Classic Fire (Fire Alarm Testing – Pavillion) £335.40  
Classic Fire (Works in Cott Yard) - £493.80  
St Neot Social Club (Toilet Rolls) – £19.18  
Christian Smith (Mat and Crockery for Community Hub) – £181.92  
J R Agriculture (Works on Goonzion) - £120.00

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor H Bunt that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal, apart from Councillor C Smith, who abstained from voting.

## **20. Finance Report**

### **To receive a current assessment of the accounts**

The Clerk reported that income in January 2026 comprised: £675.10 from Country Lane Enterprises as rent for the shop and £300 Community Chest Grant from Cornwall Council. She said that the accounts balance at £48,685.44.

## **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 11<sup>th</sup> February 2026.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> March 2026.

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

