

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 11TH MARCH 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 N Ball.

Jenny Hart, James Vaughan  
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

**Public Participation**

Jenny Hart said that the consultation on the proposed Stopping Up, Reservation & Diversion of Bridleway Rights of a section of the highway at Wortha involves prohibiting vehicular access and diverting the existing bridleway. She said that she thought this was a good solution and that she, and her neighbour, were supportive of the proposal.

Jenny Hart informed councillors that the “No Through Road” sign at Northwood has disappeared.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillor D Glanville and Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith.

**2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2026**

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 11th February 2026, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

**3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

Councillor H Bunt declared an interest in Part 2 of the agenda.

**14. PROW**

**To receive and consider the proposed Stopping Up, Reservation & Diversion of Bridleway Rights of a section of the highway at Wortha**

The Chair explained that the proposal is to disallow vehicular traffic and to divert the bridleway to allow horseriders to continue to use the route and ride up onto the moors. Councillor H Bunt said that the proposal seems sensible and the landowners agree to the proposal. He praised Cornwall Council for taking a “common sense” approach to this. It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by

Councillor G Rogers that the parish council supports this proposal. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

#### **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. Councillor C Smith reported that he has repaired the drain outside the community hub. It was noted that the salt bins have been re-filled. The Chair said that the FIPL funding is not yet open for bids. The Clerk said that she contacted Openreach about the pieces of wire and debris they had left outside Manor House and that the site has now been cleaned. Councillor C Smith reported that progress is being made towards purchasing a screen for the Committee room so that material can be displayed on the screen at meetings. The Clerk said that she had reported the overgrown hedge and verge at Drawbridge but Cornwall Council said that no action is required at the present time. It was noted that a temporary sign has been put on the donation box in the public toilet. The Chair said that she had attended a meeting regarding telecommunications and there is a gadget on the market which, when used with an app and an adjacent box, allows for a connection to enable text messages to be sent when the power is down. Councillor A Tamblyn said that when the telecommunications mast are green in part, this indicates that they have a generator back up in the event of a power failure.

The Chair thanked Councillor C Smith and Diana Smith for cleaning the community hub. The Clerk said that she has sent the terms and conditions of use of the community hub to the scout leader.

#### **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 Savills have undertaken an inspection of the river in the playing field and Doorstep Green as part of their work with South West Water. She thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for replacing the "Dangerous Current" sign adjacent to the river and for repairing the drain outside the shop. She said that the grey mini which is parked in Loveny Road has a new owner and is taxed and insured but has no MOT. Therefore, she said that the Police and Cornwall Council cannot take any action at the present time.

The Chair said that she has received an email from Heather Taylor asking the parish council to remind the tenants of Cott Yard about the access and parking rights and, for safeguarding reasons, asking for the door between the hairdressers and the communal area to be kept shut. Councillor T Hooper said that she would speak to Heather Saunders about these matters.

The Chair said that following the meeting held at Golitha Falls on 13<sup>th</sup> February 2026 to discuss highways issues, she had received communications about the way the meeting was conducted.

Councillor H Bunt said that the school has organized an event on Saturday 14<sup>th</sup> March 2026 to raise funds for a child at the school who is undergoing medical treatment.

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

Councillor M Rowe thanked the numerous volunteers, on behalf of the parish council, for the litter picking undertaken in the parish.

#### **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 annual inspection of the play equipment could be undertaken by DTGS Ltd for the sum of £125.00 plus VAT which is considerably less than the current company charges. He said that DTGS will also undertake servicing work for the equipment. It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor N Ball that DTGS be instructed to carry out the play equipment inspection. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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 and they have quoted £2,000 for the works. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the contractor be instructed to proceed with the works. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was noted that the parish council will undertake the re-seeding. It was also noted that a volunteer will attend to the mole hills in the playing field.

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

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

The Chair reported that the Leader of Cornwall Council had visited the shop and community hub and she thanked those councillors who attended. Councillor T Thrussell said that it proves to Cornwall Council that the funding has been put to good use.

Councillor H Bunt left the meeting.

The Chair said that a user of the community hub has had to clean the facility prior to being able to use it on two occasions. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the charge to the user be waived for half the cost of two sessions. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor C Smith who abstained from voting.

Councillor H Bunt returned to the meeting.

It was noted that the new lease agreement for the shop has not been signed. Councillor H Bunt said that he would follow up this matter.

## **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 provide a quotation for this work.

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

### **To receive and consider a request for a takeaway food facility to use the car park**

It was noted that details of the proposed takeaway food facility had been circulated to councillors prior to the meeting. The Chair said that the user has the relevant insurance and certificates. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that a takeaway facility be permitted to use the car park on a Thursday evening but spaces in the car park cannot be guaranteed. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

### **To receive and consider a report on any other 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 and that Councillor D Glanville had obtained a quotation for the sum of £1,100 for the required patching work. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the contractor be instructed to carry out these works. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Some discussion took place regarding re-surfacing the entire car park in the future. Councillor C Smith said that everyone in the community uses the car park and it might be a project for which the community could raise funds.

## **12. St Neot Orchard**

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

It was noted that the contractor has been instructed to commence work on the creation of a car parking area adjacent to the orchard.

## **13. Public Engagement**

### **To consider hosting a parish council open day**

Some discussion took place regarding this matter with ideas including a questionnaire about the parish, photographs of the parish in the community hub and a treasure hunt of parish council assets.

### **15. Inspection of Trees**

#### **To consider drafting a policy for the inspection of trees**

The Chair said that, following the winter storms, some form of tree inspections should take place on a regular basis. Councillor C Smith suggested that councillors undertake a risk assessment of the trees on a bi-annual basis and following severe weather events and if a tree appears diseased, dying or dangerous to contract a Tree Surgeon to inspect the tree and produce a report. The Clerk said that she would ask the insurance company if this would suffice.

### **16. Streetlights**

#### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to streetlights**

Councillor G Rogers said that it is very dark in the village after midnight when the streetlights are switched off. He questioned how much electricity is saved by switching the lights off at night. The Clerk explained that it is an unmetered supply and the contract is between the network operator (ie Cornwall Council) and EDF but the parish council pay the invoices. She said that Cornwall Council send EDF the data on hours used and tells them the rates to charge. She said that it is Cornwall Council's policy to turn the streetlights off between midnight and 5am as part of their carbon zero pledge. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Cornwall Council for a statement for the preceding 12 months to ascertain how the charges have been calculated.

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

#### **To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2026**

Councillor N Ball said that he attended the market on 7<sup>th</sup> March 2026 and questioned the need for a parish councillor to be present. He said that he had asked people attending the market if they thought a councillor presence was necessary at the market and they responded saying that it is easy to contact the parish council via the website or by seeing councillors in the community and via St Neot News. It was agreed that a periodic attendance by a councillor might be a way forward so it was agreed that a councillor would not attend the market in April but would in May 2026.

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

- a) **Cornwall Councillor**

None.

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

None

**c) SE Cornwall CAP**

Councillor T Thrussell said that discussion in the Transport and Economy Working Group will focus on the consultation for the proposed increase to the fees for the Tamar Bridge. He said that the next CAP meeting will be on 7<sup>th</sup> April 2026. He reported that applications for highways improvements funding via CAP have now closed.

**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  
Sue Blaxley (3 month's salary and expenses) – £2821.09  
Western Web (Website Hosting) - £96.00  
Corserv (Grit Bin/3 bags of salt) - £996.22  
EDF (Parish Lighting) - £359.40

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that the above orders be authorized for payment apart from the payment to Corserv as the parish council only had 2 bags of salt. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal, apart from Councillor N Ball, who abstained from voting.

Councillor C Smith said that the grit bin inside the gates of the school had been re-filled with salt. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that no charge would be made to the school for this. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

**20. Finance Report**

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

The Clerk reported that income in February 2026 comprised: £675.10 from Country Lane Enterprises as rent for the shop, £1,000 community turbine payment and £20 for use of the Community Hub. She said that the accounts balance at £46492.46

**20. 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 22 on the agenda due to the confidential financial and personal information to be discussed**

## **22. Community Hub**

### **To consider applications for a cleaner for the Community Hub**

Applications for a cleaner for the Community Hub were considered and the times/days for cleaning were discussed.

## **23. Date of next meeting**

### **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> April 2026.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:30pm.