

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 8TH JULY 2026 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST
NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

Present: Councillors T Hooper (Chair), M Rowe, G Rogers, C Ugalde, T Thrussell, R Sanders, C Smith, N Ball and H Bunt.

Mike Dobbie and Josie Williams
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

Mike Dobbie said that between Treverbyn House and Wenmouth Cross, there is a very large pothole in the road which was delineated with a traffic cone but the traffic cone has been removed. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would follow up this matter. Mike Dobbie asked if there was any progress regarding the parking problems at Golitha Falls. The Chair said that the bid made by the parish council for traffic management in the area has proceeded to the design stage so that a solution and relevant costings can be formulated. She said that Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith met with the neighbouring parish council and their biggest concern is that a localised traffic management solution will move the parking problem elsewhere.

1. Apologies

None. The Chair welcomed Ross Sanders to the parish council.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th June 2026, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors H Bunt, G Rogers and N Ball declared an interest in item 14 on the agenda.

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

The Chair reported that Cornwall Council will not cut the hedge opposite Quarry House until September. However, a local farmer has trimmed the hedge to improve visibility. Councillor M Rowe said that he has ascertained who the landowner is where the fallen oak tree lies at Milltown but there some was uncertainty as to who to contact to rectify the problem. Councillor G Rogers said that the cleaning of the glass canopy in Cott Yard is being pursued. It was reported that a meeting was held

with the Scout Leader regarding the available land for the scouts to use but a better inspection is required. It was noted that the land in question will require fencing for which the scouts could apply for grant funding. The Clerk reported that she has applied for Community Chest funding and that she has asked the contractor to cut the gold paths on Goonzion which will be done by the end of July. Councillor C Smith said that he had obtained quotations for painting the toilet block and Councillor G Rogers said that he will cut the hedge to the rear of the car park at the end of the week. He said that he has strimmed part of the orchard. The Chair said that there is no provision in St Neot for social housing and this may be imposed on the parish by Cornwall Council. Therefore, she said the preparation of a Neighbourhood Plan may need further consideration. The Chair said that she will draft GDPR and IT policies in due course and she advised new councillors to read the Code of Conduct which is published on the parish council's website.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that the monthly report from PCSO S Edner had been circulated to all councillors. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith questioned whether the level of crime in St Neot is higher than "normal". She explained that she has been liaising with a local family who have received a No-Fault Eviction Notice, attempting to secure the property in Church View. However, she said that this property has now been let to another person but the local family are top of the list for a house at Dobwalls. Councillor T Hooper said that she was giving a talk at the school about the work of the parish council. She reported that she has received a request from a parishioner who would like to park a tractor in the playing field on the last day of school when the primary school children celebrate their last day. It was agreed that this would be acceptable provided the tractor was parked at the bottom of the playing field on the hardstanding. The Chair said that she has received a lot of communications from a parishioner regarding the provision of a form of bus to the village. She said that a proposed diversion of the footpath at Lamelgate is under consideration by Cornwall Council. In addition, she explained that as the parish council operates a pension scheme for employees, a Pension Discretion Policy should be implemented.

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

Councillor N Ball said that cars are parked at the entrance to the shop and one parishioner parks there overnight. In addition, he said that dogs are being taken into the playing field. Councillor T Hooper said that she would put an item in St Neot News reminding parishioners not to park in that location and not to take dogs in the playing field. Councillor N Ball thanked those who had emptied the bins in his absence.

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 G Rogers said that he has planted the planters around the gazebo with bedding plants. Councillor C Smith reported that the gate post has been replaced. It was agreed that a Doorstep Green tidy up would take place on 12th August 2026 commencing at 6pm and that the parish council would enter a float in this year's carnival.

8. Shop and Community Hub

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

None

9. Cott Yard

To receive and consider matters arising relating to Cott Yard

Councillor C Smith reported that a prospective tenant will be viewing the suite next week (which will become vacant on 10th September 2026). He said that the current tenant cleans the communal areas so a new cleaner will be required for 1 hour a week from 10th September 2026. Councillor T Hooper said that she would advertise this vacancy in St Neot News.

10. Toilets and Car Park

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

Councillor G Rogers explained that he has contacted the contractor asking him for a price to re-surface the top section of the car park but has not had a response. It was agreed that another contractor would also be asked to provide a quotation. Some discussion took place regarding re-painting the white lines in the car park with Councillor N Ball suggesting that a team of councillors could repaint the white lines. Councillor C Smith said that he would obtain prices for the white paint. Councillor C Smith reported that said that the quotation for painting the exterior of the toilet and the doors and one internal door is £800 plus materials and the quotation for painting the bus shelter is the same. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the quotation for painting the toilet block be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. The Clerk reported that she has contacted SWW regarding the leak at the joint on the water meter and will chase up this matter. Councillor C Smith said that he has tightened the ball valve in the toilet cistern. He said that the gates to the war memorial have been powder coated but the hinges and handrail need painting. Councillor C Ugalde said that he would undertake this painting.

11. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor G Rogers said that he has strimmed the path in the orchard. Councillor C Smith said that he will remind Colin Alford about the works required to provide a car park at the orchard.

12. Fly Tipping

To receive and consider matters arising relating to fly tipping

Councillors were aware of the repeated fly tipping on Goonzion. It was noted that Cornwall Council are pursuing the identification of the person responsible for the last incident. The Chair said that there is a charge for people to dispose of commercial waste and to avoid this charge, they are fly tipping the waste. This is usually in open spaces where there are no cameras. She said there is a fine of between £250 and £500 for fly tipping a small amount of commercial waste and persistent fly tipping can result in much higher fines. It was acknowledged that Cornwall Council has been very efficient in clearing the waste. Some discussion took place regarding measures to mitigate the fly tipping. It was agreed that the parish council will continue to monitor the issue.

13. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that Cornwall Council charge £30 to provide Code of Conduct training. He said that with respect to waste disposal, household waste can be disposed of at recycling centres, some of which have to be booked online in advance. He said that the Portfolio Holder says that there is no increase in fly tipping incidents and that Cornwall Council will provide “No Fly Tipping” signs. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he had attended the summer workshop regarding highways matters and that he will speak to Biffa about street cleaning at the Liskeard Show. He reported that the broken fence adjacent to the footpath from Loveny Road to Doorstep Green will soon be repaired. He expressed concerns regarding developments which are taking place at Colliford Lake. Councillor T Thrussell said that the fence at the junction of the A30 and the road past Colliford Lake is not effective as sheep are wandering onto the A30. It was noted that National Highways are responsible for this matter.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that the parking issues at Golitha Falls are ongoing and that a “joined up” approach with St Cleer parish council is required. It was noted that road closure notices are circulated with a very short notice period. Councillor H Bunt said that the infilling of potholes on Woodlands Hill has been done very well. Councillor G Rogers said that the entrance to the footpath at 100 steps is still very overgrown. Councillor Sean Smith said that he would follow up this matter.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor H Bunt said that there is an open session on 15th August 2026 to look at who has grazing rights on the Commons. Councillor C Smith reported that the overhanging branches on Bush Hill are a nuisance for larger vehicles.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that the CAP AGM has been held and that the Police Inspector sent a report to that meeting. Councillor T Thrussell said that he has circulated details of planning reforms to all councillors. He said that a review of the road between Trurefoot and Dobwalls (A38) is being undertaken.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £260.77
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £165.23
Sue Blaxley (Backpay) - £333.39
Cornwall Council (Waste Collection – Car Park) - £474.47
S Swales (Painting Kitchen in Community Hub) - £175.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) – £22.65
Karen Bunt (Pavillion Cleaning) - £48.00
Gary Rogers (Strimming Orchard path) - £50.00
J R Agriculture (Works to Doorstep Green) - £605.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £328.20
EDF (Parish Lighting) - £157.01
St Neot News (Advertisement) - £20.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £657.60

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal, apart from Councillors H Bunt, G Rogers and N Ball who having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting.

15. Finance Report

To receive a current assessment of the accounts

The Clerk reported that income in June 2026 comprised: £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises as rent for the shop, £20 for use of the Community Hub and £1334.50 from Heather Saunders as rent for Cott Yard.

16. Co-option

To consider applications for co-option onto the parish council

The Chair said there was one vacancy for co-option. Mike Dobbie said that he was interested in joining the parish council. He spoke briefly about his background and the skills that he could bring to the parish council. Josie Williams said that she was interested in joining the parish council. She spoke about her involvement in the community and the perspective she could bring to the parish council.

Mike Dobbie and Josie Williams left the meeting.

It was agreed that Josie Williams be co-opted onto the parish council.

17. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 26th August 2026.

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 26th August 2026 in the Committee Room, St Neot Social Club, St Neot commencing at 7:30pm.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:20pm.