

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON  
WEDNESDAY, 26TH AUGUST 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, C Smith, J Williams and H Bunt.

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**

Councillor C Smith said that a parishioner has asked the parish council what they intend to do about the bunting which has been erected above the wall in the car park. The Chair said that it is intended to be a take on the 1940's and will be removed after the Carnival.

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors A Tamblyn and R Sanders. Councillor N Ball was absent and had not submitted his apologies. The Chair welcomed Josie Williams 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 8th July 2026, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

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

Councillors H Bunt and 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**

Councillor M Rowe said that he has ascertained who the landowner is where the fallen oak tree lies at Milltown and is pursuing the matter. Councillor G Rogers said that the cleaning of the glass canopy in Cott Yard has been done as well as the windows, door glazing and velux roof lights. Councillor C Smith said that he had obtained quotations for painting the white lines in the car park and for re-surfacing the car park. He said that he has also chased Colin Alford regarding the provision of a car park at the orchard. The Chair said that she has drafted the GDPR and IT policies and a Privacy Notice to sit alongside the GDPR policy but before they are considered, she said that she thought some training in GDPR might be useful. Councillor T Hooper said that she would also draft a FOI policy. Councillor C

Ugalde said that he had read the Code of Conduct and advised Councillor J Williams to read the document which is published on the parish council's website.

Councillor T Hooper said that she is in the process of drafting a Pensions Discretion policy but one part of the document requires further thought. Councillor G Rogers reported that he has cut the hedge to the rear of the car park and that the contractor has cut the gold paths on Goonzion. Councillor C Ugalde said that he has painted the gate hinges and handrail at the war memorial.

The Chair said that she has received some posters from the children at St Neot Primary School regarding fly tipping. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell would laminate a selection of them and erect them on the gates adjacent to the cattle grids on Goonzion. The Chair reported that the children were disappointed that Anna Geldard MP had not responded to their letter regarding fly tipping. Councillor T Hooper said that she has followed this up with the MP and the children have now had a response to their enquiry. She said that, at a recent visit to the school, the children expressed a wish for a zip wire, a climbing wall and a roundabout to be installed in the playing field. The Chair said that she has put items in St Neot News asking residents not to park in the playing field when visiting the shop and not to bring dogs into the playing field. The Clerk said that she has chased SWW regarding the water leak outside the toilet. The Chair said that the annual reviews for all employees would be by way of a questionnaire which has now been sent to the two employees.

The Chair explained that she has been liaising with a local family who have received a No-Fault Eviction Notice. She said that the local family have now been rehomed in Dobwalls.

Councillor C Smith said that the theme for the carnival float is the promotion of the orchard.

## **5. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

The Chair said that the monthly report from PCSO S Edner had been circulated to all councillors. She said that she has received numerous emails regarding the parking problems at Golitha Falls. In addition, she reported that a parishioner is concerned that tree saplings are growing in the orchard. Councillor T Hooper said that she has received a lot of correspondence regarding a bus service for St Neot and the Dial a Ride service. She said that a parishioner has reported that Himalayan Balsam is growing near ancient woodland and that the parishioner has suggested that this is removed and the areas re-planted with wildflowers to encourage the bees. The Chair said that a parishioner who uses a mobility scooter is unable to open the pedestrian gate one way which exits Doorstep Green onto Loveny Road due to it being spring loaded. Councillor C Smith said that he would ascertain the cost of changing the spring to a centralized one.

Councillor T Hooper said that she is meeting with SWW to discuss how they will monitor the water running through the playing field and Doorstep Green and what equipment they will use. Councillor C Smith commented that the parish council should be paid a wayleave for hosting this equipment on its land. Councillor T

Thrussell had circulated a document: Cornwall Natural Landscape- Heart of National Beauty which is intended to raise awareness of the available funds in addition to FIPL.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that some of the wooden steps at Treverbyn Bridge are damaged on footpath 632/8/3. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would report this to the Countryside Officer but he suspected that the responsibility lay with the landowner. Councillor G Rogers said that a parishioner is concerned that the vegetation growing out of the stone bridge is St Neot could damage the bridge's integrity. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would report this matter to Cornwall Council. Councillor G Rogers said that vines are growing over the post and rail fence at Dye Cottage flats and encroaching onto the adjacent bench. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he would report this matter to Cornwall Housing.

**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 the annual inspection of the play equipment has raised four issues which require monitoring: the swinging log bridge, the walk bridge on the play tower, the steps onto the play tower (they suggested covering the steps with anti-slip reflective strips) and the goal net which is a trip hazard.

Councillor C Smith said that the areas which have been cleared in Doorstep Green need rotavating and seeding with grass. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor C Ugalde that Gary Rogers and Lanhydrock Gardening Services undertake this work up to a maximum cost of £350. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor H Bunt said that a parishioner has complained that the litter bins in the playing field and in Doorstep Green are overflowing. It was agreed that the Clerk would remind Councillor N Ball that the bins need to be emptied every week.

It was noted that it is Carnival Day this Saturday and the Smite Championships on Sunday.

**9. Shop and Community Hub**

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

It was noted that cars continue to park by the shop.

## **10. Cott Yard**

### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to Cott Yard**

Councillor C Smith reported that a new tenant will be occupying the ground floor suite (which will become vacant on 10<sup>th</sup> September 2026). He said that the new tenant will clean the communal areas.

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

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

It was noted that the toilet building has been re-painted. Councillor C Smith said that the cost of re-surfacing the car park is between £25,000 and £30,000. He said that there are options for re-doing the white lines in the same configuration: purchase the paint and tape for councillors to use at a cost of £75-£125/tin (4 tins are required) or ask a contractor to thermo line the car park at a cost of £579 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor C Ugalde that the second option be chosen. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal. It was noted that the corner of the wall has been damaged again. Councillor C Smith said that he would ask Colin Alford what repair work is recommended.

### **To receive and consider a request to use the bus shelter as a community library**

The Chair said that there are many books left over after the Church Fete and that a request has been received to use the bus shelter as a community library. Councillor H Bunt said that the shop may have a “drop parcel” box installed and this could be a use for the bus shelter. Councillor H Bunt said that the books would get damp and mouldy in the bus shelter. Councillor C Smith said that the Community Hub could be used for a community library. Councillor T Thrussell said that the books could be donated to the library in St Neot Social Club.

## **12. 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 orchard.

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

### **a) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that the parking issues at Golitha Falls are ongoing and that the application submitted to CAP for highways improvements to help alleviate this issue was approved and is a priority. He said that the proposal is for 500m of a “No Parking” zone on the highway. He said that the Police do nothing about the parking issues at Golitha Falls.

Councillor Sean Smith said that he has had a lot of communication regarding the provision of a bus into the village. He said that the 100 steps footpath will be cut twice a year by Cornwall Council. He said the Community Chest grant will be authorized for payment. Councillor Sean Smith said that he will make a formal complaint to Biffa as they have not responded to his repeated request for a map of the roads they sweep. Councillor T Thrussell said that the fence adjacent to the A30 at Colliford Lake has still not been repaired and that sheep are roaming onto the A30 which has caused an accident. Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith said that he will raise this again with Cormac.

**b) Goonzion Commoners**

Councillor T Thrussell said that he attended a meeting about the commoners grazing rights but that it would take a few hours to ascertain the list of graziers from the records that are kept. He said that he will go to County Hall and undertake this work.

Councillor C Smith said that works have been undertaken at the adit to clear the area of vegetation so that the animals can access water. He suggested that consideration be given to the provision of fire beater stations on Goonzion. Councillor T Hooper said that a management plan for Goonzion needs to be considered. It was noted that the trees on Goonzion will be inspected in due course. The Chair said that several motor homes have parked overnight at Crowpound this summer.

**c) SE Cornwall CAP**

Councillor T Thrussell said that the next CAP meeting will be held on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2026 and there is a meeting with SWW on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2026.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk - August) - £260.77  
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Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £165.23  
Sue Blaxley (Backpay - August) - £333.39  
Sue Blaxley (Backpay - August) - £333.39  
Sue Blaxley (3 months salary and expenses) - £2922.34  
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £56.88  
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £172.35  
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £328.80  
St Neot News (Advert for St Neot News) - £20.00  
Jenny Hart (Signs for Market) - £75.00  
St Neot News (Newsletter Expenses) - £723.00  
DTGS Ltd (Play Equipment Inspection) - £150.00  
Source for Business (Water for Toilet) - £82.44  
Jon Rodford Window Cleaning (Cott Yard) - £190.00  
S Swales (Painting Toilet Building) - £750.00  
Gary Rogers (Cutting bank in car park/trimming orchard/cutting footpaths) - £1100.00

Christian Smith (Paint, Sign and Pipe Bracket) - £123.89  
Karen Bunt (Community Hub Cleaning ) - £88.00  
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) - £30.63  
JR Agirculture (Goonzion) - £490.00

Councillor C Smith left the meeting.

It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal, apart from Councillors H Bunt and G Rogers 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 July 2026 comprised: £622.92 from Country Lane Enterprises as rent for the shop and £20 for use of the Community Hub. She reported that the accounts balanced on 31<sup>st</sup> July 2026 at £54,976.18

## **16. Date of next meeting**

### **To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 14th October 2026.**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> October 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.