

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

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

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith.

Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

The Vice 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 T Hooper, G Rogers, J Williams and A Tamblyn.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th August 2026

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 26th August 2026, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors H Bunt, C Smith and N Ball declared an interest in item 18 on the agenda.

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

Councillor M Rowe reported that he has spoken to the landowner regarding the tree which has fallen across the river near the Holy Well. The landowner does not believe that the tree is on her property. Councillor C Ugalde said that the road to the Holy Well is clear, but the flow of the river is interrupted by the fallen tree. It was agreed that the tree just needs dragging out of the river.

The Vice Chair reported that the posters made by the children at St Neot Primary School regarding fly tipping have been laminated.

Councillor C Smith said that the gate from Doorstep Green onto Loveny Road could be fitted with a rising hinge on a rocker, but the gate would require modification. He said that the hinge would cost approximately £100 - £120 plus the cost of modifications to the gate. He said that a new gate would cost approximately £350. It was agreed that there is disabled access to Doorstep Green using the Church View

access. Councillor H Bunt said that the gate at the bottom of the playing field could be modified by removing the post and installing a field gate rising hinge. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that this latter option be installed and that Colin Alford be asked to undertake the work. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor C Smith said that he has not yet spoken to Colin Alford regarding repairs to the car park wall. The Vice Chair reported that he has been to County Hall and obtained the list of graziers from the register. It was agreed that Councillors H Bunt and T Thrusell would work on compiling a clear list.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The report from PCSO S Edner had been circulated to all councillors.

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

None

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 T Thrussell reported that he and Councillor T Hooper had met with SWW who would like to install a monitoring station in the playing field. After some discussion with them, he said that they have agreed to put it in Doorstep Green, adjacent to the river, under the trees. He said that it will be there for 10 years and they will pay the parish council £1,000. It was agreed that the payment is insufficient as money is required for maintenance of the area. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Councillor T Thrussell asks SWW for payment of a yearly maintenance sum of £200 in addition to the £1,000. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor C Smith presented photographs of areas of Doorstep Green that have been cleared and re-seeded. It was noted that the bins are full. Councillor N Ball said that he would empty them. It was also noted that the bridge into Doorstep Green requires cleaning. Councillor C Smith said that he would attend to this matter.

Councillor C Smith said that the Miracle Theatre (a charity theatre) would like to use the amphitheatre for a production next summer. He said that the performance will last for 2 hours and is aimed at an audience of ages 7+. He said that they will manage the production and have all the relevant insurances. Councillor T Thrussell questioned whether a risk assessment of the parking and layout of the amphitheatre would be required. Councillor M Rowe said that it would bring people into the

village. Councillor H Bunt said that it would be great to see the amphitheatre being used. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the amphitheatre can be used for this purpose subject to them contributing to the cost of repairing any damage plus a donation to the parish council. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor T Thrussell asked if the anti-slip surface on the play tower has been installed as this was highlighted in the play equipment inspection report as being a risk. Councillor R Sanders said that the surface can be slippery at times. He said that it requires cleaning. It was agreed that Councillor A Tamblyn be asked to have a look at the play tower.

Councillor C Smith said that the roof of the Pavilion has a hole in it. He said that the tiles are very thin and are slipping. He said that the woodwork is in excellent condition. He said that there are 3 options. First, clad the roof with Cladco steel profile sheets to match the shop but as it is a hipped roof, it would look unsightly and there would be a lot of waste. He said that the cost would be £8950 plus VAT. Secondly, slate the roof with Brazilian or Spanish grey slates with a terracotta ridge. He said that this would cost £7900 plus VAT. Thirdly, tile the roof in Marley modern tiles at a cost of £6950 plus VAT.

It was agreed that the roof requires replacing urgently. Councillor H Bunt asked if solar panels should be installed at the same time. Councillor C Smith said that this could be done at any time in the future. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that the second option would be the best and Councillor C Smith would obtain two further quotations for this option. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

Councillor C Smith reported that a zip wire has been located at a theme park in Cornwall which has recently closed. He said that it is currently concreted into the ground with 10 cubic metres of concrete. He said that the cost is £3000 (a new one would cost £7795 plus VAT including grass tiles but plus the installation cost) plus £3000 for materials and labour for installation and £2400 for grass matting. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that the zip wire be purchased if it is dug out of the ground with no damage and in good working order. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor N Ball who voted against. The proposal was therefore carried.

It was noted that a meeting with the tenants of the shop needs to be held prior to the Finance Committee meeting. Councillor H Bunt asked the Clerk to inform the cleaner when the Community Hub is booked for hire. Councillor C Smith that the rates bill for the Community Hub is approximately £1400pa and some of this needs to be re-couped.

9. Shop and Community Hub

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

None

10. Cott Yard

To receive and consider matters arising relating to Cott Yard

It was reported that the new tenant – Pollard Architectural Services – is happy with the facility. Councillor C Smith said that the tenant in Suites 2 and 2a vacates the premises on 30th November 2026. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell would put an advert in St Neot News advertising the suites.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

The Vice Chair reported that Cornwall Council will no longer pay for the streetlight in the car park. He said that the cost is £100/pa plus a 6 yearly inspection fee. He said that Cornwall Council will remove the streetlight if the parish council do not take responsibility for the light. It was proposed by Councillor M Rowe and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the parish council takes responsibility for the light. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

It was noted that the new white lining in the car park is complete. The Vice chair thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for arranging this work.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

Councillor C Smith said that the new car park for visitors to the orchard has now been created with parking for 4 cars. The stone from the hedge will be returned to Mervyn Chipman.

13. Goonzion Downs

To consider the management of Goonzion Downs

Councillor T Thrussell said that a schedule for clearing Crowpound, the fire breaks and the football pitch needs to be agreed. Councillor C Smith said that the cost of clearing Crowpound which would involve removing the gorse and putting it into piles to burn would be approximately £650. He said the cost of a 10 hours days trial for clearing the football pitch would be approximately £550. This would involve removing the gorse and putting it into piles to burn. He said that the gold paths are

being used as fire breaks and the areas around the adits do not clearing this year. Councillor M Rowe said that it would cost approximately £500 to cut the verges. It was agreed that it does not all need doing now. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N Ball that Crowpound and the verges be cut at the present time. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Remembrance Sunday

To receive and consider arrangements for Remembrance Sunday and for preparation of the war memorial

The Vice Chair said that Remembrance Sunday is on 8th November 2026 and as many councillors should attend. Peter Parry will lay the wreath which the Clerk will order on the RBL site.

15. Charity Trustees

To receive and consider the appointment of charity trustees

It was proposed by Councillor T Thrussell and seconded by that Councillor C Ugalde that Councillors N Ball and H Bunt and Poppy Crichon and Charles Masters be appointed as the charity trustees. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

16. stneot.org

To receive and consider the management of stneot.org

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Matt Williams if he would take over management of the site from Hatti Webb and report to the next meeting.

17. External Audit Report

To receive and consider the External Audit Report for 2025/26

The Clerk said that most of the findings of the External Auditor related to minor administrative matters. However, she said that the most important comment related to the parish council's statement that it did not comply with Assertion 10 of the Annual Governance Statement which relates to effective IT and data management in accordance with proper practice. It was noted that the Chair is preparing a IT Policy and a Data Protection Policy for consideration at the January meeting of the parish council. In addition, the Clerk said that the parish council does not have a .gov.uk website and that personal email addresses are being used for parish council correspondence. It was agreed that these comments be noted but no further action would be taken at the present time.

18. To receive reports from -

- a) **Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith reported that St Cleer Parish Council supports the proposed year-round no-parking zone and that he has notified Cornwall Highways and the Community Area Partnership. He said the aim is to keep access and passing places clear, without moving the parking problem onto nearby roads. He reported that he is still waiting for a further response from Sergeant Gary Smith and that he will ask PCSO Steve Edser for an update on patrols and how to report blocked access.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith reported that the Warleggan commoners' meeting discussed bulls, cows with calves and injuries to members of the public but clear safety measures and advice from the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) may be needed. He commended St Neot's commoners for their active work in managing the commons. He said that he has now received a map from Biffa showing which roads are swept which has been circulated to all councillors. It was noted that Councillor G Rogers has responded with a comprehensive email commenting on the map which the Clerk will forward to Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith. In terms of safety on the A38, Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith reported that he attended last week's National Highways consultation in Liskeard which was very well attended, with concerns raised about the proposed schemes. He said that he continues to seek safer junctions, short-term improvements and protection for rural lanes.

He reported that he attended the September bus conference and is seeking better rural transport. He said that Cornwall is considering bus franchising.

Cornwall Councillor Sean Smith reported that his current Community Chest allocation has been fully spent. The Clerk said that the parish council's community chest money has not yet been received. He gave the Vice Chair some posters regarding fly tipping which can be displayed in appropriate locations.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that the CAP meeting was held on 6th October 2026 and the main topic of discussion was the proposed safety improvements to the A38.

19. 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
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £56.88
BDO LLP (Audit 2025/26) - £378.00
St Neot News (Advertisement) - £20.00
EDF Energy (Parish Lighting) - £178.32

Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £657.60
Karen Bunt (Community Hub Cleaning) - £56.00
Diana Smith (Toilet Cleaning) - £81.00
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) - £24.40
Keith Clems Line Marking (Remarking of car park) - £685.20

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

To authorize the signing of orders for payment for maintenance of council assets, including –

None

20. Finance Report

To receive a current assessment of the accounts

The Clerk reported that income in August and September 2026 comprised: £1242.84 from Country Lane Enterprises for rent for the shop, £1344.50 from Pollard Architectural as rent for Cott Yard, £675.10 from Heather Taylor as rent for Cott Yard, £70 from Heather Taylor for utilities in Cott Yard, £492.19 from the Hair Salon for utilities in Cott Yard, £155 as rent for the community hub and £24,678.00 from Cornwall Council as the second half of the precept. She reported that the accounts balanced on 30th September 2026 at £74,583.12.

It was agreed that the Finance Committee meeting will be held on Wednesday 25th November 2026.

21. Date of next meeting

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

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Wednesday 11th November 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 9:30pm.

