

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th JUNE 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors T Hooper (Chair), H Bunt, C Smith, A Tamblyn, T Thrussell, H Webb, N Ball, L Jones and G Rogers.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

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

Public Participation

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors M Rowe and D Glanville and from Councillor H Webb for her late arrival at the meeting.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th April 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 15th May 2024, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors G Rogers and N Ball declared an interest in item 19 on the agenda.

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

The Chair said she had not yet met with Heather and Judith Taylor regarding the hedge overhanging Cott wall although some of it appears to have been trimmed. It was agreed that a meeting is still required with the owners of Cott as other parts of their hedge are overhanging the highway. The Chair said that her and Councillor D Glanville will inspect the parish council's assets in due course. It was noted that no further information has been received regarding the St Neots to St Neot cycle ride.

In respect of the alterations which have been made to land owned by the parish council adjacent to the house under construction at the top of Tripp Hill, the Clerk reported that she had written to the owner of the property. It was reported that the trailer has been moved from Goonzion but the owner thinks the parcel of land up to the beech trees is land within his ownership. He is going to forward the parish council a copy of his deeds in due course. It was reported that the road closure/diversion signs in the parish related to statutory works by Wildanet. The Chair said that works to build a new ramp into the cemetery are anticipated to start in the next two weeks with labour being provided for some of the works either free of charge or at a reduced rate.

The Chair thanked those councillors and volunteers who had planted the gazebos in Doorstep Green and had undertaken weed spraying in the village. In addition, she thanked Councillor L Jones, on behalf of the parish council, for cleaning the chess pieces.

The Clerk confirmed that she has given the appropriate notice to the cleaner of Cott Yard.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that a parishioner has reported that part of the Two Valleys walk is obstructed by fallen trees. Councillor G Rogers said that the parish council strims this path but the landowner is responsible for tree removal. He said that he will speak to the landowner.

It was noted that Councillor H Webb is raising invoices for advertising on stneot.org. The Chair said that a volunteer in the village has felt challenged by a parishioner but this matter has been dealt with privately. The Chair reported that an additional company has contacted her regarding the submission of a quotation for the PM/QS role for the extension to the Pavilion and will submit a quotation in due course.

It was noted that the monthly PCSO report had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair said that a request had been received from a parishioner regarding the flying of the Union Flag at the Church on D Day. However, the flag was not flown. She said that she had thanked Heather Taylor for all her work in the village to commemorate the D Day celebrations.

The Chair reported that a query had been raised by the Treasure of St Neot News regarding certain advertisements in St Neot News. It was agreed that the Clerk would respond saying that if the organisation is a charity or community group that has a bank account to allow for income and expenditure, then it pays 50% of the normal advertising charge and if a community group is asking for donations to help cover costs of an event, and this is not a donation for the charity or group to be held on account, then advertising is for free.

The Chair said that Warleggan YFC will discuss the matter of assisting the parish council with maintaining the community orchard at their next business meeting. It was reported that the Post Office will be changing their operating arrangements in the village from 1st July 2024 to Tuesday and Thursday mornings from 9am until 11am and they will not be paying the parish council to rent a space to provide this service. It was agreed that if this proposal was not accepted, the parish would not have any post office service. Councillor H Bunt said that it is important to inform parishioners that this is a decision made by the Post Office not the parish council and is not in any way related to the proposed building of the extension to the pavilion. He said that the details of the new opening times should be advertised in St Neot News and on Facebook.

Councillor G Rogers said he has met with Will Glassop to highlight highways matters in the parish which have been undertaken and those which have not been undertaken or finished to a very poor standard. The latter relates particularly to the

cleaning of gullies adjacent to the highways in the parish. It was agreed that the Clerk would write a letter to Andy James at Cormac regarding the poor standard of work in relation to cleaning the gullies and advising him that at Water Meadow, a gully is blocked and is washing away the driveway of the property. Councillor G Rogers said that Will Glassop says the new 20mph speed limit will come into force at pinch points in the parish. Councillor H Bunt questioned how this speed limit will be enforced. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said it will not be enforced but will act as a deterrent.

The Chair reported that she had prepared a report for St Neot News and had sent it to the editor two days prior to the deadline but the report had not been published.

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

Councillor C Smith said that the projector used at parish council meetings is bulky and noisy. He said that a new, smaller projector could be purchased for approximately £50. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Clerk be authorized to purchase a new projector. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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 H Bunt said that St Neot Primary School are utilizing the electricity supply in Doorstep Green on sports day. The Chair read out a request from LMVC and Loveny Ladies to use Doorstep Green for a BBQ on 17th August 2024. It was agreed that this request was acceptable and that any donations for the use of the area for this purpose would be gratefully received.

Councillor H Webb entered the meeting.

Councillor L Jones said the bin to hold the table tennis balls was being used for rubbish. Councillor C Smith said that this bin has now been removed. Councillor C Smith said that the ROSPA report had been received regarding the play and fitness equipment and the following issues were identified: paint chipped on the table tennis table, rust on the goal posts, chipped paint on the fitness equipment and a faulty chain link and head block on the basket swing. Councillor C Smith said that he had repaired the latter item, but the play tower requires maintenance as part of it is rotten. It was agreed that a working party would be held on Wednesday 24th July 2024 commencing at 6pm to attend to these issues.

Councillor C Smith said that St Neot Carnival is on 24th August 2024 and thought should be given to ideas for a parish council float.

Councillor C Smith reported that works to divert the HV cable will commence on 16th July 2024 and will be connected on 18th July 2024 and that backfill will take place on 19th July 2024. He said that he has attempted to obtain 3 quotations for digging the trench and backfilling with the most reasonable being that from Nick Blanchard in the sum of £2,380 plus VAT. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor L Jones that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that the Clerk would inform the postmaster and parishioners that the PO service will be provided from an alternative site for the week commencing 12th July 2024. Notices will be posted on Facebook and in the village informing users of the PO of the temporary location. In addition, it was noted that signs will need to be erected informing parishioners of the works prior to the 12th July and that the play train will need to be removed prior to works taking place.

Councillor G Rogers said that the table tennis balls have been removed and that there are only two bats, one of which is split. Councillor G Rogers said he will purchase some more balls and bats.

9. Pavillion

To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to the extension to the Pavilion

The Chair said that the amended planning application has now been approved by Cornwall Council. She said that the CLUP grant is now with the Central Team and that a decision is imminent. She said that she will inform Cornwall Council that a decision is required from them regarding the grant application as time is of the essence to appoint a contractor and commence the works. She said that considerable additional information has been submitted to support the application. The Clerk said that the tendering process closes at 5pm on Tuesday 18th June 2024. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that, if no tenders are received, the process using Contracts Finder will not be re-run until a meeting has been held to discuss the matter. Councillor C Smith said that he has contacted the local companies who were sent the link to Contracts Finder, four of which have said they will be submitting a tender. He said that he is having two further site meetings with prospective tenderers later this week. It was agreed that once a preferred tenderer has been selected, a site meeting must be held with them before they are formally appointed.

It was noted that the Building Regulations application has not yet been approved and that, as the proposed development is now being referred to as a “community hub”, the building may require a disabled toilet facility. It was noted that the provision of such a facility has not been included in the grant application so fundraising will have to be undertaken to fulfill this requirement.

To receive and consider a report on any other matters arising relating to the Pavilion

Councillor C Smith said that the gutter has been repaired.

10. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that Pertemps were paying business rates for both suites they occupied in Cott Yard. He said that Country Lane Enterprises are now responsible for paying the rates on Suite 2 and are trying to obtain some rate relief. He said that each suite is charged at £154/month by Cornwall Council. Currently, suite 3 is exempt from paying as it is vacant but this relief will only last for 3 months.

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 bank to the rear of the car park will soon need cutting. Councillor C Smith said that he has attended to the damaged insulation pipe in the building.

It was agreed that a village clean up will take place on Tuesday 2nd July 2024 commencing at 7pm and this will be advertised in the newsletter and on Facebook inviting volunteers to help.

12. St Neot Orchard

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

The Chair thanked Councillor H Webb, on behalf of the parish council, for strimming a path in the orchard.

14. Rubbish Collection

To receive and consider the disposal of rubbish from the public refuse bins

The Chair said that she has found a satisfactory method of disposing of the rubbish.

15. Signage on A38/Carnglaze Caverns Road Junction

To receive and consider the signage on the A38/Carnglaze Caverns Road junction

It was noted that the large sign at the junction of the A38/Carnglaze Caverns Road is used by Carnglaze Caverns' but half of the sign is unused. It was agreed that this part of the sign may be used to advertise the village and the facilities on offer. Councillor C Smith said that a 1.2m x 1m banner would cost approximately £60 and an aluminium one would cost approximately £180. It was agreed that further thought would be given to this matter which would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

16. Annual Governance Statement and Accounting Statements and Conflict of Interest with BDOLLP

a) To register any conflict of interest with BDOLLP

There is no conflict of interest with any councillors with BDOLLP.

b) to approve the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that the Annual Governance Statement for 2023/24 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

c) to approve the Accounting Statements for 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the Accounting Statement for 2023/24 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

17. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 1st June 2024 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 6th July 2024

Councillor A Tamblyn said that a parishioner has reported dogs in the playing field and said there is inadequate signage. It was agreed that the No Dogs sign is clearly visible. In addition, he said that a parishioner complained about the running water and general poor state of the Carnglaze Caverns' road.

It was agreed that the Clerk would ask Councillors M Rowe and D Glanville if one of them could volunteer to attend the market on 6th July 2024.

18. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he is now responsible for 2 divisions as the councillor in the neighbouring division is unwell. He said this means he has 10 parish councils to attend. He said that Cornwall Council has held their AGM and there were no changes to leadership but there was one change in the Cabinet. He said that all the committees also go through the AGM process. He explained that the new waste contract is operational in SE Cornwall and that the number of complaints regarding its operation are less than in the area that had the service implemented before SE Cornwall. He said that this new contract is expensive, but it is far more sustainable than the previous rubbish collection arrangements. He said that a review is being undertaken regarding the deposition of rubble at Connon Bridge. Councillor G Rogers asked why Connon Bridge is no longer suitable for the deposition of rubble. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said he did not know. Councillor G Rogers asked why the roads in the parish are being swept by Biffa when they do

not need to be swept. He also said that he had meetings with Will Glassop and Richard Davies regarding highways matters but he had not received any feedback.

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said the Community Chest is now open.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said the next meeting is postponed until after the general election.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £177.79
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £311.82
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire Alarm Service for Cott Yard) - £118.80
James Hallam (Personal Accident Insurance Premium 2024/25) - £458.99
Playsafety Ltd (Play Equipment Inspection Fee) - £151.20
Sue Blaxley (3 months' salary and expenses) - £2583.74
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) - £638.40
Gary Rogers (Plants and Compost for Gazebo) - £88.36
St Neot Institute (Cleaning Materials for Toilet) - £24.41
Adam Saunders (Repairs to Pavilion Guttering) - £145.00

It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor H Webb that all the above orders be authorized for payment. All Councillors voted in favour, except for Councillors G Rogers and N Ball who abstained from voting.

20. Finance Report

To receive a current financial statement of the accounts and to review income and expenditure against budget

The Clerk reported that income has been received this month as follows: Menheniot Post Office (Pavilion rental) - £262.50; Country Lane Enterprises (Electricity for Cott Yard) - £521.02 and website advertisement - £30.00 The Clerk reported that the accounts balance at £62, 255.85.

Councillor C Smith said that it should be noted that the parish council will have £1578.00 less income per annum from 1st July 2024 due to the changes to the post office service.

21. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 10th July 2024.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 10th July 2024 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room.

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