

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 16th OCTOBER 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors T Hooper (Chair), G Rogers, H Bunt, H Webb, A Tamblyn, T Thrussell, C Smith, M Rowe and D Glanville.

3 representatives from St Neot AFC
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

The representatives from St Neot AFC said they were requesting a financial contribution from the parish council to help them proceed with their proposed new football pitch at Mount. They said that they are hoping to create something positive for the community that everyone can benefit from. They explained that the football club has been running for four successful seasons. Councillor C Smith asked what the length of the lease on the ground would be. They said that it would be for 5 years initially (which the FA are happy with), and they are in discussions with Mount Village Hall regarding changing facilities. They said they are aiming for a bronze tier pitch which will cost approximately £6,000 to establish. Councillor C Smith asked them about their current financial situation. They explained that they have approximately £1,000 in running costs in their bank account and that they cannot obtain lottery funding as they do not have a pitch. Councillor M Rowe asked if they would be asking Mount and Cardinham parish councils for a financial donation. They said that they would be approaching them too.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors L Smith and N Ball.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 14th September 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 10th September 2024, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillors G Rogers declared an interest in item 20 on the agenda and Councillor A Tamblyn declared an interest in item 17 on the agenda.

Councillor A Tamblyn, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

17. St Neot AFC

To receive and consider a request for a financial donation to St Neot AFC

It was agreed that it is fantastic having something coming forward for the community. Councillor C Smith explained that the parish council has a large project underway, working to a tight budget, plus the parish council must facilitate funding a unisex disabled toilet for the project which will cost approximately £10,000. In addition, he said that the parish council is supporting the shop in terms of a reduced rent for Cott Yard and one suite in Cott Yard is vacant, so the revenue streams are also reduced. He explained that, as the parish council currently has financial pressures in this respect, it is a difficult time to give financial assistance to other organisations. He reiterated the consensus view that the parish council does like to support community organisations, but it would not be prudent to commit a sum of money to St Neot AFC at this time. Councillors were unanimous in wanting to support the football club but agreed that, at the present time, the parish council funds are committed to the project at the Pavilion. It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor C Smith that the parish council cannot make a financial donation at the present time but encourage St Neot AFC to make this request again in the New Year. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal. Cornwall Council P Seeva said that St Neot AFC could receive the remaining money in the Community Chest Fund for the 2024/25 financial year.

Councillor A Tamblyn returned to the meeting.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that he had sent photographs to Cornwall Council regarding the collapsed section of the Two Valleys Walk. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the overgrown path on the 100 Steps path to the Countryside Officer. It was noted that Councillor N Ball had not yet replaced the tap in Cott Yard. 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, Councillor T Hooper said she would visit the resident.

Councillor T Thrussell said that he was progressing the erection of parish maps at the following locations: Halfway House pub, wall of public toilet in St Neot car park and at Golitha Falls. It was reported that, following the Clerk's email to the owner of The Old School who was parking his car in the lane, he apologized and moved the vehicle. It was noted that the issue of the Pavilion being left open when no one was on site was resolved. The Clerk said that she has not received a response from Colin Alford regarding repairing/replacing the manhole outside the public toilet. Councillors G Rogers and T Hooper said they would speak to him. Councillor T Hooper thanked Warleggan Young Farmers, on behalf of the parish council, for the work they had done in the orchard. It was noted that the work was not complete. Councillor T Hooper said she would speak to them about completing the works. Councillor G Rogers said he had removed the rotten bench from the orchard. Councillor A Tamblyn said he would repair the broken picnic bench near the Holy Well. Councillor G Rogers said that he will re-erect the fallen footpath sign and post on School Hill.

Councillor C Smith said the fallen trees on the mine tunnel on Goonzion do not represent a risk. It was agreed that this may require attention by a contractor in the Spring. Councillor D Glanville said he would replace the missing mine shaft sign.

The Clerk said she has not yet received a response from Cornwall Council regarding the overgrown hedges on the road past Colliford Dam. Councillor C Smith said he had attended an event at Kerdroya and ascertained that the proposal to charge for use of the car park at Colliford Lake is to financially support the toilets which will be open free of charge. He said that SW Lakes Trust has cut up the burnt-out caravans and removed the resultant debris and that it is their intention to put boulders across the entrances to the half-moon car park near Colliford Dam to prevent vehicles parking there.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair explained that she has had considerable communication regarding parking at Golitha Falls. She said there have been several interactions with Highways and the Police regarding the matter. Cornwall Council does not have any money to fund any measures to improve the parking situation in that location and even if they did, they consider that painting double yellow lines on the roads will force vehicles onto the busier adjacent road and that the installation of Passing Place only signs on the wider sections of the road are not an option. She said the Police have reported no issues to which they have been called and have said that, if an emergency vehicle needs to get through, they would either move the vehicles which are in the way or would use an alternative route. The Chair said that there does not seem to be a way forward, but she will speak to Inky's to ascertain if they have suggestions for a solution. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he had met with residents, Inky's and the Police and that a further meeting will be held. Councillor T Hooper said that she would attend that meeting.

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

Councillor G Rogers said that residents at Milltown are not having their household rubbish collected or their food caddies during the household rubbish collection week but are having their recycling and food caddies collected on the alternate week. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said he would investigate this matter.

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

It was reported that a parishioner has reported a dead multi stem tree in Doorstep Green. It was agreed that this could be attended to at the next Working Party in doorstep Green on 16th November 2024 between 9am and 12 noon. Councillor H

Bunt said that a parishioner has expressed concern about how overgrown the vegetation is in Doorstep Green and has suggested that the parish council employs a gardener one day a week to manage the area. Councillor C Smith said that this would cost approximately £10,000pa which the parish council cannot afford. Councillor C Smith said the picnic tables are being damaged by being dragged around and suggested that they be stacked away for the winter. Councillor C Smith said the play equipment requires servicing.

9. Pavillion

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

The Chair said that, in the last newsletter, whilst she had thanked businesses and others for financial donations towards the village shop project, she had not thanked those who had donated in kind. She said that she will do that when the project is completed. The Chair said that a parishioner would like the parish council to plant a Christmas tree outside the pavilion when the works are complete, for which they will pay. It was agreed that planting a slow growing Christmas tree was a good idea. Councillor T Hooper said the survey of the pavilion and playing field had highlighted 3 main areas: the pavilion is damp and dingy, and access is very difficult as it is always locked; the kitchen in the pavilion cannot be accessed especially by disabled people; there are no items of play equipment for disabled people. In addition, she said that the Scouts have asked if they can use their store whilst building works are taking place. Councillor C Smith said that they know the location of the key. In addition, the Scouts want assurance that they will be able to use the pavilion when they need it and the arrangements in the event of a fire. It was agreed that these matters would be discussed when the project is complete.

Councillor C Smith said that the work is progressing well. He said that the ground works have been completed, the timber frame is almost complete, and the roof trusses will be erected in the next week. He said that the project is on track to finish on time. Councillor C Smith said that the new community hub and shop will require a disabled toilet facility which will cost approximately £7,000 paid for by the parish council. He said that the proposed disabled toilet will be accessed from outside of the pavilion which will be much more convenient for all users of the shop, community hub and playing field.

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

None

10. Cott Yard

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

It was reported that the Clerk and Councillor C Smith had met 2 prospective tenants at Cott Yard. One said the upstairs suite was too big for his needs, but the ground floor suite is suitable for the other prospective tenant for use as a hairdressing salon.

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that a tenancy for use of the ground floor suite as a hairdressing salon be drawn up with the interested party for occupation at the end of January 2025, subject to a £1,000 deposit being paid to secure the suite. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor C Smith reported that the disabled alarm had been inadvertently activated last week and those in the vicinity did not know how to turn off the alarm. Councillor C Smith said there is a reset button on the wall. In addition, the matter was raised as to how one could access the toilet in the event of an emergency if it was locked from the inside. Councillor C Smith said that he has now ordered a new barrel and lock for the key to access the door from outside which will be obtainable through a smash glass cabinet.

Councillor M Rowe said he would clear out the drain to the rear of Cott Yard. Councillor C Smith said that, eventually, the new kitchen in the pavilion will be fitted with stainless steel units and worktops, but the worktops and cupboards currently in storage that were purchased for Cott Yard will be used in the first instance.

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 fascia board and soffit needed repairing/replacing. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that a contractor be appointed to undertake the work. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

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 had strimmed the orchard. He said there is one dead tree in the orchard.

13. External Audit Report

To receive and consider the External Audit Report 2023/24

It was proposed by Councillor T Hooper and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the External Audit Report for 2023/24 be approved. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

14. Safekeeping of Parish Council Documents

To receive and consider options for the safekeeping of parish council documents

Some discussion took place about the options for the safekeeping of parish council documents. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor T Hooper that a fireproof safe (approximate cost £150-£200) be purchased and sited in a suitable location. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

15. St Neot United Charities

To appoint a parish council trustee for St Neot United Charities

Councillor T Hooper explained that St Neot United Charities meet once a year and seek to allocate money from their investments to parishioners who need financial support. It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor M Rowe that Councillor H Bunt be appointed to the vacancy of parish council trustee. All councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

16. Donation

To receive and consider a request for a financial donation from Cornwall Air Ambulance

It was agreed that, whilst this is an essential service we all rely on and money has been set aside in the precept for donations, it would be prudent to wait until the New Year before deciding on this matter.

18. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 5th October 2024 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 2nd November 2024

Councillor T Thrussell said that PCSO S Edsner was in attendance and reported that training is being given to local police officers to be first responders. He said that a parishioner has suggested installing double yellow lines on the bridge and that another parishioner suggested changing the day of the Post Office visit to a Wednesday to coincide with the coffee morning. It was agreed that this was not possible. Councillor T Thrussell said that he did not sell any maps with some commenting that the maps are rather large.

Councillor T Hooper said she would attend the market on 2nd November 2024.

19. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he is still covering for another councillor in the neighbouring division. He said there will be a vote of no confidence in Cornwall Council's leader on 7th November 2024. In addition, he said that the BBC has reported that Cornwall Council is incinerating 63% of its waste. He said this percentage is based on the figures pre the new collection service. Councillor T Thrussell said that recycling is often blown from Biffa's recycling lorries onto the

highway. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he does not attend the CAP meetings as he thinks this is a forum for members of the public and other organisations to express their views.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor M Rowe said that a parishioner had asked if the signs prohibiting HGVs could be moved near Kellows Cottage to prevent them from travelling along that road. He said that he will put some more scalplings in the layby at Crowpound.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell reported that works to the Saltash Tunnel will commence in Autumn 2024 and will take one year, during which time, 45–50-minute delays are anticipated. He said that the Public Inquiry has started regarding the proposed increase to the tolls on the Tamar Bridge.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £189.93
Julie Ball (Toilet, Pavilion and Cott Yard cleaning) - £247.82
Cornwall Council (Business Rates for Cott Yard) - £326.00
Brad Bolitho (Building Works – Pavilion) - £9,831.60
St Neot Produce Market (Table Hire 2019-2023) - £240.00
BDO LLP (External Audit Report) - £378.00
Gary Rogers (Orchard Strimming) £120.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) – £319.20
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) – £57.84
Classic Fire Protection (Fire Extinguisher Testing – Pavilion) - £53.40

Some discussion took place regarding the payment for the table hire for the market. It was agreed that it was unreasonable to request payment this far in arrears and that one of the years included in the invoice was during Covid when the market was not held. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that all the above orders be authorized for payment except for the payment to St Neot Produce market for which £120 would be paid. All Councillors voted in favour, except for Councillor G Rogers who, having previously declared an interest, abstained from voting.

21. 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: £597.29 (Electricity for Cott Yard from CLE), £27.30 (Interest) and £18,491.00 (2nd half of precept). The Clerk reported that the accounts balance at £181,042.75.

It was agreed that a meeting of the Finance Committee would take place in Cott Yard on Tuesday 12th November 2024 commencing at 7pm.

The Chair asked as many councillors as possible to attend the remembrance Service on Sunday 10th November 2024 and said that she would ask Nick Hart to play the bugle and Gary Harding to lay the wreath.

The Chair thanked everyone for all their efforts in the work they do for the parish council.

22. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 21st October 2024.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 20th November 2024 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room.

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