

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 20th NOVEMBER 2024 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM,
ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT**

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

Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

The 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 H Bunt and M Rowe and from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 16th October 2024, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in item 14 on the agenda.

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

It was noted that Councillor N Ball has 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. The Clerk said that she has not received a response from Colin Alford regarding repairing/replacing the manhole outside the public toilet. Councillor G Rogers said that he 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. Councillor G Rogers said there is a considerable pile of debris which needs removing or chipping. Councillor A Tamblyn said he has acquired the wood to repair the broken picnic bench near the Holy Well. Councillor G Rogers said that he has re-erected the fallen footpath sign and post on School Hill.

The Clerk said she has not yet received a response from Cornwall Council regarding the overgrown hedges on the road past Colliford Dam. Councillor T Hooper said she would follow up this matter. She said that she will contact Cornwall Councillor P Seeva regarding setting up a meeting in respect of the parking at Golitha Falls and

ask him if the issue with rubbish collection at Mill Town has been resolved. It was noted that the drain to the rear of Cott Yard has not yet been cleaned out by Councillor M Rowe. Councillor C Smith said that he and Councillor G Rogers have repaired the soffits and fascia on the toilet building and Councillor C Smith said that the safe, holding parish council documents, is now in situ.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair explained that she has had communication from a parishioner regarding his contact with the MP concerning the reduction in Post Office services to the village. Councillor T Thrussell explained that there is additional funding from FIPL to restore neglected landscapes and that some funding has been acquired for Blacktor Downs and the second grant application seeks funding to restore the Downs to its 1982 state. Councillor T Thrussell said that this application is open for consultation. It was agreed that the parish council has no objection to the application. The Chair said that a parishioner has offered a 3m x 6m marquee to the parish council. It was agreed that the parish council would not make use of it and suggested that the marquee be offered to the scouts. The Chair said that 2 surveys have been circulated for completion: one from Devon and Cornwall Police and the other regarding CAP funding. She also said that a parishioner is concerned about HGV's travelling along the lane past Luna as the roads are unsuitable and the roadside drains are blocked. It was agreed that the Clerk would contact Cornwall Council regarding this matter. Councillor T Hooper said that a parishioner will donate a Christmas tree to the parish which will be planted outside the Pavilion. She said that, for this year only, the tree will be retained in a pot in the Churchyard.

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

Councillor N Ball said that Neighbours Together do not have any money in their emergency fund. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor L Jones that a donation of £100 be made to Neighbours' Together emergency fund. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor G Rogers said that untaxed and uninsured vehicles are being parked in the car park. Councillor N Ball said he would speak to the owners of the vehicles. Councillor C Smith asked for views on whether the parish council should continue to send a representative to the Farmers' Market. Some discussion took place regarding this matter and it was agreed that, whilst the market still operates, it is worthwhile for a councillor to attend.

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 Hooper thanked those who attended the Working Party on 16th November 2024. Councillor C Smith said that the dead multi stem tree has been

cleared and chipped. Councillor G Rogers questioned whether the hedges inside the playing field have been cut.

9. Pavillion

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

Councillor C Smith said that the work is progressing well and that a very good quality job is being done. He said that completion of the main part of the project is anticipated to be the 3rd week of December 2024. He said that the solar panels have been fitted and the electrical first fix has been completed. He said there are inevitably additional costs to those detailed in the specification, some of which have occurred due to the building being classed as commercial for the purposes of Building Regulations. He said the most significant of these is the provision of a disabled toilet facility which will cost approximately £8,000. He said that every attempt is being made to secure additional grant funding for this. Councillor C Smith said that the batteries and inverter for the solar panels can be inside or outside the building. It was agreed that the batteries and inverter would be sited on the outside of the building.

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 one of the tenants had reported that the lights to the rear of Cott Yard were not working. Councillor C Smith said he has now repaired the switch to the lights which was causing the fault. In addition, the tenant said that her suite felt cold so the temperature on the heat pump has been turned up to 20 degrees.

The prospective tenant for the ground floor suite who wants to use it as a hairdressing salon has asked if her tenancy commencement could be deferred until 1st May 2025. It was noted that the shop will not be vacating the suite until the end of January 2025. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor H Webb that a tenancy for use of the ground floor suite as a hairdressing salon be drawn up with the interested party for occupation on 1st May 2025, subject to a £2,000 deposit being paid to secure the suite. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor C Smith said that two prospective tenants had viewed the upstairs suite but only required the small office at the end of that suite.

11. Toilets and Car Park

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

None

12. St Neot Orchard

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

None

13. Waste Management

To consider options for managing waste from the litter/dog faeces bins

The Clerk reported that it would cost approximately £300pa per bin for Cornwall Council to empty them. Councillor T Hooper said she was happy with the current arrangement of her emptying the bins but it was agreed that this is a temporary solution.

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

14. Grass Cutting and PROW Quotations

To receive and consider quotations for the grass cutting and PROW contracts for 2025/26

The Clerk reported that Lanhydrock Gardening Services has quoted £279.30/cut for 2025/26 which is a 5% increase on this year. It was agreed that they do an excellent job. It was proposed by Councillor A Tamblyn and seconded by Councillor N Ball that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

The Clerk reported that Gary Rogers has quoted £1,710 for cutting the PROW for 2025/25 compared to £1650 for 2024/25. It was proposed by Councillor L Jones and seconded by Councillor D Glanville that this quotation be accepted. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor G Rogers returned to the meeting.

Councillor G Rogers declared an interest in the following item where it related to the maintenance of Doorstep Green.

15. Precept

To consider the precept for 2025/26

The figures detailing the end of year accounts for 2024/2025, the current year's Precept, the Income and Expenditure as at 31st October 2024 and an estimation of

expenditure until 31st March 2025 were circulated before the meeting plus figures detailing a draft proposal for the Precept for 2025/2026. These figures had been discussed in detail at a meeting of the Finance Committee earlier in November. Councillor C Smith said that income and expenditure need to balance. He said that the biggest proposed increase in expenditure is for Doorstep Green maintenance. He said the garden is now very mature and has been maintained by volunteers. However, he said that the garden needs more professional attention and this needs to be undertaken regularly. He explained that parishioners have expressed concern that it is becoming unkempt. He said that having considered all the information in detail, the Finance Committee had resolved to recommend raising the precept by approximately £12,000 for 2024/25, taking the precept to £47,458. Some discussion took place regarding the merits and demerits of employing a professional contractor to maintain Doorstep Green. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor A Tamblin that the precept be raised for 2025/26 to £47,458. It was proposed by Councillor H Webb and seconded by Councillor T Thrussell that the expenditure figure for Doorstep Green be reconsidered before the precept is agreed for 2025/26. In respect of the first proposal, 6 councillors voted in favour of the proposal, 2 voted against and Councillor G Rogers abstained from voting. In respect of the second proposal, 2 councillors voted in favour of the proposal, 6 voted against and Councillor G Rogers abstained from voting. The first proposal to increase the precept for 2025/26 to £47,458 was therefore carried.

16. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 2nd November 2024 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 7th December 2024

Councillor T Hooper said the following issues were raised: the speed of traffic on the Carnglaze Caverns' road and the possibility of extending the 30mph speed limit; HGV's using the lane past Luna; vehicles being stored in the car park and the parking of vehicles near the bridge.

Councillor G Rogers said he would attend the market on 7th December 2024.

17. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

None. Councillor G Rogers queried when the road sweeper was last in St Neot. The Chair said that she would follow this up with Cornwall Councillor P Seeva.

b) Goonzion Commoners

None

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell reported that he had attended the Transport and Connectivity Working Group and they are campaigning for a direct bus service from Liskeard to

Derriford Hospital. It was agreed that Councillor T Thrussell would raise the issue at the next meeting of what Cornwall Council intends to do with the £10.6 million given to them to invest in bus services.

18. 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) - £247.62
Cornwall Council (Business Rates for Cott Yard) - £326.00
St Neot News (Advertisement) - £10.00
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £19.94
Diana Smith (Toilet Cleaning – Holiday cover) - £96.00
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £37.04
Source for Business (Water for Toilet) - £303.01
St Neot News (Newsletter expenses – July, August, September 2024) - £619.00
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £30.56
British Legion Poppy Appeal - £50.00
Lanhydrock Gardening Services (Grass Cutting) – £319.20
Christian Smith (Extractor Fan, Lock, Alarm accessories) - £523.75

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

19. 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: £628.99 (Electricity for Cott Yard from CLE) and £1,716.85 (PROW grant from Cornwall Council). The Clerk reported that the accounts balance at £168,465.20.

20. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 11th December 2024.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 11th December 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.

