

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON WEDNESDAY, 12th FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT INSTITUTE, ST NEOT

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

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva
Sue Blaxley, Clerk and RFO.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:35pm and confirmed that no one was recording the meeting.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors L Jones.

2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025

The minutes of the meeting held on Wednesday 8th January 2025, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

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 M Rowe said that Kivells had undertaken a Land Registry search to ascertain the ownership of the land in question and that the boundary identified as a result of that search was the same as the one shown on site in that the boundary is identified as the centre of the hedge. Councillor C Smith said that a pathway has been created and fenced with a beech hedge and that whilst this is not an issue, it has been done on parish council land for which the parish council requires peppercorn rent. It was agreed that Councillor C Smith would obtain a quotation for a Solicitor's letter to pursue this matter further.

Councillor T Hooper said that she has not received a response from Cornwall Councillor P Seeva regarding setting up a meeting in respect of the parking at Golitha Falls, the issue with rubbish collection at Mill Town or the road sweeper in the village. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said he would address these issues later in the meeting.

The Chair said she had contacted the Highways Area Manager regarding the possibility of a road closure on the Carnglaze Caverns Road so that landowners could cut the overhanging trees. She said that a road closure could be obtained but the landowners would have to pay for the closure. It was agreed that repairs to the subsiding road may lead to a road closure soon. The Chair said she would ask Cornwall Council for prior notification of this so she could inform the landowners.

The Clerk said that she has had extensive communication with Cornwall Council and Cornwall Housing Association regarding the street light at Lampen bungalows but a satisfactory outcome had not resulted. The Chair said she would ask the tenant to follow this matter up direct with the landlord.

Councillor T Hooper explained that she had put an item in the newsletter reminding dog owners to pick up their dogs' faeces. She said there may be some funding available in due course for the provision of a defibrillator at the Halfway House pub.

In respect of the slippery play surface on the play equipment, Councillor C Smith said that the cold weather has killed the algae. The Chair said that the manhole cover in the car park has been repaired. She thanked everyone, on behalf of the parish council, who helped with painting the interior of the Pavilion.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chair said that there is further CLUP funding available for 2025/26. She said that the Village Hall Steering Group has approximately £300 to go towards the new community hub.

It was noted that PCSO S Edsner's monthly report had been circulated to all councillors. The Chair said the RBL Poppy Appeal requires a new volunteer to coordinate the appeal in St Neot. It was agreed that the Chair would advertise this in St Neot News and that the Clerk would ask the President of St Neot WI to ask members if they are interested.

Councillor T Hooper said that she has received comments that parking in the village is a problem on some evenings. It was agreed that the matter of parking would be an agenda item at the next meeting. Councillor G Rogers said there is a car parked illegally in the car park in that it has no number plates. Councillor N Ball said he would speak to the owner and ask him to remove the vehicle.

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 H Webb said that she continues to inspect the play equipment on a regular basis and that it is in good order. It was noted that a request has been received for a net on the play tower. It was agreed that the next working party to tidy up Doorstep Green will take place on Saturday 22nd March in the morning.

9. Pavillion

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

Councillor C Smith said that most councillors have had a look inside the building and at the surrounding environs. He said that the main contract is complete with a few electrical jobs outstanding which will be undertaken when EDF connect the 3 phase supply. He explained that the new signage will be erected soon and the new flooring for the Pavilion will be laid next week. The Clerk said the Broadband will be installed on 24th February 2025. Councillor C Smith explained that the new kitchen has been fitted using the kitchen that was originally for Cott Yard. It was noted that the shop will open in the new building on 3rd March 2025 and that the lease is awaiting signature by both parties. Councillor C Smith said that he is obtaining quotations for new heaters for the pavilion. He said that a meeting had been held with John Body regarding the way forward for the scouts, beavers and cubs in their use of the community hub. He said that a baby changing facility would be installed in the disabled toilet in due course and that the Building Regulations application requires signing off.

It was agreed that a deep clean of the site is required both inside and outside prior to handing it over to the tenant. It was agreed that this would be undertaken by a group of community volunteers and that the Chair would advertise this on Facebook.

It was agreed that on Saturday 22nd March 2025, 6 trees would be planted and stone picking of the new ground would take place by community volunteers. It was agreed that the official opening of the shop and community hub would take place on Saturday 5th April 2025 commencing at 2:30pm.

Councillor T Hooper said that a fault has been identified with the fire alarm which has hopefully been resolved. She said that the Post Office will resume service in the community hub when their Broadband is re-installed.

Councillor T Hooper thanked Councillor C Smith, on behalf of the parish council, for all his hard work with the project.

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 noted that the vacant suite has been advertised on Facebook and in St Neot News but a new tenant has not yet been found. Councillor C Smith said that he has sought quotations for a commercial company to find a tenant and that Kivells has quoted £1,200 plus VAT with an additional charge for an EPC whilst Jefferies has quoted £750 plus VAT with an additional charge for an EPC. The advertised rent will be £4,700 pa plus additional charges, such as heating and use of the communal areas. It was proposed by Councillor N Ball and seconded by Councillor A Tamblyn that Jefferies be instructed to advertise the suite. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal.

Councillor C Smith said the lease is ready to be signed for use of the ground floor suite as a hairdressing salon. It was agreed that the tenant will clean the communal areas in lieu of her paying the £535pa charge for using 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

None

12. St Neot Orchard

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

It was agreed that a working party will take place on Saturday 15th February 2025 to clear and chip the debris on the bank cut by Warleggan Young Farmers. It was noted that wassailing of the orchard will not take place this year.

13. Road Sweeper

To discuss matters arising relating to the road sweeper

Councillor G Rogers questioned how much Cornwall Council is paying the road sweeper. He reported that the road sweeper visits the village when it is not required but not when it is needed ie. when the leaves fall. He said that the January and February road sweeps were undertaken 6 days apart. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he has asked for a report for the whole division from Cornwall Council but has not yet received a response.

14. Farmer's Market

To receive a report from the councillor who attended the farmer's market on 1st February 2025 and to appoint a representative to attend the farmer's market on 1st March 2025

Councillor H Bunt reported that he had attended the market with PCSO S Edsner. PCSO S Edsner will monitor the new 20mph speed limit when it is in place. He said that PCSO S Edsner would like to be notified of events taking place in the village. He said that a parishioner asked when the portable toilet in the wood near Carnglaze Caverns will be removed. Councillor N Ball said he would attend the market on 1st March 2025.

15. To receive reports from -

a) Cornwall Councillor

Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that he is no longer involved in the neighbouring division. He said that St Neot AFC were awarded the final Community Chest money of 2024/25 for their new football pitch. He said that regarding Golitha Falls, the lease issue with Inky's and Cornwall Council has now been resolved and therefore, he will set up a meeting with himself, Councillor T Hooper and Inkeys regarding the ongoing parking issues at Golitha Falls.

He said the budget meeting will take place soon and it is anticipated that there will be a 4.99% increase. He said the proposed increase in the budget does not include the proposed increase in the tolls on the Tamar Bridge as there has not yet been a decision from the Secretary of State regarding the proposed toll increase. He said Cornwall Council elections will take place in May 2025.

Councillor G Rogers said that the parish council requested that the recent planning application to create an off-street parking place at a property in Lampen Terrace be considered by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee. However, he said this did not happen and the application was refused. Councillor G Rogers challenged Cornwall Councillor P Seeva to explain why he did not discuss the application with the Chair of the Planning Committee prior to agreeing with the Case Officer that the application was not going to be considered by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee and would be refused under delegated powers. Cornwall Councillor P Seeva said that the Case Officer was adamant that support could not be given to the application and that it was therefore not appropriate for it to be considered by Cornwall Council's Planning Committee. Councillor T Hooper said that the parish council was disappointed that the application was refused as a similar application in the vicinity was approved.

Councillor G Rogers said that he had heard that some roads are deemed to be unsuitable for a 20mph speed limit and questioned what this means.

b) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor C Smith said that it is rumored that there may be a burn on Goonzion this weekend.

c) SE Cornwall CAP

Councillor T Thrussell said that he had attended a Transport and Connectivity Group in preparation for next week's CAP meeting. He said that extra train services will be

operating when works to the Saltash Tunnel are taking place. He said that the Peninsula Transport Plan will be circulated to all parish councils for comment.

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

Cornwall Pension Fund (Pension for Clerk) - £183.06
Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning) - £247.82
EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavilion) - £136.15
South West Water (Water for Cott Yard) - £29.23
Source for Business (Water for Toilet) - £227.69
Source for Business (Water for Pavilion) - £31.92
Richards Builders Merchants (Paint for Pavilion) - £23.99
St Neot Social Club (Cleaning \materials for Toilets) - £24.41
Classic Fire Ltd (Fire Extinguishers for Shop/ Fire Extinguisher Servicing) - £339.90

Councillor C Smith said that the cost of the water for the public toilet for a quarter seems very high. Councillor A Tamblyn said that he will carry out a leak test. It was proposed by Councillor H Bunt and seconded by Councillor H Webb that the above orders be authorized for payment. All councillors voted in favour of the proposal apart from Councillor N Ball who abstained from voting.

17. Finance Report

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

The Clerk reported that prior to the above payments being made, the bank account balances at £3322.68. She explained that she has filed a VAT return in the sum of £13,226.25 and is waiting for the repayment.

The Chair said that the varied work of the parish council has been overshadowed this last year by the community hub and shop project. She said that it is very important not to forget all the other work that the parish council does: attending parish council meetings, attending meetings held by external organisations, working parties, weekly jobs such as inspecting the play equipment and emptying the litter bins, working parties, odd jobs in the parish all year round and listening to our parishioners, all of which take up a lot of time and commitment. She said that this results in a valued and treasured community and fantastic community spirit and thanked everyone very much for all their efforts of which they should be very proud.

18. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date of the next Parish Council meeting on Wednesday 12th March 2025.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 12th March 2025 commencing at 7:30pm in the Village Hall/Social Club meeting room.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 9:25pm.

