

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY , 12th MAY 2015 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT VILLAGE HALL, ST NEOT**

**Present:** Councillors N J Ball, H Bunt, Mrs M Merrett-Jones, A L Bellringer, Dr L Jones, M Woodward, C Smith, R Berrett and G Rogers.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson  
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

**Public Participation**

None

**1. Apologies**

Apologies were received from Councillors B Pollard and Mrs P Greenwood.

**2. Election of Chairman**

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A L Bellringer that Councillor N J Ball be elected as Chairman. No other nominations were received. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor N J Ball thanked everyone for their support and took the Chair.

**3. Election of Vice Chair**

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor G Rogers that Councillor Dr L Jones be elected as Vice Chair. There were no other nominations and the proposal that Councillor Dr L Jones be elected as Vice Chair was carried unanimously.

**4. Election of Planning Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N J Ball that Councillor Dr L Jones be elected as Chairman of the Planning Committee. No other nominations were received. All Councillors voted in favour of the proposal. Councillor Dr L Jones said she would accept this position but emphasised that all members of the Planning Committee must comply with the Nolan rules and offer their full support to her in this respect. All councillors, except for Councillors B Pollard, M Woodward, P Greenwood and A L Bellringer expressed a desire to be on the Planning Committee.

## **5. Election of Finance Committee**

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that the following Councillors would be on the Finance Committee: Councillors M Woodward (Chairman), A L Bellringer, N J Ball, Dr L Jones and C Smith. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

## **6. Election of Representatives**

### **a) Goonzion Downs Commoners.**

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Councillor H Bunt be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

### **b) Village Hall Management Committee.**

It was proposed by Councillor A L Bellringer and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Councillor C Smith be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

### **c) Bodmin Moor Parishes Network**

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Councillor Mrs M Merrett-Jones be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

### **d) Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Councillor Mrs M Merrett-Jones be appointed as the representative for the following year. The proposal was carried unanimously.

### **e) Liskeard Have Your Say Panel**

It was proposed by Councillor A L Bellringer and seconded by Councillor C Smith that Councillor Dr L Jones be appointed as the representative for the following year. This proposal was carried unanimously.

## **7. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016**

The minutes of the meeting held on 14<sup>th</sup> April 2016, having been previously circulated, were agreed as an accurate record subject to an addition to state that Councillor G Rogers left the meeting at 8pm.

## **8. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

None

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

Councillor H Bunt asked why it was resolved at the last meeting not to pay off the loan for Cott Yard prior to the expiry of its term in view of the fact that there are sufficient funds in the bank account. The Chairman said that it was considered too much of a risk given that the current tenants have only signed a one year lease. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed again at the beginning of next year when we may know if the tenants are prepared to sign a longer lease.

Councillor G Rogers said that he would not be available for the carnival and so his truck would not be able to be used for a float. Councillors C Smith, N J Ball and Dr L Jones said they would be away when the carnival takes place. It was agreed that the parish council would not be able to participate this year.

**10. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman read out the St Neot United Charities report which said that there was a meeting on 7th December 2015 chaired by Mr C Masters. The minutes of the meeting held on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2014 were read and approved and the vicar, The Rev Philip Biggs, was welcomed to the meeting. There were no other changes to officers and trustees. The accounts were presented and adopted. Income for the year totaled £1142 and monies spent assisting 14 persons in the parish and the school totaled £1000. The balance is retained in the bank account in case of need for any emergency. The report went on to say that the value of their investments has increased to £6284.

The Chairman said that he had received a complaint that a building is being erected at Trevenna which may not have the benefit of planning permission. It was agreed that the Clerk would report this matter to the Enforcement Officer at Cornwall Council.

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

Councillor Mrs M Merrett-Jones said that she had received a request for a litter bin to be provided in Doorstep Green. She also said that one of the bottom loops on the wooden bridge in the playing field is missing. Furthermore, she said that a parishioner had suggested taking a photograph of everyone attending the village picnic in June.

**12. To receive a report from the Clerk**

None

### **13. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market**

**To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on 7th May 2016 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016**

Councillor R Berrett said he had attended the market on 7th May 2016 and Owen Stevens was, once again, complaining about potholes. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that Cornwall Council has ascertained that School Lane is a 4b road and that the matter of it being covered in rubble has been reported to the highways department as the road is impassable in a vehicle. Also, she said that the EHO is looking into the matter as the deposition of rubble constitutes fly tipping. Councillor N J Ball volunteered to attend the next surgery on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2016. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson sent her apologies for this meeting.

### **14. To receive reports from -**

#### **a) Police / Liskeard Have Your Say Panel**

None

#### **b) Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson**

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that there will be a Bodmin Moor Parishes Network meeting next week when the proposed dark sky initiative for Bodmin will be discussed, as well as a possible 40mph speed limit on unfenced moorland roads and rural broadband. Councillor Dr L Jones commented that superfast broadband will be coming to Ley in September 2016. The Chairman said the cabinet to facilitate this will be somewhere on Mr Tamblin's land. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that Cornwall Council's AGM will be taking place next week. She commented that the issue of councillors' remuneration will be a hot topic of debate in the coming months.

#### **c) Goonzion Commoners**

None

#### **d) Bodmin Moor Parishes Network and Liskeard Looe Community Network Panel**

None

### **15. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including –**

Playsafety Limited (annual play equipment inspection) - £84.00  
South West Water (water for Pavillion) - £16.57

BT (internet for Cott Yard) - £106.20  
South West Water (water for toilets) - £22.77  
South West Water (water for Cott Yard) - £50.72  
Julie Ball (cleaning of toilets – May 2016) - £138.67  
Malcolm Woodward (tube and starters for light) - £5.37  
Sarah Dance (grass cutting) - £160.00  
Christian Smith (materials for works to Doorstep Green) - £94.86  
Sarah Dance (Grass cutting) - £160.00  
Richards Builders Merchants (Timber for Doorstep Green) - £4.44  
St Neot News (expenses for newsletter) - £498.81

It was proposed by Councillor G Rogers and seconded by Councillor M Woodward that all of the above orders for payments be authorized. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

**16. To receive correspondence from -**

- a) **Cornwall Council**
- b) **Others**

None

**17. Finance Report**

**To receive a current financial statement of the accounts**

The Clerk reported that this month we have received income of £15,683.53 as the first half of the precept and £136.50 for the rental of the pavilion as a post office. The accounts balance at £65,131

**18. Flower Boxes**

**To consider the erection of flower boxes and other soft landscaping on Bush Hill**

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said she had met with Adrian Drake and Kent Gossmeier and that Adrian Drake had said that flowerbeds can be planted on the grass verge adjacent to Bush Hill. He had also said that the parish council could install kerb stones on the highways edge but it would be at the parish council's expense. Councillor A L Bellringer said that an edge to the highway, in the form of kerbstones, is imperative as the water runs down Bush Hill and leaves a large gully at the edge of the highway. Councillor N J Ball said he would ask CORMAC to give a rough estimate as to how much it would cost for them to lay kerbstones in this location and report back to the next meeting.

## **19. Drain Cleaning**

**To consider establishing a group of volunteers to clear the drains in the parish**

Councillor C Smith commented that it is not the parish council's remit to clear out drains. He said that if there is a problem with a drain, it should be reported to Cornwall Council who will attend to the matter. He said that, in an emergency, the parish council would attend to a blocked drain as they have done in the past.

## **20. Handrail**

**To consider installing a handrail adjacent to the steps from Tripp Hill into Lukes Yeat**

It was agreed that the Chairman would ascertain whether this land is privately owned or adopted by Cornwall Council and report to the next meeting.

## **21. Footpaths**

**To consider the PROW maintenance**

Councillor Dr L Jones said that she had been asked by a parishioner why the parish council pays a lot of money to maintain the footpaths, many of which are over moorland. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson explained that it is a SLA with Cornwall Council and they pay the parish council to undertake the works. She said that Cornwall Council dictate which paths have to be cut under the terms of the SLA. Councillor Dr L Jones questioned whether the works undertaken by the contractor represent good value for money especially as the work is not checked. The Clerk said that, with each invoice, the contractor details the date and location of each path that he has cut. Councillor C Smith said that he often walks some of the paths and the contractor is definitely doing a good job.

## **22. Goonzion Downs**

**To consider the restoration/replacement of signs on Goonzion Downs**

Councillor C Smith showed some photographs of the signs on Goonzion Downs which, he said are difficult to read and are starting to rot. He said that these need to be replaced in a like for like format but in a more solid and sustainable material. It was agreed that the Clerk would report the matter to Rebecca Dickson at CORMAC.

### **23. Play Area Safety Inspection Report**

#### **To receive and consider the Play Area Safety Inspection Report**

The Clerk read out the items of risk as identified by ROSPA in the play area safety inspection report written in April 2016. She emphasized that it is imperative, for health and safety reasons, the report is taken seriously and the matters attended to urgently. She gave the report to Councillor C Smith who said that he would attend to the matters raised in the report with Councillor A L Bellringer on Saturday morning.

### **24. Cott Yard**

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

Councillor G Rogers said the ground gutters to the rear of the building need cleaning out. Councillor M Woodward said he would attend to this. The Clerk said it was a condition of the parish council's insurance that these gutters be kept clear of dirt and debris. Councillor G Rogers said he would spray the weeds on the brick pavers in Cott Yard. It was agreed that further weed spraying would take place in the village on Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> June 2016 by Councillors C Smith, A L Bellringer and N J Ball.

### **25. Toilets and Car Park in St Neot**

#### **To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to the toilets and car park in St Neot**

The Chairman reported that a Metro Rod had had to be called out on one occasion this month as the toilet was flooded and there was excrement everywhere. He said the company jetted the drains and undertook a photographic survey. He said the drain blocks up every week and he plunges it. It was agreed that the flush mechanism needs replacing as the existing one does not deliver enough water. Councillor N J Ball said he would attend to this matter.

### **26. Doorstep Green**

#### **To confirm the date and time of the next working party to undertake maintenance works to Doorstep Green**

Councillor C Smith reported that the WI is undertaking a working party on 19<sup>th</sup> May 2016 between 6pm and 8pm to clear the paths in Doorstep Green in time for the Queen's 90<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. He said that as many councillors as possible are asked to help the WI with this effort. The Clerk said she had

collected the new community garden signs and Councillor C Smith said he would erect them.

**27. St Neot Orchard**

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

Councillor Dr L Jones said that she thought a contractor should be employed to trim the orchard. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson suggested asking the restorative justice team. It was agreed that Councillors C Smith, Dr L Jones, G Rogers and R Berrett would undertake the strimming.

**28. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 8th June 2016**

The date of the next Parish Council meeting will be on Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> June 2016 at 7:30pm in the Committee Room, St Neot Village Hall.

The meeting was closed at 8.50pm

Signed.....

Dated.....