

MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY, 14TH APRIL 2016 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE ROOM, ST NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT

Present: Councillors N J Ball (Chair), Dr L Jones, M Woodward, R Berrett, C Smith, G Rogers, A L Bellringer and Mrs P Greenwood.

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)
Graham Sargent and Sandra Gilbride

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

Graham Sargent asked if it would be possible to have a raised kerb installed on the grass verge on Bush Hill adjacent to Great Meadow as the ground is very rutted. He said that he understood that Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson was having a meeting with Adrian Drake and Kent Gossmeier on 20th April 2016 to discuss this matter further. Graham Sargent said that the drains in the village are becoming blocked with detritus because the roads are not being swept often enough. He suggested establishing a group of volunteers to clear the drains on a regular basis. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council. Councillor M Woodward said that the drains have been cleared today. Graham Sargent also said that there is no sign on Bush Hill welcoming drivers to St Neot. The Clerk said she would forward this comment on to Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson. Graham Sargent said there was also a need for the installation of a hand rail next to the steps leading from Tripp Hill into Lukes Yeat. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council.

Sandra Gilbride explained that she will be submitting a planning application for the erection of a dwelling on a parcel of land adjacent to the road leading to Northwood. The Chairman said that the parish council is not able to pre judge a decision on an application but will approach consideration of the application with an open mind. Councillor Dr L Jones advised Mrs Gilbride to look at the relevant section of the Cornwall Local Plan which relates to Liskeard and Looe and to talk to the officers at Cornwall Council who deal with development in the AONB.

1. Apologies

Apologies were received and accepted from Councillors Mrs M Merrett-Jones, H Bunt and B Pollard.

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 9th March 2016, having previously been

circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

3. Declarations of interest in items on the agenda

None

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

The Clerk reported that the Carnival Committee has agreed to purchase some new litter bins for the playing field. Councillor G Rogers said that he had removed the broken section of the concrete bin. The Chairman said he had asked CORMAC if they had any replacement bins but he had not received a response.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

None

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

None

7. To receive a report from the Clerk

None

8. Councillor Surgery at Local Produce Market

To receive feedback from the Councillor surgery on Saturday 2nd April 2016 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 7th May 2016

Councillor Mrs P Greenwood said that she had attended the market. She said that she had received complaints about the state of the grass verge adjacent to Great Meadow, the gate on the cattle grid on the road to Polmenna does not open, a restricted width sign is needed on the road between Ley and Polmenna to prevent lorries from using it and a road sign on the bend at Trevenna is needed to warn vehicles of the sharp bend. She said that she had also been asked about the provision of dog faeces bins on the moor and a charging point for electric vehicles in St Neot car park. Councillor N J Ball said he would attend the Councillor surgery at the market in April.

9. To receive reports from -

- a) **Liskeard Have Your Say Panel**

Councillor Dr L Jones said that Rebecca Dickson is putting in place some new road signage so it would be a good idea to forward to her the comments already made regarding the need for some new signs. Councillor Dr L Jones said that from 6th April 2016, all dogs, from the age of 8 weeks, have to be chipped and that failure to do this is a prosecutable offence. She said there is a new combined police, ambulance and fire station in Liskeard. She explained that there was an attempt at a rave on the moor during the Easter weekend so parishioners should keep a watchful eye for convoys of vehicles. Councillor Dr L Jones said that the problem of dead ponies on the moors remains and that while Bodmin Moor Statutory Council has been established, they have not yet held a meeting. She explained that their rules have to be agreed by central government. She reported that 40 ponies have been removed from the moor and have been re homed. She said that many ponies on Goonzion Downs will be removed as they are unhealthy and many of them are not chipped. Councillor Dr L Jones said that Speedwatch have been very active at St Ive. She said the Police and Crime Commissioner Election will be taking place on 5th May 2016. She explained that there had been four reported crimes this month. Councillor Dr L Jones also said that she had received a response to her letter regarding the low level of funding in rural areas. The response said that a fair funding review for rural areas has been announced.

b) Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson

None

c) Goonzion Commoners

None

d) Bodmin Moor Parishes Group

None

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

Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning – March) - £138.67

Sarah Dance (Grass cutting) - £160.00

Mrs S Blaxley (Printer cartridges) - £16.56

CALC (Good Councillor Guide booklets) - £5.51

CALC (Annual Membership 2016/17) - £310.01

EDF Energy (Electricity for Pavillion) - £90.12

Opus Energy (Electricity for Cott Yard) - £162.96

Caradon Computers (laptop/printer and projector setup) - £40.00

St Neot Social Club (cleaning materials for toilets) - £20.37

It was proposed by Councillor A L Bellringer and seconded by Councillor C Smith

that all of the above orders for payment be authorized. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

11. To receive correspondence from -

a) Cornwall Council

It was reported that a letter has been received regarding a public consultation which is taking place between 4th April 2016 and 2nd May 2016 to gather views regarding a proposal for a Dark Sky Park on Bodmin Moor.

b) Others

It was reported that we have received a letter from Cornwall Air Ambulance thanking us for our donation.

12. Finance Report and Insurance for 2016/17

To receive a current financial statement of the accounts and to receive and consider quotations for the parish council's insurance for 2016/17

The Clerk reported that this month we have received income of £46.91 interest and £136.50 rent for the use of the pavilion as a post office. The accounts balance at £56,371.69. She explained that the internal auditor had asked that several quotations be sought for the parish council's insurance for 2016/17 which she said she had attempted to do. She reported that several insurance companies had responded saying that they were unable to provide a quotation because of the £100,000 claim for flood damage to Cott Yard within the last 5 years. Allianz indicated that the premium would be in excess of £6,000 and would not include some of the bespoke covers that are currently covered by Aviva. She reported that she had sought professional advice and that the recommendation was to continue with Aviva who have been the parish council's insurer for the last three years as they provide very wide cover and are an extremely stable and reliable insurer. She said the annual premium is £5227.10. It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor N J Ball that the quotation from Aviva be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

13. Flower Boxes

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

As there had been no further progress regarding this matter, it was deferred until the AGM in May.

14. Pavillion

To consider the internal cleanliness and appearance of the Pavillion

Councillor C Smith showed some photographs of the inside of the pavilion which he said is in a scruffy and untidy state. He said that the parish council receives a reasonable rent for this building from the post office and that it is unacceptable for it to be in the state that it is in. He said the kitchen and toilet are untidy and dirty, the windows have not been cleaned, the carpet is dirty and the place is generally very untidy. He commented that no one is taking responsibility for its maintenance or for keeping it clean. Councillor Dr L Jones suggested employing someone to clean the building on a regular basis. Councillor C Smith said that the scouts have enough money to buy some storage mediums in which to place their equipment. It was noted that the scouts do not pay to use the Pavillion. Councillor N J Ball said the post office operatives do not tidy the tables away when they have used them. It was proposed by Councillor C Smith and seconded by Councillor N J Ball that John Body from the scouts and Andy Merrett-Jones from the Art Group be invited to the meeting of the parish council in June 2016 to discuss the upkeep of the pavilion, storage and its general cleanliness. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

15. Carnival

To consider the Parish Council's entry for the Carnival

It was noted that the carnival will take place on Sunday June 19th 2016 and that Councillors C Smith and Dr L Jones will not be available on the day. However, it was agreed that the parish council want to support this event and will put together a float for the procession.

16. 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

Councillor Dr L Jones said that it was important to note that Cornwall Council are not taking over the running of public toilets and that this has been devolved to parish and town councils. She said that Cornwall Council was, however, offering some financial assistance towards the installation of 20p coin operated slot machines at the toilets. Councillor R Berrett said that the parish council's arrangement with the donation box appears to be working well. It was agreed that the parish council does not want to charge people to use the public toilet. Councillor Mrs P Greenwood said the toilets at Golitha Falls have reopened and that there is a take away franchise operating there too.

17. Doorstep Green

To receive and consider a report on any matters arising relating to Doorstep Green

Councillor C Smith explained that only three volunteers attended the working party on Saturday 9th April. He said that Councillor G Rogers pressure washed the bridge and that the structure is sound although some of the boarding going across the bridge is rotting but is still safe to walk on. He said this boarding will need replacing in the next 12 to 18 months. He commented that the company who built the bridge are no longer operating and that whilst the drawings specify a forty year life expectancy for the bridge, it has not been maintained. He said that he does not think there is any course for redress to any party. Councillor C Smith said the boardwalk was pressure washed too and that 6 boards need replacing. He said that one of the gazebo planters was rebuilt and is awaiting planting. He explained that there are many benches and seats in Doorstep Green which are in a good state of repair and that further seating was not needed. Councillor Mrs P Greenwood said that the picnic to celebrate the Queen's 90th birthday will take place in Doorstep Green on Sunday 12th June 2016 at 3pm followed by Songs of Praise at 5pm.

18. St Neot Orchard

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

The Chair explained that we are waiting for the solicitors to complete the necessary paperwork regarding the land transfer in the orchard. It was noted that a limb of a tree has fallen onto the fence in the orchard and that the orchard will need strimming soon and eight weeks thereafter

19. Cott Yard

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

Councillor C Smith reported that 1291 heating units have been used this quarter and that Restgarth will be invoiced accordingly. Councillor Dr L Jones asked what the notice period was on Restgarth's lease. Councillor C Smith said there was no notice period. The Clerk reported that Source Energy had been called out to address the issue regarding the heating not working in the old archive room and that the matter was now rectified. It was agreed that as Restgarth have not signed a five year lease for Cott Yard, the parish council cannot afford to pay the loan off early for the building at this stage.

20. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be the AGM on Wednesday 4th May 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 4th May 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

The meeting was closed at 8:40pm.

Signed..... Dated.....