

**MINUTES OF THE ST NEOT PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON
WEDNESDAY, 10TH FEBRUARY 2016 AT 7:30PM IN THE COMMITTEE
ROOM, ST NEOT SOCIAL CLUB, ST NEOT**

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

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson
Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

Kent Gossmeier.

The Chair opened the meeting at 7:30pm.

Public Participation

None

1. Apologies

None

2. To confirm the minutes of the last meeting

The minutes of the meeting held on 26th January 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 Chairman said that he is still trying to obtain a new bin for the playing field from CORMAC.

5. To receive the Chairman's Communications

The Chairman read out a letter from St Neot Parochial Church Council asking if the playing field could be used for car parking on Oak Apple Days. It was noted that this year's Oak Apple Day is on 29th May 2016. Councillor Mrs P Greenwood explained that the event is not extensively advertised as they do not want too many people to attend because of the limited parking. Councillor C Smith asked if parking was a problem last year. Councillor Mrs P Greenwood said she was not sure. Councillor H Bunt said that the school may be able to be

used for parking. It was agreed that the matter would be discussed at the meeting of the parish council in March 2016.

The Chairman reported that a complaint has been received regarding a drain that is blocked in the playing field which is causing water to flood the path and making it impassable. It was noted that the drain is under the willow on the right hand side immediately inside the far entrance to the playing field. Councillors N J Ball and A L Bellringer said they would investigate this matter.

The Clerk read out the 2015 Archive Report which read as follows: "We have had another busy year at the Archive. We open from 10 – 12 on Tuesdays and Thursdays as well as at other times on request.

The Website is regularly updated and you will find our annual programme there. We have had 2242 visitors to the website which has also then led to numerous email requests particularly in regard to family history which we respond to immediately. We have had 11 personnel visitors from abroad, USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand, visiting to research their family history, we gather as much information for them as we can from our archive records as well as transporting them to various locations where their ancestors lived. Many local people have visited us bringing in photos and documents for us to scan, others have viewed existing records we keep.

We have hosted two large groups showing them our village and the work that we are able to achieve with the archive. The Cornwall Local Archive Group had one of their meetings in the Archive so we were able to proudly show them our facilities and how our records are organised. We participated in the Oak Apple Day celebrations, again putting up notices, distributing fliers, decorating the Church gates and giving the children flags. This year Reef TV company liaised with us prior to filming some of our Oak Apple Day celebrations for Penelope Keith's Hidden Villages programme.

Our Insurance somewhat inhibits the use of the Archive by other groups as we have to have one of our members present whenever the Archive is open however even so we have been able to allow the Parochial Church Council the use of the room on 5 occasions and the Church Fund raising Group on a further occasion. We have had 2 Scout groups and 2 Beaver/Cub groups achieve their photography and IT badges using Historians/Archive equipment. A Phd Oxford student has visited for research purposes and we are about to have a visit from the Jam Club children. This year we have produced the Armistice Day leaflet acknowledging the fallen St Neotians from World War 1. St Neot Historians

continue to hold the Glencross Historical documents. These continue to be catalogued.

Finally we have worked with a lady from North Cornwall who used our Churchyard records to put online photographs and text from most of the tombstones in our Churchyard and Cemetery. This is now accessible to all online.

We now have to make sure that following the move to our downstairs room all of our records are still correctly stored and logged on the data base. This move could not have been achieved without the help of the Parish Council and our own members who readily came forward to assist. We have more shelving so should be able in due course to take further Parish Council records.

I should like to formally thank the regular time, support and help that Maggie, Isobel and Mike have given to the archive alongside Jill, Chris and I. Thanks too for the occasional help from other members. Without this help we would not be able to run this valuable village asset”.

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 6th February 2016 and to appoint a volunteer for the next surgery on Saturday 5th March 2016

Councillor Dr L Jones said that she had attended the market. She said that she had received a complaint about potholes which are particularly bad on the road past Colliford Lake to the A30. She said that she had also received a query about the salary that is paid to the new CEO of Cornwall Council. Councillor Dr L Jones explained that she had become engaged in conversation at the market with an elderly couple who live on the outskirts of St Neot. They told her that when they are unable to drive, they will have to give up their car and move. Councillor Dr L Jones said that some rural communities have a community car transport service provided by volunteers living in the community. It was agreed

that the provision of such a facility for St Neot would be discussed at the next meeting of the parish council in March 2016. Councillor Dr L Jones said that she had revamped the parish council pack which is displayed at the market. Councillor Mrs M Merrett-Jones said she would attend the Councillor surgery at the market in March.

9. To receive reports from -

a) Liskeard Have Your Say Panel

Councillor Dr L Jones said that there were a number of topics discussed at the meeting. One of these was the provision of a food bank in Liskeard which covers Torpoint, Looe and Liskeard. She explained that people have to be referred to the foodbank and are given a voucher which is exchanged for food. She said that the food bank helped 1,600 people in 2015. Councillor Dr L Jones said that Adrian Drake from Cornwall Council had given a presentation on highway matters. He had explained that approximately 30 potholes can be attended to on a daily basis and that they are graded on a scale of 2 to 6 according to their severity. She said that potholes have to be 40mm or deeper in order to qualify to be repaired and that the work has to be done in dry conditions for maximum effect. Adrian Drake had explained that every effort is made to repair potholes that qualify for repair within 28 days of them being reported. Councillor Dr L Jones explained that the two roads in the parish which have been completely resurfaced this winter had to be done as they would have been lost completely if they had deteriorated to the subsurface. She said that Cornwall Council is not responsible for repairing the A30 or the A38.

Councillor Dr L Jones circulated a letter that she had written on behalf of LHYSPP to Mr G Clark, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government highlighting the issue of the insufficient rural funding budget that is currently about to be finalized in Parliament, especially in light of the deteriorating infrastructure in rural areas. Councillor Dr L Jones also explained that Julie Downton was at the meeting and explained that the Bodmin Moor Statutory Council will come into effect on 1st March 2016 with elected representatives being appointed at the end of February. She said there will be 13 Commons Associations who will not have powers and will have to follow the rules set down by Bodmin Moor Statutory Council. She explained that Julie Downton had said that the work of the Council will take time to come into effect. Councillor Dr L Jones said that all animals on the moor will have to be chipped from April 2016. She also said there is a problem with the public feeding ponies on the roadside at Warleggan. She explained that this is potentially dangerous to the livestock as it encourages the animals onto the roadside. She said there is also a problem with worms in some ponies caused by dog faeces.

Councillor Dr L Jones explained that other issues discussed at the LHYSPP included repeated fly tipping by a group of men driving a white Mercedes van, the

compulsory chipping of dogs over 8 weeks old from April 6th 2016 and dog fouling. Finally, she said there were 4 reported crimes in the parish in December and 2 in January.

b) Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson explained that she had reported the poor state of the road to the A30 past Colliford Lake. She said that Cornwall Council will be setting the council tax for 2016/17 in February. She also explained that she had met Adrian Drake from Cornwall Council Highways Department at Trenay regarding the drainage issue which had been reported to her by the owner of Trenay Barn. She explained that Trenay Barn is sited in a flood plain and that the land owner has installed some decking above the stream and has built an island in the stream which is causing a build up of debris. In addition, she explained that the owner of Trenay Barn has incorrectly connected a downpipe into a chamber and a pipe has been installed in the hedge which takes water into the stream. She said that all of these issues contribute to the flooding problem in the area and that she and Adrian Drake will be meeting the owners of Trenay Barn on site in due course.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said the drains in Lampen Lane have now been cleared and that the caravan at Church View should be moved soon. Councillor M Woodward said that the roads have been swept by Cornwall Council to an excellent standard but on School Hill, the operatives dug out all the gravel on the edges of School Hill and swept it into the drain. He said that, consequently, the drain is now blocked. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said she would follow up this matter.

Councillor A L Bellringer asked Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson if the operatives who undertake highway maintenance and the strimming of the verges and banks are given a set time to undertake tasks. He said that the quality of the work is generally poor and that if they are constrained by time, some extra time needs to be allocated to them to ensure quality workmanship.

Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that consultations are currently taking place on the AONB, CLP and Social and Health Integration. Councillor Dr L Jones said the Planning Inspector raised the limit for housing in the CLP to 52,000 and she questioned how many of these will have to be affordable. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that council houses will not be built and that they will be known instead as starter homes. She explained that a lot of the developments will be a mixture of rented and sold homes. Councillor Dr L Jones commented that no ordinary median family will be able to buy a home in Cornwall until 2030.

c) Goonzion Commoners

Councillor H Bunt reported that some of the gates at Penkester Moor which have been broken again are being purposefully destroyed. Some discussion took place as to whether further contact should be made with the driver of the vehicle who accidentally knocked down a horse on the moor which resulted in the animal having to be destroyed at a cost to the parish council. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that the Clerk writes to the driver of the vehicle and asks him to pass on the invoice for the removal of the animal from the moor to his insurance company for payment or for him to reimburse the parish council himself. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal except for Councillor C Smith who abstained from voting.

d) Bodmin Moor Parishes Group

None

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

Julie Ball (Toilet cleaning – January) - £138.67
South West Water (water for Pavillion) - £16.35
South West Water (water for Cott Yard) - £53.87
South West Water (water for toilets) - £51.89
BT (internet for Cott Yard) - £106.20
Chris Timms (website expenses) - £72.75
St Neot Historians (shelving for archive room) - £53.43
St Neot Social Club (cleaning materials for toilets) - £10.79

It was proposed by Councillor Dr L Jones and seconded by Councillor A L Bellringer 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

None

b) Others

None

12. Finance Report

To receive a current financial statement of the accounts

The Clerk reported that this month we have received income of £1,074.95 from Restgarth as rent for Cott Yard, £92.13 from Restgarth for the heating in Cott Yard, £25 from Restgarth for utilities in Cott Yard, £56.07 from the donation box in the toilets, £32.71 from the RHI and £133.00 rent for Goonzion Downs. The accounts balance at £57,321.95.

13. Flower Boxes

To consider the erection of flower boxes on Bush Hill

Kent Gossmeier said that he would like to erect a flower box and to undertake some planting on the grass verge adjacent to Great Meadow to stop people driving onto the grass verge. Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson said that Cornwall Council controls that area of land so their permission would need to be sought. It was agreed that Cornwall Councillor Mrs D Watson and Kent Gossmeier would meet Adrian Drake on site and ask Cornwall Council to install some kerbing adjacent to the highway and ask their permission for the parish council to undertake some soft landscaping. It was agreed that this matter would be discussed again at the next parish council meeting in March 2016. Councillor Mrs P Greenwood thanked Kent Gossmeier, on behalf of the parish council, for his efforts in this respect.

14. Technology

To consider the use of technology for planning application site visits and all council meetings

The Chairman reminded everyone that Cornwall Council has given the parish council £700 to assist with the implementation of paperless planning consultation. Councillor Dr L Jones said that she thought that the idea of projecting planning applications and other agenda items onto the wall for all to see was a good idea. Councillor C Smith said that the planning files need to be put into a format by Cornwall Council that can be easily used for presentation purposes. He said that the current system uses separate PDF files which means that they need processing into an easily useable format which would be time consuming. He said that he thinks that one set of plans needs to be printed for each major planning application for use on site and at meetings. He said that he is happy to do this for the next 6 months. He said the cost of a projector is approximately £250 as is the cost of a suitable laptop. Councillor Dr L Jones commented that the printing could be undertaken by the Clerk if an A3 printer was purchased. Councillor C Smith said he would get prices for the equipment for presentation to the next meeting of the parish council in March 2016.

15. Cott Yard

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

Yard

The Chairman reported that the painting has been done in the old archive room and the lease has been sent to Restgarth's Head Office for signature. He said that they have responded saying they would like a three year lease for all three suites as opposed to a five year lease in order to protect their interests. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that a three year lease be accepted. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was noted that Charles Hunt has ordered some additional keys for the new archive room. The Chairman reported that Councillor C Smith very kindly moved the phone line and internet hub into the new archive room as BT had failed to respond to our request to undertake the works

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

None

17. Doorstep Green

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

Councillor Mrs P Greenwood said she is still working on the new sign for Doorstep Green. Councillor Mrs M Merrett Jones reported that the boardwalk is perilously slippery. Councillor B Pollard said he would rope it off until the summer. Councillor C Smith said that he had looked at the specification and plans for the bridge which had been supplied by Charles Hunt and they indicate a life expectancy for the bridge of 40 years and a decay and insect attack period of not less than 10 years. He said that until the bridge is washed and cleaned, the extent of the decay cannot be ascertained. He said that the bridge will be washed and cleaned in the springtime. Councillor H Bunt reported that there is a hole in the bridge. It was reported that Jack Olliver's bench needs replacing as it has rotted and is in pieces. It was proposed by Councillor N J Ball and seconded by Councillor Dr L Jones that Councillor C Smith purchases a new bench up to the value of £250 and that a new plaque be put on the bench in memory of Jack and Agnes Olliver. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal.

18. St Neot Orchard

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

The Chairman reported that we are waiting for the solicitors to complete the

necessary paperwork regarding the land transfer in the orchard.

19. Donation Requests

To receive and consider requests for donations from charities

It was reported that two charities have asked for donations this year: Victim Support and Cruse Bereavement. It was agreed that there are more local needs so a donation would not be made to these charities. It was noted that section 137 payments must not benefit an individual but should benefit the community as a whole. It was proposed by Councillor A L Bellringer and seconded by Councillor B Pollard that £50 be donated to the British Legion Poppy Appeal in November and that a donation of £50 be made to Cornwall Air Ambulance. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. It was agreed that more money may be donated to more local needs throughout the year.

19. Date of next meeting

To confirm the date and venue of the next Parish Council meeting which will be on Wednesday 9th March 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

The next meeting of the parish council will be on Wednesday 9th March 2016 commencing at 7:30pm.

The meeting was closed at 9:05pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....