

SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Peter Bickford-Smith

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Jodie Ellis
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Trannack Farm,
St Erth, Hayle
TR27 6ET

54/15

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT TRANNACK SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 01st MARCH 2016 at 7.30PM

Present: -

Cllr P. Bickford-Smith - Chairman

Cllr. A. Williams

Cllr. P. Martin (arrived 7.35pm)

Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell

Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe - Vice-Chairman

Cllr. A. McDonald

Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose

Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling

Parish Clerk Mrs. Jodie Ellis and 3 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Were received from Cllr. L. Hutchinson.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES – The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 02nd February 2016 page 50/15, Coastline Head of Terms, line 11, were amended to read ‘The decision to move the sewerage plant was made last minute and was approved by the Environment Agency on the 19.11.15’, the amendment was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA – Cllr. Mrs. Penrose declared a disclosable pecuniary interest in item 11 Lowena, Lowertown. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest in Item 9 Sithney School Playing Field.

4. TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011- None received.

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES –

Sithney Bus Shelter – The clerk has been in contact with Coastline who have advised that they are sending their maintenance team out to have a look at the tree and will report back.

Average Speed Cameras – Cornwall Councillor Loveday Jenkin has contacted the clerk to advise ‘The speed camera in Leedstown is a movable one with solar power to run it and was planned to be shared across Cllr Keeling’s division. The camera in Praze (also funded via Cornwall highways) is a fixed one that requires an electricity supply and so cannot be easily moved. Previously Highways did some speed recording at the entrance to Crowtown from Praze and a post was erected and data collected. Cllr. J. Keeling advised the VAS he currently has in Ashton was paid out of a grant he had. Cllr. J. Keeling advised that whilst the cameras does work it needs to be periodically moved as after a period of about 6 months, the novelty starts to wear off and it becomes ignored by drivers. Cllr. Keeling advised he is happy for the camera to be rotated with Sithney, however Sithney PC would need to pay for the moving of the camera and the concrete plinth that it is mounted on. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that the best way to stop speeding is to install Average speed cameras. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith believes there was an article in CLA magazine about funding options for the speed cameras. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Martin, all in favour that Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith would look into costs and report back.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

7 POLICE REPORT –The clerk has received an email from Ian Thompson Falmouth & Helston Sector Inspector to say, with regards to his team providing council reports, he has instructed them to stop this practice immediately as they are a means of providing historic crime data that can be accessed by the councils on the Police.uk website. This decision is in line with the new service level agreement set by the Cornwall Commander. He appreciates that the police.uk crime data has a lag and this is being fed back into the website owners but he doesn’t want his team to be compiling reports for council meetings when they need to be focusing on safeguarding the vulnerable in our community’. There will be another letter shortly inviting council representatives to regular 2 monthly meetings where he will provide an update on issues within the policing area that might affect the town / parish councils and will be an opportunity for me to take questions. It was agreed to drop this item from future agendas.

8. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS – None

9. COUNCILLORS’ QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose advised that the gates at both end of footpath 230/18/3 are tied up, it was agreed the clerk would contact Cormac.

Cllr. A. Williams asked the council on behalf of 6 parishioners that had approached him, if the PC could confirm that both the chairman and the parish council will ensure transparency, equality and proactivity in dealing with the community hall project. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised that parishioners would have the opportunity to attend any public consultations and give their views on the Community Hall. As the Parish council has said previously the Community Hall would need to have a proven need. Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell thinks that the number of elderly residents in the parish, the W.I. and a nursery would all be good support for the Community Hall. Cllr. P. Martin said he would personally like to see the Community Hall but agreed with Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe that the Hall would need to have a proven sustainability to go ahead, and that any Parishioners wanting to see it would need to come to the meetings and give their support to see it forward. The Chairman reported that Sithney School were considering the possibility of new class room in the Playing Field and that there was a possibility of a partnership with the school for them to use the hall in the day and clubs etc in the evening would be a possibility to ensure it is sustainable. Cllr. J. Keeling advised that

Breage had a £12,000 grant to do up the inside of the Parish rooms, he also advised he had received an email from Sithney school head teacher regarding the planning application that has been submitted for a new classroom which could also be used for the community as well.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest in Sithney School Playing Field.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised the school had asked to build a new classroom and he has given his full support. The new room would also be available to the PC like the one at Breage and would be suitable for Public Meetings. Currently the plans have stopped as the pre-school numbers have dropped. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith highlighted that the funding options available if the PC and school work together could be stronger.

Cllr. A. Williams again asked do the parishioners have the assurance that the chairman and the parish council will ensure transparency, equality and proactivity in dealing with the community hall project. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised that the provision for the community hall was made and Trand Designed the site with this in mind at SPC's request. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised she thinks it would be advisable to concentrate on the Car Transport scheme first and deal with one project at a time whilst the PC sees how the school plans develop. Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell agrees. Cllr. P. Martin advised any parishioners / groups who feel they have strength to add to the project should come along to the meeting's each month and give their thoughts.

10. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS – Cllr Keeling advised the main business of the council last month was the setting of the council tax and the Corporate Business Plan 2016-2020. This means the council tax will now be increased by 3.97% in 2016/17, inclusive of a 2% levy to be spent solely on Adult Social Care and therefore a net general fund revenue budget for 2016/17 of £494.620m be set. This means that the average council tax for a band D property will increase from £1,293.92 to £1,345.29 this year (an increase of £51.37) with Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner increasing from £169.47 to £172.84 (an increase of £3.37). The average town and parish council precept requirement increases from £86.18 to £101.62 (an increase of £15.44) a 17.92% increase. The 3 parishes band D council tax is therefore considerably below this average with Breage at £62.60, Germoe at £39.16 and Sithney at £42.97. The main concern for all of us is the increasing demand for Adult Social Care as our population increases and people live longer. The budget for this service is the largest in the council; and though additional funding was received each year the bill for care gets bigger. Nevertheless, the government is committed to make available £16.9m, through the Better Care Fund, by the end of this Parliament. Another deep concern is the growing gap between rural and urban funding; a fact recognised by our MPs, rural councillors across the country and our colleagues in the Local Government Association. Successful lobbying as resulted in a welcome £3m addition to the Rural Delivery Grant being made available to Cornwall Council for 2016/17. Housing and Planning Bill currently going through the House of Lords may not necessarily have the desired effect of providing local needs housing in Cornwall; and Cllr Keeling has sent a letter, on behalf of the Conservative group via the MPs to the Housing Minister, Brandon Lewis, to point out some of the real housing issues facing the rural community; and in particular the effect of having no local connection for Starter Homes and a 5 year limit before they can be sold off as market housing. This will undermine the existing housing held in perpetuity as Affordable Housing and even with a 20% discount the homes are very much out of reach for a large section of the Cornish community. Some parts of the Bill are good: dealing with rogue landlords for example; but the national priority of building more homes should not undermine the local priority of providing homes for our local people. Length man's scheme: hopefully there will be more discussions on this mystical scheme through the Community Link Officer. Vehicle Activated Sign is now back in Ashton as promised and it is having the desired effect of slowing down the traffic on the A394 through the village and Cllr. Keeling wished he had a few more to use throughout the parishes. The housing development at Crowntown should begin at the end of this coming month or earlier. Cllr Keeling will ask the case officer to look into some of the issue raised at the last Sithney Parish Council meeting.

11. PLANNING: -

Applications

PA16/00529 – Home Farm Barns, Trevarno, Sithney – Proposed Garage, Storage and Porch. PAP met this month with Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe and Cllr. A. McDonald to discuss the application, and Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe also visited the site. It was felt that the application was the same level as the current barn and did not interfere with anyone else, and would be made of the same stone. Therefore, it was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, 5 in favour, 1 abstained that the parish council supports this application.

Approved

PA16/0083 – Trannack Cottage, Tuckingmill, Lowertown, TR13 0DA – Proposed Extension and Alterations under PA12/11816 – Approved with Conditions.

Enforcement

EN14/00673 and PA13/03435/PREAPP - Lowena, Lowertown Helston – No update from CC.

Helston Railway Planning Application - Cllr P. Bickford-Smith has received advice from the Planning Inspectorate in Bristol that the Public Hearing is to take place on Thursday, March 31st at 10.00am in the One Stop Shop Office in Helston. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised it is important that the Council sends a representative to this meeting to give the Council's view, and asked if Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe would attend, as she has already represented this Council at previous meetings. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe agreed she would as long as that date was free, if she was unable to attend then Cllr. A. McDonald agreed to attend to represent SPC.

12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath 230/8/1 – Tregoose to Iron Bridge – Modification Order – still ongoing.

Footpath– Black Arch to Tregoose – Footpath Signs –Cllr J. Keeling advised that after 01.04.16 when the new budget was released he would try and get a couple of signs for the PC.

Bridleway 28 – The clerk has received a call from resident to advise that Bridleway 28, that runs outside her house, which she believes is more like a road than a footpath is now becoming like a lake and is unsuitable for vehicles. The Parishioner has asked if the Parish Council could help. The Clerk has forwarded the parishioners thoughts on to Cormac who advised that they would only maintain to a Bridleway standard not a road standard as it is a bridleway. Cllrs agreed it was not a matter for SPC and the clerk would advise the resident.

13. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

Rural Services Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin

RSN – Weekly Bulletin 08/02, 15/02, 22/02/16

Rural Vulnerability Service – Rural Transport – February 2016

Community Network panel – Agenda for the 02.03.16 - Cury village Hall, at 6 pm.

Derek Thomas – E Bulletin February 2016

Rural Opportunities Bulletin

Minutes of the Cornwall Countryside Access Forum meeting

Internal Auditor – Mr J Gallie has agreed to carry out this year's once again.

Sithney PC Website – The clerk asked are all Cllrs happy for the NHS Tommy on Tour Article to go the website, all Cllrs agreed.

Communities & Devolution Bulletin – February 2016 Health and Social Care Community Events

Communities & Devolution – Message from Jeremy Rowe

B3297 Helston to Redruth Road

CALC – Annual General Meeting – 11.03.16 – NCH – 7pm

Cornwall's AONB Conference, 07.05.16 at Bedruthan Steps Hotel, Newquay.

14a) To consider the following accounts for payment: Approval of schedule of payments and sign. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. A. Williams, all in favour that the following payments be made.

	£
Mrs Jodie Ellis – Clerk (Salary, Expenses and new PC Printer)	605.89
Cornwall Council (LGPS) – Clerk	67.05
CASH – Reimbursement of Petty Cash	22.00
Information Commissioner	35.00
Trannack School – CC (Room Hire)	70.00
	<u>£799.94</u>

Financial Reports by Clerk

b.) Financial report.

The Clerk reported that she had invoices to pay totaling £799.94 as reported in item 14a. The balance at the end of February on the Current Account is £3,133.72 and on the Business Saver £32,565.36. These are considered adequate to undertake the work of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr. A. Williams, and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell that the report be accepted. All in favour.

Approval of Monthly and Report.

The accounts to the end of February had been circulated but they do not include the payments drawn on 01st March. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, and seconded by Cllr. A. Williams and carried unanimously that these represent a true account of the Parish Council finances and they were signed by the Chairman.

Monthly Risk Assessment – The Clerk reported that the bus shelter at Crowntown was drier but still littered.

14c) Clerk Pension – The clerk has contacted CC to advise of the rise in her hours from April, and CC have subsequently advised of the Pension payment increase.

14d) Clerk Expenses – The clerk has received a response from HMRC to advise that the mileage and telephone expenses need to be identified and submitted via a P9D form to them. It was agreed that the chairman would check the form before it is submitted.

14e) External Auditor - The clerk has received guidance on the Smaller Authorities audit appointments from CALC and SPC must decide if they wish to opt in or opt out of the SAAA (Smaller Authorities Audit Appointments). By law, every authority will still have to complete and publish an annual financial return irrespective of whether it is opted-in or opted-out. This requirement has not changed. CALC are strongly recommended that parish council's in our position (i.e. smaller authorities with a turnover of less than £25,000) opt in. If we opt in, with effect from 2017/18 very few of the smaller under £25,000 turnover authorities will be required to undergo a limited assurance audit review or to pay any audit fee. All authorities will, however, need to complete and publish an annual return in accordance with the Transparency Code for Smaller Authorities. It was proposed by Cllr. A. Williams, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose, 5 in favour, 1 abstained that the council opts in.

15. BACS Payments – The clerk has been in contact with Barclays who have confirmed that if the PC were to go down the route of BACS payments, then one signatory would have to go online and make the payment and then another signatory would have to go online and authorise the payment. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised it takes around 5 minutes per transaction in branch. It was agreed that the PC would continue with cheques at present.

16. Budget – Cllr. A. Williams advised on the 17.11.15 SPC agreed a budget and the allocation of reserves between three projects, Community Hall - £15,000, Car Share Scheme - £2,000 and the possibility of defibrillators for the two community primary schools, and asked when the third project would be progressed and an amount allocated towards it. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised back in 2014 the chairman, auditing Cllrs and clerk met to allocate the large reserves the PC had against specific named projects, the community hall project allocation is for the maintenance of the community space / hall as well as the building.

Cllr. P. Martin advised he was not sure what Cllr. A. Williams was trying to achieve as no proposal had been made to change something and as the budget has been agreed it is not until June 2016 at the earliest that this would be looked into again. The PC are not saying the community Hall project will not happen but the PC needs to see what happens with the school plans first.

17. School Governors Report - Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised Sithney are having a Strategic Meeting later in the week, Plans are in hand for moving Head Teachers Office and extending the Staff Room.

19. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 5th April 2016 at 7.30pm at Sithney School.

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. P. Martin, all in favour to Exclude press and public under SO 7 “That in view of the confidential nature of the business about to be transacted, it is advisable that in the public interest that the public and press be temporarily excluded and they are instructed to withdraw” for item 18 – LMP Contract 16/17.