

SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ian Paterson

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Pauline Williams
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41/13

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SITHNEY SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 3rd DECEMBER 2013 AT 7.30PM

Present:-

Cllr. I Paterson – Chairman Cllr. Bickford-Smith Vice-Chairman
Cllr. P. Elliott Cllr. P. Martin
Cllr. M. Morgans Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe
Cllr. Ms E. Williams

Parish Clerk Mrs. Pauline Williams, and 2 members of the public,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from Cllr. B. Deacon - illness and Cllr. J. Betteridge – bereavement. The Chairman offered his condolences to the Clerk on the loss of her father and Cllr. Betteridge on the loss of his mother.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 5th November were proposed by Cllr. Morgans, seconded by Cllr Mrs. Pascoe and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA – Cllr. P. Martin declared a non registerable interest in Affordable Housing Item 20 as a local landlord. He further declared a non registerable interest in Cornish hedge repairs in the lane opposite Sainsbury's at Helston as his brother owns the hedge.

Cllr. Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest in Affordable Housing Item 20 as the landowner and left the meeting before the matter was discussed. He further declared a disclosable financial interest in item 6 discussion about repairs to Cornish Hedge which he owns.

Cllr. Paterson declared a disclosable financial interest in Cllr. Betteridge' s planning application PA13/09626 Chanters item 11 as he is a supplier to his business.

Cllrs. Mrs. Pascoe and Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest item 11 as they have mineral rights on land they own.

Cllrs. Bickford-Smith and Morgans declared a disclosable financial interest in the discussion of the railway and organic Trevarno discussion under item 11.

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

5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES

Lane Chynhale to Crowtown – Cllr. Bickford-Smith asked the Clerk to write to Trevor Gasper about this as a personal approach has produced no results. He stated that it is now impossible to use the lane due to its condition, but that under a recent planning application for 'Waverley' access had been granted to the owner at the top/western end.

Update Wheal Bramble – Mandy Smith, CC, had been unable to visit the site but will do so before the next meeting.

Trevarno Turn (near to junction of road from Chynhale with B3303 OS grid ref SW637311). Passing bay. – The Clerk had chased Mike Peters, Cormac Solutions for an installation date.

Little Bosoha, Trenear OS ref SW664318. – The owner has advised Lee Viner, CC Planning that he is to submit a planning application for the retention of the building, so no action can be taken until this is received.

Crash Barriers Lowertown Bridge – An e mail had been sent to highways gsi.gov.uk who have assumed responsibility for the now defunct British Railways Board (Residuary) Ltd asking them to have the work carried out. A response had been received stating they would investigate if it is theirs to deal with and reply to the PC. They have requested a copy of the deeds to ascertain ownership.

Cow Signs – Mike Peters, Cormac Solutions has now stated that he will arrange for the faded Cow sign to the south of the crossroads at Nancegollan to be replaced if there is the possibility of cows being present on the highway. He stated that a warning sign of one type of animal should be sufficient to cover all animals.

Grit Bins - A discount of £50 had been granted by Cormac for the purchase of the three bins. Locations had been agreed and the bins are in situ. The Chairman thanked Cllr. Bickford-Smith for clearing the place for the grit bin near Trelin.

Footpath 9/2 – An e mail had been sent to Trevor Gasper who will visit the site when he is next in the area. The Chairman had spoken with Mr. Gasper and was not optimistic of work being carried out. It was agreed that Cllr. Bickford-Smith would approach the landowner Greville Richards and ask him to take remedial action.

Flooding opposite Grove Restaurant – Tom Marks, Cormac Solutions, has stated that this has been resolved by extending the pipe into the back of the ditch, previously it had been getting blocked.

Pot Hole Prospidnick Livery – This had been refilled.

Road Surface Merther Farm to Carleen Road – Claire Banks, Cormac Solutions, will visit the site and assess the state of the road (score) to see if it rates highly enough to be repaired this financial year.

Flooding at Prospidnick – Tom Marks, Cormac Solutions, has stated that the culvert has now been cleared and is running freely. However, he has been advised by a resident, that the water is flowing from farm land managed by Cattran. He has asked Martin Clemo to get the Rural Payments Agency to assess the land as it is draining towards the hedge and into the leat. Cllr. Bickford-Smith said that this land was not managed by Cattran but was part of Parkham Farms which is managed by Trevor Gasper.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – Thelma Bedell thanked Councillors, particularly Cllr. Pascoe for all their help in connection with the planning application at Cober Dell.

Tom Martin expressed concern about repairs to the Cornish hedge opposite Trelin (PBS declared an interest see item 3) and opposite Sainsbury's at Helston (PM declared an interest see item 3). He felt that in order to protect the local heritage these repairs should be carried out properly, if necessary, by a qualified person.

Tom Martin said that Cllr. Deacon was most unwell in hospital. He said he was doubtful he would be well enough to return to his Councillors duties, which was a great shame as he has given so much to the community over the years.

7 POLICE REPORT - PCSO Paul Whitford sent his apologies.

His report stated that during November there had been one crime reported that of burglary from a shed in Prospidnick. Nothing had been taken and there were no further lines of enquiry.

His report reminded members and residents that the annual Christmas Drink Drive Campaign was currently underway. Again officers will be proactive enforcing the campaign along with any other driving offences. The Police are reminding residents not to leave valuables on display within their vehicles (Christmas Presents) during the festive period.

He wished all members and residents a Happy and crime free Christmas and a Happy New Year!

8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – Cllr. Paterson said a newsletter is being printed and asked for volunteers to cover Cllr. Betteridge's and Cllr. Deacon's rounds. Thelma Bedell offered to help and was thanked. Other Councillors agreed to amend their rounds to cover the shortfall.

9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Cllr. Elliott raised the issue of Weed Spraying – CC had advised the Parish Council that due to government cuts in finance weed spraying would discontinue, except for invasive species like Ragwort or Japanese Knotweed. Parish Council's were invited to take this on at their own cost. All grants currently being paid would discontinue. The Clerk was asked to clarify where CC currently sprays and report back to Council.

Cllr. Elliott said that The Sithney Community Group Barn Dance had gone well and there is a Dickensian Festival this weekend at Trannack.

Cllr Ms Williams reported that there were a lot of nettles on land opposite on the verge opposite Brian Pascoe's Garage at Nancegollan Crossroads on the B3303 .

Emergency Planning- No report.

10. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS – CC John Keeling reported that the main work of the Council had been the setting of an early budget. He said that Cornwall Council's finances are under enormous pressure in the same way as families' budgets are being squeezed. Therefore, it was recognised that there was a need for an early decision to implement the agreed budget with reductions taking immediate effect in order to safeguard the position of the Council. Consequently, the Council Tax for financial year 2014/15 would be increased by 1.97% which represents an increase on a band D property of 47 pence per week. In terms of the overall business plan he said he was very disappointed that the members Highway Budget has not been reinstated and spoke out against this decision. This is the first time a budget for highway improvements and maintenance for the use of Cornwall Councillors and the former County Councillors has not been available. He had told CC that the loss of this budget undermines the representative role of Councillors. This kind of budget enables people to bring forward views and concerns allowing people to make choices about highway matters at a very local level and have more say in what happens in there locality.

CC will pass on the Council Tax Support Grant to local precepting authorities based on the existing levels of £1.754 million and will continue to pass on Council Tax Support Grant in future financial years. This is similar to last year and although a number of local Cornish Councils did reduce their precepts to mitigate the effect on their tax payers, many did not. Consequently, tax payers in those Parishes will have seen their Council Tax bill increase (due to a reduced tax base) even though the Precept may have stayed at the same level as the previous year. This grant is over and above the amount of money precepted and for those parish councils who have already set their precepts there will be an opportunity to reassess their financial requirements later. Parish Clerks have received a full explanation of how the Council Tax Support Grant will affect their individual Parish Councils.

Cornwall Councillor Keeling said he was very interested in the new road maintenance, 'Roadmaster' road patching unit currently being evaluated by CORMAC. He said it is quick and efficient producing excellent repairs – an operation that could have occupied four people for a day and a half can be completed in an hour or two. He stated that he was hoping to visit the crew of the unit himself.

He stated that he is continuing to pursue the possibility of a "Lengthsman Scheme" being piloted in the division and spoke to the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Waste, Cllr Bert Biscoe, who shares his enthusiasm for the scheme. The Network Manager, Maxine Hardy, is very keen to get involved and help to move this on soon. He said he hoped Parishes have had a chance to look at what other local authorities do and the associated benefits.

He said he was pleased to be able to attend an act of remembrance in each of the parishes this year.

Councillor Keeling said he was dealing with some issues in the Boscadjack Valley area ranging from some enforcement matters, pothole damage to a vehicle and residents concerns about perceived unlawful development. He said he would report back on these matters if necessary to the Parish Council in due course. He had met with the case officer and Cllr Mrs. Pascoe at Lowertown to view the proposal to Cober Cottage (PA13/09177). The proposal was a Householder Planning Application and there was no substantial material planning reasons to warrant refusal in this case and subsequently the application was granted approval via delegated power. He had responded to the comments of neighbours, acknowledging their disappointment at the decision of approval. Nevertheless, he had insisted on conditions to screen the proposed development to mitigate against the visual impact on neighbouring properties. A letter of thanks had been received from Thelma Bedel (next door neighbour), thanking Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe, the representations made by the Parish Council and himself for the time and effort on their behalf.

11. PLANNING

Planning Applications To consider planning applications received: --

PA13/10391 Tregoose Cottage, Tregoose, Sithney, Helston TR13 0RT. Proposed extension to provide enlarged kitchen accommodation and extra bedroom (en-suite) with study. It was proposed by Cllr. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Morgans, and carried unanimously that the PC had no objections to this application.

PA13/09626 Chanters, Tregathenan, Sithney TR13 0RZ. Construction of sun room. Cllr. Paterson declared a pecuniary interest and left the room. The Vice-Chairman, Cllr. Bickford-Smith took the chair. It was proposed by Cllr. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried unanimously that the PC had no objections to this application.

OTHER PLANNING MATTERS – Enforcement

EN13/02212 Pengoan Farm. Alleged stationing of a large number of caravans on land used for residential use. This application follows on from PA13/06232 which allowed permission for 3 caravans, as evidence only supported this number. The owner has advised Mandy Smith, CC, that they now have sufficient evidence, in their opinion, to support a CLUED for a further 5 caravans. An application is awaited.

EN13/01276 Alleged stationing of a caravan on land for residential use. Land adjacent to Higher Roseawen, Sithney Green, Sithney TR13 0RT. Lee Viner, CC, stated that he had now made contact with the owners who state that the caravan is being used as a rest room in connection with the use of the land. He is going to visit to check for signs of habitation. If there is none, then no further action will be required.

Yurt at Roseawen Woods -The Clerk reported that Lee Viner, CC, had visited and inspected the Yurt in the woods. He said no one was living in it, it was full of wood. The owners say they are in the process of clearing the land with a view to having chickens and pigs on it. Lee Viner had advised them that either the Yurt is removed or they must apply for Planning Permission. The owners have given an undertaking that the Yurt would be removed before the end of November.

Helston Railway and Organic Trevarno Soap – Cllr. Bickford-Smith and Morgans declared a pecuniary interest. It was agreed as work was still being carried out at the railway site and the soap enterprise was still operational, the Clerk should ask CC for enforcement action.

Planning Consultation – Cllrs. Mrs. Pascoe and Bickford-Smith declared a pecuniary interest in this item as they have mineral rights on land they own. The Clerk had e mailed all Councillors on 6th November a consultation document re Renewable energy, mineral safeguarding development plan, and allocations of development plan. The consultation runs to 20th December. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried unanimously that as Cllr. Paterson and Mrs. Pascoe are attending a training course on 4th December on the matter, that they be authorised to respond on behalf of the Council.

Landscape guidance for wind and solar development training – Cllrs. Mrs. Pascoe and Paterson are to attend the course on 4th December in Camborne.

Planning Protocol – The Clerk stated that she had been made aware, by the Chairman, of a planning protocol document issued by CC before she took post. The Chairman stated that this document referred to the procedure if the PC views differed from the Planning Officers recommendation. The options given are to agree to disagree, in which instance the views of the PC are recorded in the Planning documents and the application is determined under delegated powers. Or, the PC can request that the application is taken to planning committee (but this has to be agreed by our Ward Councillor). To qualify for this it must have sound planning reasons for the action.

It was discussed as to who should have the authority to make the decision on behalf of the PC. It was felt that as PAP were subordinate to the Council they were not in a position to do this. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith, seconded by Cllr. Martin, and carried unanimously that the Chairman be given authority to decide.

Decisions Approved.

PA13/07987 Waverly, Crowntown, Helston TR13 0AB. Conversion and extension of single storey outbuilding to form one bedroom holiday accommodation. Despite the PC objections (which CC considered to be invalid planning grounds) CC had approved the application.

PA13/09177 Cober Dell, Lowertown, Helston. TR13 0BY. Proposed demolition of existing garage and outbuildings and erection of 2 storey extension with balcony on South elevation. Despite the PC objections (which CC considered to be invalid planning grounds) CC had approved the application.

PA13/08332 Boscadjack Farm, Coverack Bridges, Helston. TR13 0LZ. Erection of Shed. Despite the PC objections (which CC considered invalid planning grounds) CC had approved the application.

Local Enforcement Plan – Cllr. Paterson said he had been busy with the newsletter and asked for deferral to the next meeting.

12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – Cllr. Paterson had seen Mr. Brian Mitchell surveying the paths where the signs have been reported as damaged or missing.

13. LOCALISM/CODE OF CONDUCT /NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN –The Chairman asked Council if they wanted to consider preparing a Neighbourhood Development Plan which would help with planning applications. Cllrs. Paterson, Elliott, and Mrs. Pascoe had attended meetings in connection with development plans. It was agreed that a working party of any members of the Council who wished to attend should meet with Maxine Hardy of CC in January to establish the way to proceed and investigate funding. Cllr. Elliott said the Woodcote Neighbourhood Development Plan was excellent and advised Councillors to view it prior to the meeting.

14. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

Rural Services Network – Rural Opportunities Bulletin November, 2013

Rural Services Network – Rural vulnerability Transport and Broadband November 2013

Rural Services Network – weekly newsletter 5/11, 11/11,

Rural Services Network – Seminar Programme to 2014/15

Licensing Act Policy Consultation.

CALC newsletter no. 11 including revisions for Standing Orders

Safer Cornwall Partnership

Quarterly Audit Report – The Audit had been completed.

Precept 2014/2015 – Cornwall Council had advised the Parish Council that a Government Support Grant of £993.55 would be payable for the year. The PC Precept could remain at £15,927 and add on £933.45 being the Government Support Grant or deduct it from the Precept making a revised Precept figure of £14,933.45. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Ms Williams and carried unanimously that the grant be accepted in addition to the original Precept and be used to part fund the Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The Clerk advised Council that the Section 137 limit for 2014/2015 has been set as £7.20 per person on the electoral roll (671x£7.20 = £4831.20).

A list of requirements for meetings confirming who can attend, notice required, quorum, type of premises to be used and whether minutes need to be taken had been received from CALC. A copy had been given to all Councillors.

15. FINANCE

a) To consider the following accounts for payment:

It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried unanimously that the following accounts be paid:-

Mrs Pauline Williams, Clerk £ 560.33	Salary	437.96
	Mileage	16.50
	Office Allowance	20.00
	Computer Depreciation	15.00
	Telephone Calls	0.15
	Petty Cash	70.72

b) To consider the following applications for donations – Cornwall Air Ambulance - to be deferred to the March 2014 meeting.

16. Parish Website – Nothing to report, Cllr. Betteridge being absent.

17. School Governors Report – Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe said the new head would start at Trannack in January along with a new teacher to replace her vacated teaching post.

18. Freedom of Information Act – Adoption of model publication scheme - The Clerk reported that whilst the PC had adopted a policy for handling requests they had not adopted a publication scheme. This was to regularize the situation. Adoption of the scheme was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Ms Williams, and carried unanimously.

19. Updating Standing Orders and Financial Regulations - To stand undiscussed until next meeting as per Standing Orders. The Clerk stated that CALC had forwarded many amendments that need to be made to the model standing orders, she was attempting to amend the copy, and this would be circulated and discussed next month.

20. Update on Affordable housing scheme Nothing to report.

21. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 7th January 2014 at Trannack School.