

# SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ian Paterson

Clerk to the Council  
Mrs. Pauline Williams  
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48/13

## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SITHNEY SCHOOL ON MONDAY 10TH FEBRUARY, (POSTPONED FROM 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY DUE TO STORMS) 2014 AT 7.30PM

Present:-

Cllr. I Paterson – Chairman      Cllr. Bickford-Smith – Vice-Chairman arrived 8.15

Cllr. P. Elliott                      Cllr. P. Martin arrived 7.43

Cllr. M. Morgans                  Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe

Parish Clerk Mrs. Pauline Williams, Lucy Jenkin – Architect for Trand and 5 members of the public,

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from Cllr. B. Deacon – illness, Cllr. Ms E. Williams - working, Cornwall Councillor John Keeling – another meeting.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 7<sup>th</sup> January were proposed by Cllr. Morgans, seconded by Cllr Pascoe and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA** – Cllr. Morgans declared a disclosable financial interest in the planning application for Glanneth Farm as it is the neighbouring property.

**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** – Following the e mail sent to Mr. Glasper a meeting has taken place. Mr. Gordon, Countryside Officer – Environment, Cormac, and Mr. Glasper. Mr. Gordon advised that this is classed as an unclassified road and as such the landowner only has a legal duty to clear back the side growth – the Highway Authority is responsible for the maintenance of the surface of the Highway – it is therefore necessary for Mr. Glasper to organise some side growth cutting on his land abutting the Highway. Mr. Gordon said he would pass the surface issue onto Claire Banks, Cormac, for her consideration. The vegetation on the other side of the road is, he understood, in separate land ownership and had asked the PC if they knew who the landowner was and he would speak with them. A plan confirming ownership had been e mailed to Mr. Gordon, thanks to Cllr. Bickford-Smith. Cllr. Pascoe reported that there was a tree down in the lane; Cllr. Bickford-Smith confirmed after the meeting that the tree is near the top, B3303, and has fallen from the south, Helston, on to the north side, Camborne. i.e. Parkham Farms on to Trevarno Ltd. Both lands being administered by Glaspers. The Clerk to pass the matter on to Hamish Gordon.

**Update Wheal Bramble** – Mandy Smith, CC had advised the Clerk that she is seeking authorisation for enforcement action to be taken and will look to serve the notice in the next couple of weeks.

**Trevarno Turn (near to junction of road from Chynhale with B3303 OS grid ref SW637311). Passing bay.** – The signs are in situ.

**Little Bosoha, Trenear OS ref SW664318.** – This case has now been handed over to David Tapsell. As no planning application has been submitted, a Planning Contravention Notice will be issued.

**EN13/01276 Alleged stationing of a caravan on land for residential use. Land adjacent to Higher Roseawen, Sithney Green, Sithney TR13 0RT** – David Tapsell is now dealing with this case. The awaited Planning Contravention Notice has not yet been received.

**Crash Barriers Lowertown Bridge** – The Clerk had written to CC enclosing photographs of where the PC feels the barriers need to be. An e mail had been received from CC Tom Marks which states that it is the landowner's responsibility. A response had been sent stating that the road is CC responsibility and as it is constantly running with water skidding on ice or water is a real threat, and asking them to reconsider their decision. They had declined.

**Footpath 9/2** – An e mail had been sent to Mr. Glasper asking for the issues with the footpath to be resolved. The Clerk had made contact with Hamish Gordon, Countryside Officer for Cormac. He had inspected the path and confirmed to the PC that the surface was very poor and needed rectifying. He had written to Mr. Glasper asking how and when the path is going to be restored. Mr. Gordon said he would get the obstructed end of the path at Trannack cleared as soon as possible.

Mr. Gordon had since met with Mr Glasper, his colleague and the 2 tenants of the land (the field in question with the silt deposits is transferring tenancy at the moment) and a contractor this Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup>. January. He said they had discussed the issue of the silt build up, the piles of stones and also the run off beyond the field where the Path runs through the small corridor, Mr Glasper was very helpful and understands the dilemma and has requested that his contractor removes the large piles of stones that are presently sitting on the Definitive Line of the Path, that he removes the build up of silt and places down a suitable and amenable walking surface through the field. However, due to the water logged ground conditions, he would allow some clemency with regards to time scales to get this rectified – if his contractor moves in now to get the job done he will make the ground conditions an awful lot worse. He said he was happy for the works to start once the ground has dried up a little and this slight delay will in the short term, hopefully give long term benefits to this Path. He said he would advise the PC when work is due to start.

**Road Surface Merther Farm to Carleen Road** – Claire Banks, Neighbourhood Steward, Cormac Solutions, had visited and inspected the road. Whilst she stated she would be able to repair potholes in the next financial year, (no funds are left in this years budget), she said the general condition of the road was better than a lot and therefore it would not score highly enough to be resurfaced in the immediate future.

**Flooding at Prospidnick** – A meeting had been held with Mr. Glasper, which neither the PC or residents were aware of until the day, and sumps and catchment pits are to be put in the worst areas, and a gateway closed. It is hoped

permission will be granted to increase the size of the discharge pipe into the River Cober at Chynhale which might ease the situation there.

A letter and photographs of the flooding had been sent to George Eustice MP, The Environment Agency, and Cornwall Councillor Bert Biscoe as requested at the January PC Meeting. A letter had also been sent to the Fire Brigade asking for details of their attendances in the area in respect of flooding over the last few months.

Cllr. Morgans said that the pipe next to his property had been cleared out and the kennel was now running freely.

It was agreed to discuss flooding in camera at the end of the meeting.

**Footpath 230/6/1 Mellangoose to Newham Barton and Farm** - The Clerk had contacted Hamish Gordon. He had surveyed the path and found a gullied section near the centre of 50m. The repairs will be carried out via CC capital fund pot for flood related damage. He had put signs up at either end of the path advising the public that the surface is uneven and has cut down all the vegetation so the path is clear throughout.

**Dog Fouling Merther Close** – The CC Dog Warden had contacted the Clerk as he had been unable to obtain details of the culprit. He had, therefore, written to all the residents of Merther Close, and it is hoped this will resolve the matter.

## 21. Affordable Housing

Lucy Jenkin the architect for the Affordable Housing Scheme arrived. It was proposed by Cllr. Pascoe seconded by Cllr. Elliott and carried unanimously that Standing Order SO40a(vi) be invoked, to alter the order of business on the agenda for reason of urgency or expediency, so that item 21 Affordable Housing be taken and that the public could comment immediately afterwards

Lucy Jenkin said that Victoria Regan, Planning Officer, had stated that she was not happy with plots backing onto public open space and these plots had been redistributed around a curve with the open space at the bottom. An arrangement is being discussed with Coastline (although there is another housing association interested if Coastline drop out) to take on the scheme as they have applied for grant funding. There are still going to be 20 properties in total with a 50/50 split between rent and home ownership. The Affordable rented properties has increased by 2 to 12 made up of 2 x 1 bed, 6 x 2b4p and 4 x 3b5p bed and the home ownership will be 2 open market and 6 shared ownership – 2 x 2b3p, 2, 2b4p, 2 x 3 b5p.

Lucy asked the Council if they were now happy with the design and split. It was proposed by Cllr. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Martin, and carried unanimously that Council were happy with the scheme and were content for a planning application to be made. Lucy agreed to investigate funding of the maintenance of the open space now Coastline are involved.

Cllr. Martin did state that he wanted the PC to have a say in the letting/home ownership of the properties, as he wanted to ensure, unlike in some areas, that they are truly used for local applicants

Mr. Trevelion said that the open public space may be suitable for a Community Orchard; he said each year funding is available for such schemes. The deadline for this year's application is 31.3, so unfortunately no application could be made this year. Grants of up to £700 (75%) are available with match funding of 25% required.

It was agreed that if an application is made for a community orchard it should be left until 2015 until the properties have been built. It was agreed that Community Orchard should be added to the March PC Agenda.

## 6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –

Mr. Richard Goedegebuur enquired what had been ascertained about the second fire engine that attended the flooding on 23/12. The Clerk stated that the initial appliance that attended the Old Piggery was from Helston. The second one, which turned back on instruction from the officer of the Helston Appliance, was from Camborne and was deployed elsewhere. It was not due to its inability to pass through the flood.

Councillors Paterson, Bickford-Smith, and Martin had attended the flooding meeting held at Helston Town Council; whilst some information had been gleaned it was more tailored to Helston problems. However, it was reported that the Environment Agency are only responsible for the River Cober to Lowertown, thereafter it becomes Ordinary Waterway and the responsibility of CC. Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe said that flood defences using organic means had been shown to slow water down significantly by using trees etc. to break the flow, along with arable crop margins in fields. Cllr. Martin said there had been the highest rainfall in the area for 250 years and the problems were mainly due to run off from fields and not actual flooding, thus it is not the responsibility of the Environment Agency but of the landowners/tenants.

**7 POLICE REPORT** – PCSO Paul Whitford had sent his apologies. There had been one crime reported in January in Prospidnick concerning a minor injury involving a dog. Restorative justice had been used with a positive outcome.

**8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS** – Cllr. Paterson said that the Lowertown Bench had been installed. Unfortunately he had been unable to attend the ceremony due to an electrical emergency at home, but had sent his apologies to Mr. Armstrong.

Cllr. Paterson said he had assisted at the Pensioners Christmas Party at Sithney School in January. He said that more helpers were needed on the organising committee. He thanked John and Sue Head for providing the entertainment at short notice.

**9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** – It was reported that the drain outside Mellangoose Farm was blocked. The Clerk was asked to contact CC to get it unblocked.

Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe said that the brambles from Coverack Bridges going towards Trannack from the first and second field on the right are arching over the road. The PC had contacted the owners and agents in late 2011 early 2012 but they had taken no action. The Clerk to contact CC and ask them to get them cut.

Cllr. Pascoe reported that where the hedge from Nurses Hill to Menamber came down the silt has returned.

**Emergency Planning**-A pro forma had been received from CC. However Councillor Bickford-Smith said he was unable to complete this as hardly any volunteers had come forward. Mr. Trevethen and Ms Chard offered there varied services. Council thanked them and put them in touch with Cllr. Bickford-Smith.

**10. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS** – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling said that 2014 had started with a bang, work is continuing across Cornwall to repair the damage created by the storms experienced over Christmas and into the New Year. He stated that there had been significant damage across Cornwall and interim repairs have been carried out in some locations, where they're needed to make the area safe, until they are able to make full repairs. He said it was important to have as much of this done before the end of January - when there will be large spring tides until 4<sup>th</sup> February. The cost of repairing the damage across Cornwall is estimated at being just over £2 million - initially £1.56 million in the short term with an additional £575K in the long term. A full report giving details of damage to various areas of Cornwall will be on his website.

Cornwall Councillor John Keeling said there had been long discussions over the proposed housing numbers for Cornwall before submission of the Cornwall Local Plan to the Secretary of State for examination by an independent Inspector. The Cornwall Local Plan provides the local policies to guide planning decisions and until it is adopted, the main planning policy for Cornwall is the National Planning Policy Framework and its presumption in favour of sustainable development. A baseline figure of 33,000 was suggested, rather than the proposed figure of 47,500 over the next 20 years. He stated that Cornwall has one of the highest stocks of empty houses in the country with some 29,000 vacant out of a total of 260,000 dwellings. He said it was put succinctly that CC should not start with the simple question of how many houses we should build; but how we are going to meet the desperate need for affordable and local needs homes; and despite the growth in house building over the past 40 years, the housing problems of local people has worsened. Nevertheless, the Council finally voted in favour of the proposed figure of 47,500 by a large majority.

Cornwall Councillor stated that other meetings and topics discussed included: a select committee meeting to scrutinise the newly formed Integrated Transport Unit. This brings together all passenger transport service planning, procurement and monitoring and management functions across a range of service areas. With the increasing pressure for greater efficiency and cost savings this is seen as an advantage in containing costs and achieving best value in local authority service delivery.

An investigation, by the Standards Committee, into an OMBUDSMAN report was conducted to investigate the facts behind a rather contentious planning application that was approved some time ago.

He stated that he is continuing to discuss with Cllr Bert Biscoe the Portfolio Holder for Transport and Waste the way ahead for a potential "Length man's Scheme". Naturally, there are budgetary issues and a number of other Councillors have expressed an interest in the scheme to benefit their divisions. The way forward will be an officer and member working group to develop a feasibility study and I will be included on that group.

He stated that flooding caused by the runoff from fields in the form of mud and water is the main issue in the Parish at the moment. He had visited a number of sites, including Penpraze Farm and Prospidnick as well as Roseladden with the flooding from the stream backing up. All these problems need to be sorted out with land owners, farmers and other organisations. He said he had been in discussions with the Chairman of the Parish Council and the Portfolio Holder, Cllr Bert Biscoe about this dire matter and will try to progress it to a satisfactory conclusion. He said he had asked to speak to George Eustice MP, DEFRA Minister, on this matter.

## **11. PLANNING**

**Planning Applications** To consider planning applications received: -- There had been no PAP.

PA14/00055 Glaneth Farm, Prospidnick, Helston TR13 0RY. Two storey rear extension and single storey side extension. Proposed balcony at first floor level on the north elevation. Cllr. Morgans declared a disclosable financial interest as a next door neighbour and took no part in the discussion. He did not leave the room. It was proposed by Cllr. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Elliot and carried on a majority vote (Cllr. Bickford-Smith abstained as he had not seen the plans) that the PC supports the application.

PA/14/00748 Helston Railway, Prospidnick, Helston TR13 0RY Extension to existing railway and platforms and car park. Construction of temporary platform, change of use of two barns for storage, light maintenance and provision of premises for Organic Trevarno. Plan arrived 3/2/2014. Councillors were advised that the application was on display for perusal but it would be considered at the March 4<sup>th</sup> PC Meeting.

## **OTHER PLANNING MATTERS**

### **Enforcement**

**EN13/02212 Pengoon Farm.** – Mandy Smith, CC said that the CLUED application is still 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 satisfied himself that no one was living in the caravan, but had served a Planning Contravention Notice on the owners, which they are obliged to complete, stating what they are using the caravan for. If in future they then live in the caravan action can be taken.

**Yurt at Roseawen Woods** – This has been removed.

**EN13/02680 Helston Railway and Organic Trevarno Soap** – Lee Viner, CC had visited the site. A toilet block had been moved, and a field had been cleared – run off had been a problem and a bank has been built to try and stop this. A planning application has been lodged at CC but had arrived too late for this meeting.

### **Decisions Approved.**

PA13/10843. Amended Plan (PA13/00585) 5 The Sidings, Nancegollan. Live/work unit.

PA13/07197 Hillcrest, Sithney Common Hill, Sithney. Listed building consent to add a porchway to existing kitchen.

**Local Enforcement Plan** – Postponed.

**12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY** – A date for replacement of the missing signs is awaited.

**Footpath 230/5/4** - The Chairman had asked the Clerk to contact Hamish Gordon, Cormac, and ask him to inspect the footpath between Tremaine Wood and the unnamed road approaching Truthall Halt. The land is former Trevarno Ltd. land and managed by Mr. Glasper. Mr. Gordon said he would inspect on 7<sup>th</sup> February and report his findings to the PC. Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe expressed her outrage that the Chairman had exceeded his authority by asking the Countryside Officer to look at the path, and that it was unreasonable, in current weather conditions, to expect

immediate reinstatement of paths on agricultural land. Cllr. Paterson stated that footpaths should, in order to comply with Rights of Way legislation be levelled within 24 hours of being disturbed.

**Footpath 230/30/1** – Cllr. Pascoe said that the path from Tuckingmill Farm to Coverack Bridges (Gold Path) there is no top soil on the path and by the railway line the manhole is surcharging onto the path and has gauged out a rut 18” deep. The Clerk to report to Hamish Gordon.

**13. LOCALISM/CODE OF CONDUCT/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN** – The meeting with Maxine Hardy of CC on 28<sup>th</sup> January at the Helston One Stop Shop had been cancelled as it clashed with a flooding meeting at Helston Town Council. A revised date of Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> February had been suggested; however a large number of Councillors could not attend. The Clerk was asked to contact Maxine Hardy and ask for a few dates avoiding Tuesday and Friday and the first week of March.

#### **14. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE**

Winter Edition of Peninsula News.

E mail plus advice card and advice booklet re flooding from CC, storm updates

Rural Services Network – Rural News 6/1/2014, 13/1/2014, 20/1/2014 and 27/1/2014

Rural Services Network - Rural Vulnerability Broadband and Fuel Poverty January 2014

Rural Services Network Seminar - The unreachable.

Rural Services Network - Rural Housing National Conference 2014

Council Tax Referendum principles e mail from CC, Peter Hockin.

Poster re recruitment of First Responders by SW Ambulance Service.

Cornwall AONB January 2013

Letter Andrew George MP circulated to all Councillors 14/1/2014 – Strengthening local decision making & flooding

CALC The Week Issue 1

Invitation to ‘Founders/World Thinking Day’, Guiding and Scouting event on Sunday 23<sup>rd</sup> February from 2-4p.m. at Nancegollan VH. The theme is ‘Poverty, Homelessness, and the Right to Education’ and they will be raising money for Shelter Box and St. Petrocs.

**E mail from Coastline Housing re possible building of open market dwelling at Merther Close – e mail circulated 24/1-** Cllr. Martin said that he felt building an open market dwelling on this plot was wrong. There are several residents living in Merther Close who wanted to down size their homes as they were subject to the ‘bedroom tax’. The Clerk to contact Coastline stating that two single storey dwellings, lengthwise on the plot, should be built for rent, so that older residents could move in and that it would free homes for families in the Parish. The Clerk to ask for a plan to show where they proposed to resite the granite picnic bench. **XXX**

**E mail re home to school transport** – The Clerk stated that the deadline for response was 28/2 and asked Council if someone could respond to the document. It was appreciated that this was applicable to secondary school children but this would ultimately affect the children moving up from Primary to Secondary Education, therefore Cllr. Pascoe, being a school governor kindly agreed to respond.

#### **15. FINANCE**

##### **a) To consider the following accounts for payment:**

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

Mrs Pauline Williams, Clerk £563.69	Salary	437.96
	Mileage	14.50
	Office Allowance	20.00
	Computer Depreciation	15.00
	Telephone Calls	3.15
	Petty Cash	73.08
Trannack School	Hire of rooms April to November 2013	55.00
Sithney School	Hire of rooms June to December 2013	48.20

**16. Parish Website** – As Councillor Betteridge had resigned there was no update.

**17. School Governors Report** – Cllrs. Mrs. Pascoe and Bickford-Smith were still attending training courses. There is a huge time commitment. Cllr. Paterson proposed a vote of thanks to both School governors for taking on the role and sought confirmation that they were willing and able to continue. This was confirmed. Cllr. Pascoe reported that the new Head and New member of staff were settled in at Trannack. The Clerk stated she had finally got a fob to enable the PC to open the side door.

**18. Updating Standing Orders.** Cllrs were asked if they had found any corrections necessary, It was proposed by Cllr. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Elliot and carried unanimously that the Standing Orders were accurate and they be completed and re-circulated.

**19. Adding extra Cheque signatory at bank** – Cllr. Morgans kindly agreed to be added to make four signatories.

**20. Resignation of Councillor Jerry Betteridge** – CC and Councillors had been advised of the resignation. CC has issued the notices which went up on 7<sup>th</sup> February on PC Notice Boards. If within 14 days (excluding weekends) 10 or more residents ask for an election then one will be called. CC will notify the PC after expiry of the 14 days as to whether there will be an election or the vacancy should be filled by co-option and they will issue the appropriate notices.

**21 TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> March, 2014

Cllr. Paterson thanked the public for their attendance and input but asked that they now leave due to the confidential nature of the item to be discussed.

Exclusion of 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”.

**CONFIDENTIAL ITEM**