

# SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ian Paterson

Clerk to the Council  
Mrs. Pauline Williams  
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36/14

## MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SITHNEY SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 2<sup>nd</sup> DECEMBER 2014 AT 7.30PM

### Present:-

Cllr. I Paterson – Chairman      Cllr. P. Elliott  
Cllr. P. Martin                      Cllr. M. Morgans

Parish Clerk Mrs. Pauline Williams, and 3 members of the public,

- 1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – were received from Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith Vice-Chairman – holiday, Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, Cllr. Ms E. Williams - working and Cornwall Councillor John Keeling – chairing another meeting.
- 2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> November, 2014 were proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.
- 3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA** – None. See Page 40 Disclosure of Interests book.
- 4. TO CONSIDER ANY APPLICATIONS FOR DISPENSATIONS UNDER SECTION 33 OF THE LOCALISM ACT 2011**- None
- 5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES**

### Appeals

**Update Wheal Bramble** – Nothing to report.

**APP/D0840/A/14/2224296 (PA14/00748) Extension of existing railway with platforms and car park. Construction of temporary platform, change of use of two barns to storage and light maintenance and provision of premises for Organic Trevarno.** – Nothing to report

**Footpath 230/6/1 Mellangoose to Newham Barton and Farm** – There is still no funding available, but Hamish Gordon estimated that to reinstate the surface and incorporate drainage would be approximately £1,000-£2,000.

**Footpath 230/9/2** – Cllr. Paterson had visited the owner of Chynance and apologised on behalf of the Council.

**Footpath 230/30/1** – Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe had met with Hamish Gordon, Cormac, and the path owner Mr. Hesketh. The removal of the boulder at the rear of Mr. Hesketh's property had further destabilised the path. Due to the difficulties in repairing this, and the fact that the path is under mud most of the winter, the owner had volunteered to have the path legally diverted around the edge of his woodland, which Hamish Gordon (and Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe concurred) felt would make a more pleasant walking, riding path. He has asked for CC to meet with him to see if this would be a viable application, and meanwhile to get a permissive route put in.

**Replacement of missing/defective footpath signs** – The Chairman had asked the Clerk to ask Hamish Gordon to supply a price per sign.

**Overhanging bough Front Lodge to Mellangoose** – Claire Banks, Cormac, had issued a formal notice requiring the owners to cut the laurels.

**Light Bulb Lowertown Library Box** – This had not yet been replaced.

**Helston Railway Signs junction Trevarno Turn from Chynhale to B3303** – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling had sent a written report to the Clerk which stated that the signs had been re-sited to ensure visibility of the Helston Railway signs in good time for people travelling from the South. Now that the verges and visibility splay had been cut, the only obstruction could be the telegraph pole. Therefore it is not proposed to take any action as it is deemed unnecessary to encroach past the give way markings to ensure adequate visibility. It was agreed to let the matter rest.

**Enforcement Retail Unit Electrical Kitchen, Trannack Mills, Coverack Bridges EN14/01721** – Niamh Ashworth CC said it had not been decided on how to proceed with enforcement action yet.

### **6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

Mr. Colwell of Boscadjack House, said that the reason for the planning application for an agricultural building was that he used to store hay and equipment at his mother-in-laws property, but this had now been sold, so he needed new storage facilities.

The Chairman stated that he had received an objection to the application and asked the Clerk to read it to Council.

The Clerk read objections received via e mail concerning the planning application for Boscadjack House. The objections which were:-

Is there a need for this massive building adjacent to family homes?

It would lead to further destruction of a green field site.

There is already a purpose built tractor shed that could be adapted for this purpose.

Why the redundant fish farm building cannot be used to store this equipment.

The applicant does not work in agriculture or keep livestock. The storage is merely for a commercial enterprise

Neighbours feel it is to be used to expand his vehicle repair business and perhaps to include further workers and work on agricultural vehicles.

If the application is granted conditions should be made to restrict it for agricultural storage only, for no commercial use and with limited the hours of use.

Mr. Peter Grout of Chynance said whilst he accepted the PC apologies for the herbicide that had been sprayed on his fruit garden and knew it could not be undone, it was nevertheless criminal trespass. He said he had cultivated his land organically for 35 years and this action had undone this. He said he was astonished at the lack of care of wildlife, flowers and animals and said that walkers do not want a sterile environment. He asked if the operative was competent in his work and had the necessary documentation. The Clerk responded that the contractor had all the necessary

documentation and the Chairman confirmed that the contractor had worked for this Council for many years and for many other surrounding Councils as well. Mr. Grout said that strimming was damaging his path and the Cornish Hedge – knocking stones out and asked who was going to re build it. Cllr. Martin said that a strimmer would not dislodge stones in a proper Cornish Hedge and asked what the nature of the wall was. Mr. Grout said the wall had been there many years and had no knowledge of its construction, he asked to be advised what the chemical used was, and he sought assurance that the contractor would be instructed not to work on his property again and that he would continue to maintain the path. He read out an e mail from Mr. Betteridge at Chanters (who had not contacted the PC) who also said he did not want the Contractor on his land and would take responsibility for the maintenance of the path. The Chairman asked the Clerk to contact the Countryside Officer, Hamish Gordon, and ask if these two sections of path could be removed from the LMP contract.

**7 POLICE REPORT** – In a written report PCSO Ashley Fuller said there had been no reported crimes during the month. He asked for people to be reminded of the telephone and courier frauds currently taking place. He asked that people remember to keep valuables out of site in cars.

**8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS** – The Chairman reported that the abandoned car in the Sithney Church Car Park had been removed thanks to the efforts of local residents. The Chairman said he had been elected (in his absence) as Vice-Chairman of the Helston and Lizard Community Network.

The Chairman reported that the Clerk was being repeatedly approached about the PC siteing a defibrillator in the Parish. The Clerk had contact SW Ambulance service who had advised that a defibrillator cost £1,600 for 4 years, renewable after that, and that the cost of a cabinet to keep it in would be £700. The cabinet needs to have an electrical supply to keep it warm when it is outdoors. The battery of the new G5 units lasts about five years. The Clerk explained the layout of the Parish, and Mr. Matthews, SW Ambulance, said that a defibrillator needs to be easily accessible or its use would be ineffective. It was agreed the Parish being too spread out was not suitable. It was proposed by Cllr. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and carried unanimously that as there was nowhere central to keep it, like a shop or a pub on a busy road, the PC would not pursue the idea.

The Chairman said that the Sithney Lights are to be switched on on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> December at 6p.m. accompanied by a band and carol singing. Attendees to meet by the granite picnic bench at Merther Close.

Complaints had been received about horses riding up and down the front drive at Tregadjack Farm; the path is only a footpath not a bridleway. The Chairman said he would speak to local liveries.

**9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** – Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe sent a report stating that she had met with Mr. Chris Fenely from Cormac at Coverack Bridges on 25<sup>th</sup> November. He stated that the re surfacing was in fact only going to be pothole mending. She had showed him the condition of the road at Longstone Down to the junction past the farm, he had said he would add it to the 'to do list'. The Clerk was asked to e mail CC to confirm that it has been added to the list.

**10. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS** – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling had sent the Clerk a report in his absence. It stated that Cornwall Council have set the budget at £496.499 for 2015/16 and setting next year's budget early rather than in February 2015 will enable savings to be made earlier and will save the Council around £7m to £9m. The decision which will involve making savings of £58.8m over the next twelve months includes an agreement in principle to increase council tax by 1.97%, which is just under central governments cap of 2%, thus saving on the need for a referendum that would be required with a higher percentage of Council tax rises. This proposal will need to be ratified by the full Council in February, and will mean an annual increase of £25 for a band D property – or 25p a week. Cornwall Councillor John Keeling stated that he could not support the budget because he continued to be deeply concerned about the level of cuts to frontline services and particularly adult social care, learning disabilities and mental health who will be taking a £14m cut in funding over the next four years. He said he also felt that the four year plan to save £196m was flawed he did not approve of pulling out of services like public toilets when they are building new offices. He stated these are extremely difficult times financially for the Council and 1,000 jobs are expected to go over the medium term financial period 2015/19.

The Chairman asked Cllr. Martin for his views in the absence of Cornwall Councillor John Keeling. Cllr. Martin said that a 4 year budget had been set, when despite there being an election in two years, and he felt the current Council should not try and pre determine what a new Council would decide. He said that like Cornwall Councillor John Keeling he abstained from voting due to the proposed cuts in the Adult Social Care budgets which they could not support, as if they had voted against the budget there would have been significant costs involved to CC.

Devolution continues to have a massive following in local government and he had attended a County Council Network (CCN) meeting in Marlow, Buckinghamshire for two days during the month. With 23 million people represented by 37 County and Unitary authorities; CCN represents a powerful voice in the drive for a shift of power from Whitehall to County areas with a strong sense that devolution is vital economically, socially and politically. Through partnership working between local partners and a pragmatic approach to governance he believed they could deliver better services, improved growth and balanced and sustainable growth.

Several other meetings had taken place on matters such as flood risk management, review of the provision of toilets (again) and a very interesting meeting in Penzance on the Prospective West Cornwall Local Action Group of which he is a member. There will be nearly £2m of funding available for the West Cornwall area to enable projects to be identified for the strategic objectives of: improving business vitality, creating more jobs locally and driving community resilience which

includes town centre and village revitalisation; it is essential that local input via, the Parish Councils and other community groups, in the form of representation is made. He said he was not quite sure how this is being organised at the moment but will provide more information in due course.

He stated that highways are installing a "not suitable for HGV's" sign on the Redruth-Helston Road, which hopefully will prevent the ridiculous situation of large vehicles causing damage and getting stuck in the narrow lanes in and around the Lowertown area of Sithney Parish. The Scrutiny Committee will be conducting an inquiry into Flood Risk Management in Cornwall which he will be taking an active part in.

## 11. PLANNING

**Planning Applications** To consider recommendations to planning applications received: --

PA14/10382 Boscadjack House, Coverack Bridges. Agricultural building for machinery and hay store. PAP supported this application.

PA14/10671 Penpraze Farm, Crowntown, Helston TR13 0AA. Conversion and alteration of ancillary accommodation to form holiday letting unit. PAP supported this application.

PA14/10982 Crowntown Car Sales, Crowntown Filling Station, Crowntown, Helston. TR13 0AD. Proposed demolition of existing garage and construction of dwelling with attached garage. PAP supported this application, and noted that the much improved plan had taken into consideration the issues raised by the Planning Officer and Parish Council on the original application.

It was proposed by Cllr. Morgans seconded by Cllr. Elliott (Cllr. Martin abstained as reserve for the CC planning meeting) and carried that these decisions be endorsed by the Parish Council and transmitted to CC as the PC comments.

### Approved

PA14/02611 Nancegollan. Use of land for the siting of seven residential caravans, Pengoon Farm. TR13 0BH.

## 12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY –

**BW/FP14/4/5** – The requested scrub clearance cannot be carried out due to open mineshafts in the area, steep drops and a 12 foot wall obstructing the route. Hamish Gordon has passed the matter to CC for their consideration and view on what can be done.

Hamish Gordon said he was in negotiations with the land owner concerning various obstructions to the path that he wanted removed. It was agreed to defer any decision for the time being.

Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe had reported that CC is considering a continuation of the path from 230/14/3 along the non definitive path that comes out on the road between Primrose Farm and Trefusis. She stated that she felt the PC should write in support of this and enlist Cornwall Councillor John Keeling's support as well. Cllr. Paterson said he thought this may be the route that had been subject to a public enquiry and been refused (Sithney PC and the Ramblers had objected). The Clerk to contact Hamish Gordon and ask his advice.

**FP14/1** – Hamish Gordon had contacted the land agent and was assured that the path will be reopened within the next few weeks, when it will be re-inspected.

**BW29/1** – Mr. Sanders and Hamish Gordon, Cormac, have cleared this path. The Chairman confirmed that it was a first class job and reported that he had managed to get two way marking signs installed at the same time.

**13. REGENERATION** – Paint for ex BT boxes, cast iron signposts, and granite milestones – Cllr. Ms Williams not being present this item was deferred.

**14. LOCALISM/CODE OF CONDUCT/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN** – Nothing to report.

## 15. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

Safer Cornwall – newsletter dated 28<sup>th</sup> October

Cornwall Council Homelessness Strategy Review – consultation ends 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2015

Rural Services Network – weekly news 3/11, 10/11, 17/11,

Rural Opportunities Bulletin 5/11 and Local Economies 11/11. Rural Community Energy Fund 10/11. Rural Broadband.

Newquay Cornwall Airport Master plan Consultation

CC Your Budget you say 2014 summary and responses to consultation.

CC – Localism and Devolution information bulletin 17/11/2014

## 16. FINANCE

**a) To consider the following accounts for payment:** - Approval of schedule of payments and sign.

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

	£
Mrs. Pauline Williams – Clerk	600.53
RBL Poppy Appeal – donation	100.00
Cllr. I Paterson – reimbursement fee for Planning Conference	10.00
Sithney Community Primary School – Hire 10/2, 1/4, 3/6, 7/10/14	53.80
	<b>764.33</b>

**b) Consider the following applications for donations** – Nothing further had been heard from Sithney and Lowertown over 60's club.

### c) Financial Reports by Clerk

**Financial report** - The Clerk reported that she had invoices to pay totalling £764.33 as reported at item 16a. The balance at the end of November on the Current Account was £5,695.36 and on the Business Saver £33,546.08. These are

considered adequate to undertake the work of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and agreed that the report be accepted.

**Approval of Monthly Report.** The accounts to end of November had been circulated but they do not include the payments drawn on 2<sup>nd</sup> December. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgans seconded by Cllr. Martin and carried that these represent a true account of the Parish Council finances and they were signed by the Chairman

**Monthly Risk Assessment** – The lock on the notice board at Lowertown had been replaced. The Helston and Lizard Works had agreed to repaint the inside of the Bus Shelter at Crowtown as well as the windows and fascias. The light in the telephone box at Lowertown has not been replaced. The conifer hedge behind the notice board at Crowtown is badly in need of cutting as it is necessary to bend to affix notices, likewise the public would also have to do so, and it is also encroaching over the footpath. The Clerk was asked to knock on the owner's door next time she visits the board and speak to them about cutting back the section of hedge immediately above the board. The money box is still chained to the PC Notice Board at Trannack and the gorse hedge behind the board needs cutting back. Cllr. Paterson agreed to speak to the owners in order to resolve the matter. It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Martin and carried unanimously that this report be accepted.

**17. Set Precept for 2015/16 and revised three year budget forecast** – Cllr. Elliott reminded Council that the initial three year forecast had been approved at the October PC meeting. It was planned to reduce the Precept by two thousand pounds in order to reduce the large reserves held by the PC. Notification of the CTSG for 2015/16 had been received and it had been reduced from £993.55 to £778.01, with further reductions of 15% per year anticipated by CC. There is a predicted under spend this year of £6,000 which will be added to the reserves. A meeting had been held between the Chairman, Cllr. Elliott and the Clerk and it had been decided to recommend to Council that the budget be balanced so there is no planned carry forward to reserves for 2016. To this end a budget of £13,514 as detailed in the papers previously circulated was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried unanimously and the Clerk was asked to advise CC of the Precept of £13,514.

**18. Co-Option of new Parish Councillors:** - A prospective Councillor Mr. Clive Perrin was in attendance and it is hoped following the meeting he may wish to put his name forward for co-option.

**19. Flooding** – The problem at the bottom of the field near Parc-An-Lower, Lower Prospidnick (OSGR SW647310) where the Cornish hedge had given way during the floods had been referred to Tom Marks Cormac Solutions and Martin Clemo. Cllr. Morgans said that he, Mr. Stanton and the Clerk had supplied Martin Clemo with large amounts of information and photographs, but nothing had been heard since. Cornwall Councillor John Keeling is to attend a meeting shortly on flooding and it is hoped some progress will be made.

**20. Consideration of purchase of PC computer** – The Chairman said that due to the proposal to send future planning applications by e mail, he proposed that the PC buy a laptop, projector, keyboard, and mouse along with the appropriate software and virus protection. He anticipated that it would be a maximum cost of £1,000. The Clerk said that all the current information, including e mails would have to be transferred to the new computer. The Chairman said he was able to do this. He would liaise with the Clerk and obtain 3 prices for a future meeting.

**21. School Governors Report** – None present.

**22. Communications – Parish Newsletter/Website** – Cllr. Bickford-Smith had provided a sample website and costings. However, under SO11 h p15 of Standing Orders it is necessary to obtain 3 quotes including that of Cllr. Bickford-Smith. The Chairman to liaise with the Clerk to decide on the PC requirements.

**23. Affordable Housing** – The Clerk was asked to enquire what the current situation was.

**24. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING** - Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> January, 2015 at Trannack School.