

SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Ian Paterson

Clerk to the Council
Mrs. Jodie Ellis
07855774357

Trannack Farm,
St Erth
Hayle, TR27 6ET

44/14

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT SITHNEY SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 3rd February, 2015 at 7.30PM

Present:-

Cllr. I Paterson – Chairman Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith Vice-Chairman

Cllr. P. Elliott Cllr. P. Martin

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

Cllr. C. Perrin

Cornwall Councillor John Keeling (Arrived 8.00pm), Parish Clerk Mrs. Pauline Williams, and 4 members of the public,

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were received from PCSO Berry.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES - The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 6th January, 2015 were proposed by Cllr. Morgans seconded by Cllr. Bickford-Smith and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA – Cllr. Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest in item 20 website and item 24 Affordable Housing a non registerable interest in item 16b) Application for financial assistance Sithney and Lowertown over 60's club as a recipient, and Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe declared a non registerable interest in item 16b) Application for financial assistance Sithney and Lowertown over 60's club as a committee member, and Cllr. Morgans declared a non registerable interest in item 16b) Application for financial assistance Sithney and Lowertown over 60's club as a recipient. See Page 42 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

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. – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling will visit Adrian Curtis at Prospidnick to see if there are any issues, and may refer it to the CC enforcement team re the temporary platform at Prospidnick.

Footpath 230/6/1 Mellangoose to Newham Barton and Farm – Still no funding available.

Footpath 230/9/2 – Mr. Sanders had confirmed there were no more works planned.

Footpath 230/30/1 – Hamish Gordon had advised the Clerk that CC is liaising with Scott Hesketh with a view to legally diverting the line of the Bridleway but as yet there had been no progress.

Overhanging bough Front Lodge to Mellangoose – An e mail had been received from Peter Tatlow, Network Manager West, Cormac. This was somewhat surprising since Claire Banks had served a section 154 notice on the owners and the PC had merely asked when this would be enforced. Mr. Tatlow admitted he had visited the agent in 2013, despite the fact that Cormac had categorically refuted that any meeting had ever taken place. It was felt that the tone of the e mail was somewhat curt. The agent for Trevarno had apparently given an undertaking to cut back the area in the next two weeks. Cllr P. Bickford-Smith has confirmed this had been done last week. Cllr P Martin proposed writing in response to Peter Tatlow asking him to confirm the situation as his email contradicted itself. This was seconded by Cllr Mrs. Pascoe and carried by 5 votes (Cllr. Perrin and Cllr. Bickford-Smith abstained).

Light Bulb Lowertown Library Box – This had been replaced.

Van and 2 caravans parked at Roseawen Wood – Cllr. Bickford-Smith reported that he had met with the owners. They have stated they are homeless but were not living in the van or the caravans.

Roadside Hedge at Trannack Cottage - The Clerk was asked to chase Cornwall Council for a response to the email.

The Chairman asked if it was Council's wish to bring item 23 Letter Executive Head teacher Garras and Sithney School re Federation Process forward. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgans, seconded by Cllr. Martin and carried that Standing Order 42a (iii) be invoked bringing the item forward.

23. Letter Executive Head teacher Garras and Sithney School re Federation Process - Sithney Head Teacher Mrs Susan Evans, gave a briefing on the upcoming Federation Process consultation for Sithney and Garras school to unite as one, but to also keep their independence. It was explained that governors, teachers and children had been mixing for the past 15 months and it was working extremely well. The Consultation process starts on the 9th February 2015 when the document is available online for everyone's opinion. It will have a six week consultation period (ending on 23rd March) then the decision will be made taking into consideration the feedback that has been received. The process is not set in stone and can be reversed at any time. Cllr Martin asked if the **future of the school** depended on it but it was confirmed that it did not. If the partnership goes ahead then a new governing body will be formed. Fritha Durham, Chair of the Governors also spoke in support of the process and explained how some rural small schools are facing closure, but this federation would secure Garras and Sithney Schools in the future.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None

7 POLICE REPORT – PCSO Berry had sent her apologies. There had been one crime during the month under Section 4a) of the Public Order Act, this crime had been dealt with under the restorative justice scheme.

8. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS – Correspondence has been received from Mr Lockett concerning the application at Boscadjack House, Coverack Bridges, TR13 0PB. The Chairman had responded saying that there is nothing more that the Parish Council can do and the planning issues would need to be taken up with CC Planning Officers and the Code of Conduct issues would need to be addressed to Simon Mansell the Monitoring Officer for Cornwall Council.

9. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS Cllr Mrs Pascoe reported that Cormac had been putting cones on the edge of the roads, in particularly bad areas. Cllr P Bickford Smith has spoken to Claire Banks and this is being done for safety reasons, it is hoped that the repairs can be carried out shortly.

10. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling reported that there had been a number of meetings including those of full council, Standards Committee, Scrutiny Management Committee and political

group leaders meeting to try and reach a consensus on how to take forward the “Case for Cornwall” as part of the drive for a shift of power from central government down to local authorities to benefit the people of Cornwall and their communities. At full Council he had asked a question of the Localism Executive Councillor about hosting a meeting of Parish and Town Councils to exchange views and issues surrounding neighbourhood planning. He said he felt it would be particularly useful if those Councils that had completed their plans were available to answer questions from those that were considering or had just started the process. The Standards Committee was a useful forum for debate on different scenarios of Code of Conduct for Town, Parish and Cornwall Councillors across Cornwall. Given the committee accepts reports of complaints; it was fitting that a focus report was tabled from the Local Government Ombudsman on learning lessons from complaints. Despite the rather odd title of “Not in my back yard” Local people and the planning process” it covered the legal background, how they remedy injustice, roles of local Councillors and when things go wrong and common complaints. He said it was a useful document, and had asked for it to be forwarded to all town and Parish Councils in Cornwall.

11. PLANNING

Planning Applications

Approved

PA14/01755 Nanskerris, Trevarno, Sithney TR13 0RU. Submission of details to discharge conditions 2 and 3 in respect of decision notice. The Clerk had supplied Councillors with a copy of the conditions for reference.

PA14/03190 Demolition of existing dwelling and construction of replacement dwelling. Moffats Corner, Nancegollan. Discharge of conditions 4 & 5.

PA14/10982 Crowntown Car Sales, Crowntown Filling Station, Crowntown, Helston. TR13 0AD. Proposed demolition of existing garage and construction of dwelling with attached garage

PA14/11155 Pencoys, Crowntown, Helston. TR13 0AB. Part demolition, extension and change of use of disused barn to single residential dwelling house – Killiow Estate Ltd. Matt Doble, CC Planning Officer had confirmed that a sewage treatment works will be set up. The Clerk had checked with members of PAP and obtained approval to confirm the PC acceptance of this.

12. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY – The Clerk reported that the offer had been received in respect of the LMP for 2015 in the sum of £1,175 (as last year). She sought permission for the Chairman to accept this offer and sign the form on behalf of the Council. It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott seconded by Cllr. Martin and carried unanimously that the Chairman sign the form and the Clerk send it to Cormac.

The Clerk had received the paperwork for obtaining quotes for the 2015/16 season. She sought permission to obtain quotes from Bob Sanders (current contractor), Grounds Maintenance SW, and Peninsula Gardens of Troon. It was proposed by Cllr. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Elliott and carried unanimously that the Clerk proceed.

BW/FP14/4/5 – As Cllr. Miss Williams was not present an update will be presented at the next meeting.

13. REGENERATION – Nothing to report.

14. LOCALISM/CODE OF CONDUCT/NEIGHBOURHOOD DEVELOPMENT PLAN – Helston Town Council and Mullion Parish Council have decided against having a Neighborhood Development Plan as if alterations are needed to the plan it has to be re approved.

15. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

Rural Services Network – weekly news 5/1,12/1, 19/1, Rural Opportunities Bulletin – 7/1/2015, Rural Broadband January, Fuel Poverty January, The Lottery and Local Authorities, Acre funding threat

E mail from Chacewater Parish Council advising of meeting on 11th February at Kingsley Village, Fraddon.

E mails re Parish Council vacancy

CALC The Week Issue1

Revision of Police and Crime Plan for 2015/16 consultation until 16th February.

Car Parking Consultation is now live.

Urgent campaign to Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs asking not to withdraw funding to ACRE network of Rural Community Councils

The Clerk reported an e mail from Cormac stating that on A394 the wall supporting Helston to Penzance road above Newham Farm has collapsed. One lane is closed eastbound until the problem can be resolved; this is reported as being several months.

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 Bickford-Smith and carried unanimously that the following accounts be paid as per the schedule of payments: -

	£	
Mrs. Pauline Williams – Clerk		1,012.18
SLCC – membership		<u>103.00</u>
		<u>1,115.18</u>

b) Consider the following applications for donations –

Sithney and Lowertown over 60’s club. (Cllr Mrs Pascoe, Cllr Morgans & Cllr Bickford-Smith having previously declared interests left the room whilst discussions took place). It was resolved, that in pursuance of

the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and being in the opinion of the Council that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, and is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure that the grant be made. It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Perrin and carried that a donation of £ 500 be made. (4votes in favour with 3 abstentions)

Sithney Christmas Lights. It was resolved, that in pursuance of the power conferred by Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972, and being in the opinion of the Council that the expenditure satisfies the requirements of that section, and is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure that the grant be made. It was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Perrin and carried that a donation of £ 560 be made. (Cllr Martin abstained.)

Financial Reports by Clerk

Financial report.

The Clerk reported that she had invoices to pay totalling £1,115.18 as reported at item 16a.

The balance at the end of December on the Current Account was £ 4,265.99 and on the Business Saver £33,548.64. These are considered adequate to undertake the work of the Parish Council. It was proposed by Cllr Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Bickford-Smith and agreed that the report be accepted.

Approval of Monthly Report. The accounts to end of January had been circulated but they do not include the payments drawn on 3rd February. It was proposed by Cllr Bickford-Smith seconded by Cllr. Elliott and carried 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 at Trannack the money box was still chained to the posts and the brambles and gorse still need cutting back. The Bus Shelter at Crowtown is awaiting repainting. The light had been replaced in the Lowertown Telephone Box. It was proposed by Cllr. Morgans seconded by Cllr. Elliott and carried unanimously that this report be accepted.

Audit – This has been completed, it was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith and seconded by Cllr. Elliott that this be adopted. Cllr. Bickford-Smith and Cllr. Elliott expressed their thanks to the Clerk.

Vire funds – The Clerk stated that due to the advertisement of her job it was necessary to transfer funds to ‘Advertising’ as there was no budget provision in 2014/15. She sought authority to vire £363 from Environmental Issues to Advertising. It was proposed by Cllr Elliott seconded by Cllr Bickford-Smith and carried unanimously that this be done.

17. Co-Option of new Parish Councillors: - Cllr. Perrin had forgotten to complete his Declaration of Interests and agreed to bring it to the next meeting. There is still one vacancy on the Parish Council.

18. Flooding – Cornwall Councillor John Keeling said he would be meeting with Andy Stevenson, Highway and Drainage Manager, about the flooding issues in Sithney Parish and on a positive note the new Common Agricultural Policy Schemes appeared to be tightening up on soil and flood protection. Cllr John Keeling had spoken with George Eustice MP who has advised that this is the best that can be achieved at present.

19. School Governors Report – Cllrs. Pascoe and Bickford-Smith had nothing to report.

20. Communications – Parish Newsletter/Website – Cllr. Paterson reported that he had added some items to the website such as the Standing Orders, agendas, minutes and the Code of Conduct. The website is difficult to operate, but he hoped it would suffice until quotes had been sought.

21. Amendment to Standing Order 17 – The Clerk reported that there had been a recommended change in wording received from CALC which will replace version 1 with version 2. This was proposed by Cllr. Elliott, seconded by Cllr. Morgans, and carried unanimously that Standing Orders be amended accordingly.

22. Transparency Code for smaller authorities dated December 2014 Annex A – CALC had sent a copy of the new Code, which had a list of items that needed to be published under the ruling. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith, seconded by Cllr Elliott, and carried unanimously that a copy will be appended to Minutes and the Necessary documents published as advised – Filming and Recording of Meetings - “In accordance with Government guidelines, Council policy does not permit the filming or photographing of persons under the age of eighteen or vulnerable adults without permission of a responsible adult. Any persons who object to being filmed or photographed and have moved to an area designated for this purpose should also not be filmed or photographed. However, the Council cannot guarantee that anyone will not be filmed or photographed.”

24. Letter from Executive Head teacher Garras and Sithney School re Federation Process – taken after item 5.

25. Appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer – see separate sheet as confidential item.

26. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING - Tuesday 3rd March, 2015 at Trannack School.

Confidential Item

25. Appointment of new Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer - 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” – Interviews had taken place for the new Clerk. Mrs. Jodie Ellis had been offered, and had accepted the post, but due to restrictions on her contract of employment was not free to take over the post until 2nd March. The current Clerk would remain in post until 13th February.