

**SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL**  
Chairman: Peter Bickford-Smith

Clerk to the Council  
Mrs Jodie Ellis  
07855774357

Trannack Farm,  
St Erth, Hayle  
TR27 6ET

38/16

**MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT TRANNACK SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 03<sup>RD</sup> JANUARY 2017 at 7.30PM**

**Present: -**

**Cllr P. Bickford-Smith – Chairman**

**Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe (Vice-Chair)**

**Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose**

**Cllr. P. Martin (arrived 7.44pm)**

**Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell**

**Cllr. A. McDonald**

**Parish Clerk Mrs. Jodie Ellis and 6 members of the public.**

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** – Were received from Cllr. Ms. E. Williams.

**2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES** –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> December 2016 were proposed by Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose and seconded by Cllr. P. 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. A. McDonald declared a non-pecuniary interest in item 10 planning PA16/11679.

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

**5. MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES –**

**Pednavounder – Hilltop road joining from the B3302** – Ben Dickinson from Cormac has received a suggestion from his road safety team, that he thinks would work at Scholars Lane. It isn't a one-way system as such but there is a no entry gateway for anyone trying to drive up and use the junction. Ben's colleague has given him the synopsis below. This would need a traffic order and would be a possible one to do.

No entry gateway - This can have most of the advantages of a one-way system, but with fewer of its disadvantages. It would involve putting a no-entry restriction close to the junction (after the last field entrance, for instance), so that existing farm vehicle access to the land is retained, and residents can drive up *most* of Scholar's Lane to access property etc., without being affected. But the restriction would then prevent a driver approaching the junction itself. This would require additional signing at the junction at Mellangoose Farmhouse junction, ('No entry X yards ahead' type), but nothing too radical. It has the other advantage of not actually making the road one-way (which can keep speeds down), although there can still be a tendency to treat it as such by locals (which can put speeds up). It's better than a full one-way in this respect, at least. The danger can be that some people are not prepared to abide by it at quiet times (it is easier to ignore than a long section of one-way), but in this instance, the junction is sufficiently awkward enough, and the alternative routes sufficiently convenient, that it might work very well. The obvious downside can be that you might need somewhere to turn around if you go up there without accessing a field – or you'll have to reverse the length of the lane.

Following advice to visit Helston Town Council, Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith met the Clerk, Chris Dawson, and explained our wish to have a RTO for a one-way system down Scholars Lane. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith subsequently emailed him with SPC's request and he said he would add it to the other requests from local councils.

**Average Speed cameras in Crowtown** – Ben Dickinson from Cormac has advised Cllr. Keeling that there is an opportunity to put in discrete black boxes to record speeding, the suggestion being one near the school and the pub, the location could be modified later. Apparently, the tubes are what developers use rather than the local authority. Cllr. Keeling has agreed to touch base with the pub to see if they don't mind one on their sign and will report back to Ben Dickinson at Cormac. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith suggested comparing the results of the covert speed survey in Crowtown from a few years ago, and the results of the new survey once available.

**Sithney Scrap Book** – The clerk advised she had been unable to contact the lady at the W.I. but will continue to try.

**Land at Sithney (Bus Shelter and Notice Board)** - Coastline would like Sithney Parish Council to take ownership of the piece of land in Sithney where the notice board and bus shelter are sited. It was agreed to wait to see if planning permission is granted at Sithney before deciding.

**Damaged Sign to Plover's Field Entrance** – Cormac have advised the area steward would investigate and any remedial work required to make safe would be carried out. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised hedge is still to be repaired.

**6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION –**

Kevin Moseley spoke in relation to planning application PA16/11516. To explain that in principal the application is to see if a single storey dwelling could be built. Mr Moseley reminded the council that they supported the similar application from the Dales back in July 2016. The hamlet for the dwelling is one that is recommended for sustainable development. There have been no objections recorded on the CC website to date for the application. The current building on site would be replaced by a much-improved building which would enhance the view. The Cornwall local plan policy which has recently been adopted, highlights in policy 3 that areas such as this hamlet are supported in sustainable development.

**7. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS** – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised, that the clerk has received an invoice for web hosting for sithneyparishcouncil.com amounting to £53.26 inc VAT. In view of the need to pay this promptly, Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has raised it under his report as it came in after the agenda was prepared. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, all in favour that the invoice is approved for payment.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith appreciated that Councillors had good reason not to be able to attend the December meeting, but it was extremely embarrassing for those who attended to be outnumbered by the members of the public. The council only just had a quorum and on certain issues it was not possible to conduct the business of the meeting, letting certain matters lapse and others to be brought back to tonight's meeting. This is far from satisfactory and sheds a poor light on this Council. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith earnestly urged Councillors to attend meetings as there is always important business to conduct. If there is a compelling reason for Cllrs not to be able to attend, please advise the Clerk in good time.

Moving forward 2017 is an election year. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised he would be standing down as Chairman and as a councillor in May due to increasing business commitments and advancing years. With two councillors expressing a wish to also not stand and two existing vacancies it is likely that there could only be 4 out of 9 councillors remaining.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith asked all Cllrs to put their minds to recruiting suitable candidates. In the meanwhile, Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has asked the clerk to look at the situation and to consult CALC about the future of SPC.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has received a call from a Parishioner re the drains at Mellangoose House which are blocked by a dead Badger and a load of gravel. She has approached Cormac – ref. 161857202 – to little effect. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith suggested the Council should contact Cormac reinforcing this request. If Cormac bring their drain sucking lorry it would be a good idea to ask them to clean the drain under the railway at Penpraze at the same time as this drain was also blocked. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, all in favour that the clerk contact Cormac.

Whilst on Highway matters Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith believes that CORMAC had agreed to resurface the road at the back entrance to Trevarno earlier in the year, but nothing has been done. The road surface here has deteriorated further and is now terrible. It was agreed the clerk would contact Cormac regarding this.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has received a card from the local RBL organiser thanking SPC for their generous donation and continued support.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised he had heard from a source outside of the council that one or more properties at Plover's Field had been allocated to local people.

**8. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS** – Cllr. P. Martin suggested that due to diminishing Cllr numbers would it be of benefit to join partnership with another parish council. It was agreed the clerk would seek advice on this.

Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised she had some old minute books belonging to SPC from a previous clerk and asked for them to be stored with the other documents at the county records office at County Hall. It was agreed the clerk would contact CC to request this. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised that landowners of land along Sithney common hill had been asked to trim the trees along the roadside and had only be given 14 days to do so. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe asked if this was in any relation to Crowan parish council's dispute with Cormac regarding hedge trimming. Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling advised that this was not and that all landowners have an obligation to trim the vegetation and cut back trees in particular along main routes.

Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell advised that she missed last month's meeting due to heart surgery and did advise the clerk accordingly.

**9. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS** – Cllr. Keeling reported a message for a happy new year to all. Cllr. Keeling reported the end of 2016 was relatively quiet with a number of local issues taking centre stage particularly some contentious planning applications. Nevertheless, the Secretary of State for local government and Communities, Sajid Javid, visited Cornwall in the middle of the month and asked to meet with the Council's Conservative Group. It was an informal gathering but an opportunity to ask some difficult questions about issues such as: the possible imposition of an elected mayor for Cornwall, which Sajid acknowledged was unlikely; the question of fairer funding based on need with cost drivers like adult social care, education, highways etc dictating the amount of funding Cornwall receives rather than the outdated and complicated model presently in place. Planning was also discussed with the issue of starter homes and other matters around affordable housing in the Duchy. Locally Cllr. Keeling wants to jump start the Speedwatch initiative as soon as everybody is back in place following the holidays. Cllr. Keeling has quite a number of volunteers so training will follow asap.

## **10. Planning: -**

### **Applications:**

PA16/11516 - Two Hoots Crowntown Helston TR13 0AA - Outline planning permission with all matters reserved: Demolition of a domestic store/workshop and erection of a single-storey dwelling. PAP have not met this month, but Cllrs have viewed the application online and Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised that as SPC supported the application of the Dales last year and this was very similar then it should be supported. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, 4 in favour, 1 abstained, that the parish council supports this application.

*8:03pm Cllr. A. McDonald left the room.*

PA16/ 11679- 3 The Sidings Nancegollan Helston Cornwall TR13 0FE - Variation of condition 2 (plans condition) in respect of decision PA13/06303 for erection of live work unit to amend approved plans. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe advised that this is the last application of the block to apply for the variation and so should be supported. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose, 3 in favour, 1 abstained, that the parish council supports this application.

*8:07pm Cllr. A. McDonald returned.*

### **Approved:**

PA16/07291 - Trevarno Mill, Trevarno, Sithney, Helston, Cornwall - Construction of garage on site of previous shed.

### **10b.) Planning Protocols**

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith asked Councillors if they had, had a chance to consider this document and advised his thoughts were that SPC had little option but to adopt the protocol. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, all in favour to lift standing orders to allow Kevin Moseley from the public gallery to speak to briefly explain the system. Mr Moseley advised that it was mainly for larger planning applications that the pre-application process is vital, and it is encouraged for the

planning applicants to get in touch with local people and parish councils at an early stage to explain the application and answer any questions. It was proposed by Cllr. P. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe, all in favour that standing orders returned. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, all in favour that Sithney Parish Council adopts the preapplication process for the planning protocol and the clerk completes the form to this effect.

#### 11. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath 230/3 – Sithney to Pednavounder – Missing section on definitive map, no further update has been received from CC.

Footpath 230/28/1 – Boscadjack to Trenear – Fence Ownership, Cormac have advised that the landowner has been identified and an officer would be attending the site 03.01.17 to carry out an inspection.

Footpath – 230/11/3, 4 & 12 –

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that the clerk had received an email regarding issues along these paths, which Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has today investigated. The issues are:

1 – There is a piece of pig netting across the path at the junction of two separate land owners. This is about 2'6" high and is an obstacle and should be replaced by a stile.

2 – The footpath is fenced off from the adjacent fields, but where there is access from one field to another the land owner has built two stiles which reach to ground level preventing dogs from getting through easily. The bottom timber needs to have a dog pop-hole as the stile height does not make it easy for a dog to negotiate the stiles.

3 – The stile at the eastern end is missing the bottom stone on the roadside beside Monterey at Moffats corner – It was agreed the clerk would ask highways to investigate.

4 – Another parishioner has advised that this path has been attracting motorbikes. The top part of this track leading to the B3302 by Sithney School is not a public right of way.

Discussions took place and it was agreed that Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith would investigate further the correct land ownership so to allow the clerk to write accordingly.

#### 12. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

Transparency Code Application – The clerk reported that the recent application has been successful and the Parish Council have received funds into the bank account in the sum of £57.90.

RSN weekly 05/12, 12/12 & 19/12.

RSN Rural Broadband November 2016, Rural Opportunities Bulletin, Rural Economy Spotlight & Fuel poverty December 2016.

Road Closure – Chynhale, Sithney 25<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 09:00 – 16:00 – Work to be carried out by Balfour Beatty.

Communities & Devolution Newsletter November & December 2016

Helston & South Kerrier Community Network Panel – Draft Notes & Local Devolution Fund application.

Neighbourhood planning Ebulletin November & December 2016

Cornwall for Change – Local Councillors fight back.

CC – Council Tax Referendum Principles not extended to town & Parish Councils in 2017/2018.

Cornwall Area of outstanding natural beauty – Winter 2016.

NHS Kernow - Public consultation regarding the future of non-emergency patient transport.

CC – is consulting on Proposals for introducing PSPOs to control dogs on beaches.

CALC – Training – Code of Conduct – Stithians- 09.01.17 7 – 9pm - Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that all new Cllrs should try and attend training opportunities as they are extremely useful.

**13a) To consider the following accounts for cheque payment:** It was proposed by Cllr. P. Martin, seconded by Cllr. A. McDonald, all in favour that the payments listed below are authorised.

	£
Cornwall Council (LGPS) – Clerk	88.42
Mrs Jodie Ellis – Mileage for Vacancy Notices	9.50
	<u>97.92</u>
Standing Order - Clerk Salary and Expenses	£510.35

#### 13b) Financial Reports by Clerk –

##### Financial Report

The Clerk reported that she had invoices to pay totaling £97.92 and a standing order for £510.35 totaling £608.27 as reported in item 13a.

The balance at the end of December on the Current Account is £6,786.62 and on the Business Saver is £32,581.65. These are considered adequate to undertake the work of the Parish Council. The monthly and quarterly report have been circulated to all Cllrs. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose that the reports be accepted. All in favour.

**Risk Assessment** – There were no issues with the notice boards to report.

**14. SAS Update** – The clerk advised no forms from volunteers or users have been received. All Cllrs agreed that it was disappointing not to see the scheme move forward. Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe asked if information regarding the scheme was on the website. The clerk advised it was. It was agreed to revisit the scheme again in a few months.

**15. Co-Option** – The clerk advised that no applications have been received.

**16. School Governors Report** – Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling advised that he is going to arrange for the children from the local schools to have a trip to county hall to try the microphones out and see where meetings take place.

**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 17 – Clerks Annual review”.**

**18. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING** – Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February 2017 at 7.30pm at Sithney School.