

SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL
Chairman: Peter Bickford-Smith

Clerk to the Council
Mrs Jodie Ellis
07855774357

Trannack Farm,
St Erth, Hayle
TR27 6ET

45/16

MINUTES OF AN ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT TRANNACK SCHOOL ON TUESDAY 07th MARCH 2017 at 7.30PM

Present: -

Cllr P. Bickford-Smith – Chairman

Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose

Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell

Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling

Parish Clerk Mrs. Jodie Ellis and 2 members of the public.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – Were received from Cllr. Mrs. A. Pascoe and Cllr. Ms. E. Williams.

2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES –The Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on 07th February 2017 were proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose and unanimously agreed as a correct record and were signed by the Chairman.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith declared a disclosable financial interest in item 7 Chairman’s comments in relation to the car park at Plover’s Field. Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose declared a disclosable financial interest in item 11 Lowertown Leats.

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 – The clerk has emailed Maxine Hardy for an update.

Average Speed cameras in Crowntown –Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling advised that there are now speed cameras in Crowntown. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that Average speed cameras are needed between Nancegollan and Crowntown. Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling advised that volunteers are still needed for the community speed watch team, and anyone interested should get in touch with him.

Sithney Scrap Book – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith has kindly had the scrapbook put into electronic format which has been circulated to all Cllrs. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, all in favour that the clerk places the scrapbook on the Parish Council’s website.

Surface water at Penpraze – Ben Dickinson from Cormac has advised that Cormac have scheduled the work for their road mender however they will need the weather to be better as water on the road will cause a new surface to fail. Because of this, the work will likely take place in the spring. Cllrs agreed the clerk should ask for the drain to be dug out as well.

Sithney Notice Board and Bus Shelter Land – Coastline have advised they will put a formal request into the council until the planning for Merther close is decided.

May Election Venue – Ruth Naylor from CC has advised: ‘They currently have the Crown Inn for use as a polling station in May, we try not to use school buildings wherever possible because of the disruption this can cause and pupil welfare. Because of the location of the school we would have to close the school for the day. In May, they will lose the Monday because of the Bank Holiday. Certainly, the school could be considered in future, when we are able to give sufficient notice for the school to set inset days. Regarding the Crown Inn I am not aware of any complaints being received by this office, and the polling station staff were not affected by the bar. You also suggested the Post Office but this was a non-starter as Thursday’s is one of the few days it operates’. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that as the election involves local people known in the area then members of the public’s conversations within the pub could influence voters. Trannack School has been used with no problems to pupils and Sithney school has a new independent room that would serve as a good polling station booth. It was agreed the clerk would advise elections.

6. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION – None.

7. CHAIRMAN’S COMMENTS –Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith declared an interest and advised that Plovers Field Car Park License Agreement is currently with the County Legal team. Once the licence has been agreed and signed by the Governing Body, the PC will be noticed when the car park can be used. Unfortunately, it would appear that Solicitors currently move very very slowly. Sithney School have given the following advice to parents: ‘Until the car park is open we politely ask that all parents/carers park with due care and consideration outside the school. It does get very busy and space is limited so extra care is needed. We have sought advice from County Highways and from the local police who have said that parents/carers can park in the new estate as long as this is done respectfully and cars do not block access to drives or property. We have also been told that the zig zag lines outside of the school should only be used as a drop off point and cars should not be parked here’.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that he had been copied into a letter from a parent with concerns over the parking outside the school as she was nearly hit by a car and had her car damaged due to the parking issues outside the school. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith responded to the letter to advise that the Parish Council shares her concerns over the parking and is looking forward to the situation being resolved as quickly as possible.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that the Helston Railway had, had an incident at Black Arch on Footpath 8. It was reported in the media that an agricultural tractor ran into the bridge and 3 walkers were injured. This is clearly not the case as Agricultural vehicles are not able to access the site and any walkers who were on the bridge at the time would have realised that a vehicle was

about to crash into it and would have scarpered. Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith believes the Parish council should have the new bridge signed off by a professional body that it is fit for purpose or get an undertaking from the HR that it is safe. Footpath 8 is closed and the order is in situ for 21 days. Discussions took place and it was agreed that Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling would speak to Hamish Gordon from Cormac about the safety of the bridge when it is replaced and the PC would write to Helston Railway to ask for an explanation and voice the PC's concerns for safety of members of the public.

8. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS – Cllr. A. McDonald expressed his concerns over the forthcoming elections as the council is currently already low on numbers, and asked that all Cllrs should consider standing to support the parish council through this year. As experience of longer standing members of the council was critical at this time.

Cllr. P. Martin advised that growers in the area are dragging a lot of mud on to the roads and this is especially dangerous on narrower country lanes. Cllr. J. Keeling agreed to raise the concern with Highways.

9. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS – Cllr. J. Keeling advised the 2017/18 council tax was set at £259.88m, an increase of 3.97% (2% is a levy for Adult Social Care). Town and Parish Council precepts for 17/18 total £20,532,972.49 an average increase of 8.78% giving an average band D tax figure of £110.54. Police increase to £103m with 1.97% rise. All together this gives an average band D of £1685.52 from £1619.75 in 2016/17: an increase of £65.77 per year. Cllr. J. Keeling voted against the budget and put forward amendments to create better highway funding which were lost. Cllr. J. Keeling had issues also round a lack of oversight, delays in savings and concerns by the external auditor about value for money. The EU City of Culture Bid as caused a stir across Cornwall in terms of whether this is a wise move given BREXIT and financial pressures on services like adult social care. Cllr. J. Keeling called the decision in for reconsideration; but amid much political posturing the cabinet decided to go ahead with the bid at a cost of many millions of pounds and no real guarantee of success at a time when we would have left the EU! Locally Cllr. J. Keeling will continue to seek solutions to the ever-increasing menace of speeding traffic through our villages and hamlets with speed monitors and the imminent establishment of a community speedwatch team. (volunteers still needed).

10. Planning: -

Applications:

PA17/00250 - Merther Farm, Merther Lane, Sithney, Helston - Continued use of agricultural building for agricultural engineering repairs. Cllr. A. McDonald suggested supporting the application, to allow the local business to continue. Both neighbours support the application online. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, 3 in favour, 1 abstained that SPC supports this application.

Approved:

PA16/11606 - Ashwood, Nantrysack Barn, Sithney, Helston, Cornwall - Retention of existing annex, extension to main dwelling house, triple garage/ storage workshop, associated works and change of use of land to domestic curtilage.

11. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Footpath 230/3 – Sithney to Pednavounder – Missing section on definitive map – No update from CC to report.

Footpath 230/28/1 – Boscadjack to Trenear – Fence Ownership – Cormac are still dealing with the ownership.

Footpath 230/11 - Stile at the eastern end – Cormac have now written to a 2nd person, as the original land owner, was no longer the land owner.

8.14pm Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose left the room.

Lowertown Leats - Mr Deverell from CC has advised that he visited the Leats last Thursday and met with a Mr Pearce and his neighbour who seem to be having the main issues from the breaches in the leat wall. The section of leat East of the bridge is dry and it appears that the sluice gate may be shut at the River Cober (Mr Deverill has contacted the Environment Agency regarding this as they may have some information). The water that is in the leat appears to be coming down the disused railway line that seems to be picking up water from natural springs, the highway and another source further up the railway. It would appear that at some time in the past someone has attempted to repair the breaches in the leat wall as there are planks and bags of gravel placed in the water. Mr Deverill will be contacting the landowner of the relevant section of the leat to see what of the problem he is aware of and where we might be able to go from here to resolve it. Mr Deverill has advised that once he hears back from the Environment Agency they will need to discuss internally the designation of the leat/watercourse to see what (if any) powers we have to deal with the issue. Also, Cornwall Councils Countryside team are looking to do some works to the existing pipe under the bridleway that is an old clay pipe to replace it with a better plastic pipe that will help to get the water from the railway to the leat properly.

Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith suggested the council should thank Mr Deverell for his investigations to date, all Cllrs agreed that the clerk would express the council's thanks.

8.16 pm Cllr. Mrs. L. Penrose returned.

Footpath 17 & 18 – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that Cormac Solutions have written a rather draconian letter to the farmer saying that under Section 137 of the Highways Act 1980 that all footpaths should open and available. The farmer has cauliflowers growing on the line of the path which he has now chopped off. There is an alternative route round the edge of the field/headland. The other field has maize stubble which the farmer has trimmed right down. Donna Keverne Countryside Officer Enforcement has re-inspected the path on March 3rd. The outcome of this inspection is not yet available, there was no option to increase the time limit granted. Discussions took place and it was agreed that a visit from Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling to the farmer to explain would be beneficial. Cornwall Cllr. J. Keeling kindly agreed.

12. REPORT OF THE CLERK & CORRESPONDENCE

RSN Weekly Bulletin 06/02, 13/02 & 20/02/17.

RSN Rural Opportunities Bulletin, Rural spotlight on the heart of the village & Rural Transport February 2017.

CC Communities & Devolution Additional Road Safety & Drainage Schemes & Save our Hedgehogs Bulletin.

NFU South West – Better Farming and Better Planning.

Derek Thomas February Bulletin.

Cornwall AONB Annual conference – 20.05.17

Neighbourhood Planning E Bulletin January 2017.

CC – Notice of intention from Licensing - regarding the re-adoption of Legislation.

CC – Briefing Sheet January 2017 – Murdoch & Trevithick and Studio 61, Truro Day centres.

CC – The environmental Growth challenge 2017.

Community Defibrillator special offer.

NALC / CALC – Two updated legal topic notices:

LTN 35 on Contracts has been modified in the light of the implementation late last year of the Consumer Rights Act 2015

LTN 68 on Negligence has been revised for format and clarity and some minor typographical errors have also been corrected.

Clerk will be on Annual Leave Friday 10th – Friday 17th March and has 15.68 hours still to take.

13a) To consider the following accounts for cheque payment: It was proposed by Cllr. P. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, all in favour that the payments listed below are authorised and signed by Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith and then passed to Cllr. Ms. E. Williams to sign as only one signatory is available this evening.

	£
Cornwall Council (LGPS) – Clerk	88.42
CASH – Reimbursement of Petty Cash	88.22
Clerk Mileage for Elections Training	24.00
Information Commissioner (required by law)	35.00
Sithney CP School – Room Hire	38.95
Trannack School – CC – Room Hire	75.00
	<u>349.59</u>
Standing Order - Clerk Salary and Expenses	£510.35

13b) Financial Report

The Clerk reported that she had invoices to pay totaling £349.59 and a standing order for £510.35 totaling £859.94 as reported in item 13a.

The balance at the end of February on the Current Account is £5,207.64 and on the Business Saver is £32,581.65. These are considered adequate to undertake the work of the Parish Council. The monthly report has been circulated to all Cllrs. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald and seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell that the reports be accepted. All in favour.

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

13c) PC Printer Insurance – Currys have contacted the PC to advise the printer is now 12 months old (cost £199.99) and the warranty expires on the 07.03.17. We can cover the printer for £49.00 for 4 years.

It was proposed by Cllr. P. Martin, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, that the PC insure the Printer for 4 years.

13d) Clerk Standing Order amendment from April 2017 – The clerk has compiled a standing order letter to replace the current one to account for the agreed salary increase from the 01st April 2017. This standing order will replace the current one. It was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, all in favour that 2 of the bank signatories sign the letter and authorise.

14. Street Name Plate for Plover's Field – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith informed the meeting that the sign has been erected incorrectly showing 'Plover Fields'. The official opening has been delayed until September time.

15. LMP Contract – The clerk has today received the paperwork form Cormac, it was proposed by Cllr. A. McDonald, seconded by Cllr. P. Martin, all in favour that the clerk signs and accepts the 2017/2018 LMP contract which has a 10% increase on the 2016/2017 contract.

16. Annual Parish Meeting and May 2017 Meeting Dates –

The Annual Parish Meeting can take place anytime from March to June each year, and given the possible change in members, it was suggested that the Annual Parish Meeting should be held on the 4th April 2017 at Sithney School at 7.00 or 7.15pm? with the next Full council meeting to follow. It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. J. Daybell, seconded by Cllr. P. Martin that the Annual Parish Meeting will be held on the 04th April at 7.15pm.

Due to the elections in May this year the Full council meeting in May will be held on Tuesday 16th May as this is the earliest date that it can be held after the new members are appointed. It was agreed the clerk would contact Trannack school about the change in meeting date.

17. School Governors Report – Cllr. P. Bickford-Smith advised that the MAT at Sithney school has now been put back to June the 1st.

18. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING – Tuesday 4th April 2017 Annual Parish meeting at 7.15 pm, followed by the Parish Council meeting at Sithney School.