

# SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman – Councillor Philip Martin

Clerk: Mrs. Pauline Williams

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## MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING OF SITHNEY PARISH COUNCIL HELD AT TRANNACK SCHOOL ON 6<sup>th</sup> DECEMBER, 2011 at 7.30.m.

**Present** Cllr P. Martin (Chairman) left at 21.23 Cllr P. Bickford-Smith (Vice Chairman) entered meeting at 20.40 following item 4

Cllr Mrs A.Pascoe, Cllr M. Morgans, Cllr B. Deacon left at 21.23, Cllr R. Ashmore, Cllr T. Martin Cllr I. Paterson.

Parish Clerk, Mrs. P.L. Williams, 19 members of the public, Will Morris CC and Andy Golay.

**1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE – were** received from County Councillor Loveday Jenkin, PCSO Ceri Sadler and Cllr Miss E. Williams

### **2. ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held at Sithney CP School on 1<sup>st</sup> November, 2011 were proposed by Cllr Paterson, seconded by Cllr Deacon and unanimously approved.

### **3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST FOR ITEMS ON THIS AGENDA**

Cllr Bickford-Smith declared an interest in item 4 as a landowner and left the meeting until after its discussion.

Cllr P Martin declared an interest under item 4 as he is a private landlord and involved in the construction industry and handed the chair over to Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe.

Cllr. M. Morgans, B. Deacon, T. Martin, I Paterson and P. Bickford-Smith declared an interest in item 20 Queen's Diamond Jubilee as they are members of the Committee. Cllr. P. Martin resigned from the committee so he could help make decisions on its finance.

### **4. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

Will Morris, CC and Andy Golay, Affordable Housing Planner reported on the results of the consultation document regarding affordable housing in Crowntown.

All comments from the questionnaires and petitions had been collated. 29 questionnaires were in support, 10 against, 2 letters of support and 3 letters against. There is also a petition of 22 residents objecting to building in Crowntown, 13 of these signatures were also on the questionnaire so had been taken into account previously. Several residents thought Crowntown was the wrong site. As to design, historical and in keeping with other properties but with modern building performance criteria. Layout for properties; overall, facing the road was preferred, but opinion was relatively evenly split. There was a wide variety of suggestions for services that needed to be improved i.e. provision of a shop, keeping the bus service, improvement of footpaths and provision of community spaces both indoor and out. People were in favour of renewable energy features. There was no objection to cross subsidy. The speed of the traffic was an issue and the PC is asking for a speed visor to monitor this. Many consultees wanted to maintain the views across the Valley. Concern was raised that Nancegollan had been dismissed too readily as a potentially suitable location. Concern was raised about impact of street lights, outsiders, keeping property affordable in perpetuity, scale of the development and the fact that existing residents wanted their views, isolation, peace and rural feel maintained.

The recommendations were that development briefs be drawn up reflecting the results of the public consultation Sites 2 & 5/6 are put forward for a development brief. To look again at Nancegollan and try to find an appropriate site. If one was found then a development brief would be drawn up. Keep the public informed before finalisation of development briefs and consult when proposals are received and selecting one or more schemes to go forward to the planning application process. Maintain CC webpage and PC minutes to be

available on request. All residents, particularly immediate neighbours, to be kept informed. To this end the PC and Will Morris will keep Mrs. Hilditch apprised via e mail. A phased development to address concerns over scale of housing could be sought. Keep up to date with home choice register and check specific tenure requirements. There are currently 18 families on the home choice register. Will Morris explained that cross subsidy was necessary as the sale of some of the properties at full market value would financially support the building of the restricted sale price and rental properties. Public subsidies had been severely curtailed during the recession so this was vital. He hoped some of the cash raised could be used for a traffic calming scheme. He asked if anything major had been omitted from the results of the survey. The breakdown of the questionnaires was confirmed as correct by WM.

Many questions were raised which had been previously answered. However to summarise:-

- Will bus service remain – unknown but does rely on use, which locals said is low.
- Felt not sufficient infrastructure to support houses. WM said it was the best in the Parish but agreed it was lacking a lot.
- Are other Parishes also subject to approaches from CC seeking to deliver local needs affordable housing schemes? WM said yes.
- Will the development have full sale price properties mixed in with reduced price properties and rentals? WM said it would and all properties would look identical from the outside to discourage segregation.
- Residents sited problems in Porthleven, and not wanting that to happen in Crowntown. WM reiterated this housing is only open to people with links to Sithney Parish, and this would be properly vetted so it was not envisaged that there would be a problem, but if there was it would be addressed.
- Residents asked why Brownfield sites in Helston and Camborne could not be used instead. This development could double the size of the village. WM said a lot of houses are being built in those areas, but these properties are for local people to satisfy local need.
- Residents felt that site 2 would affect less people and may be able to be extended to accommodate the number of properties required. WM said that it was not ideal to just put one site forward. He also confirmed he would ring around to landowners in Nancegollan and see if any land, in this Parish, was forthcoming.
- WM was asked if he had looked at each site with a view to how it would affect local residents, he confirmed that he had.

A Golay said that sites 2, 5/6 plus any others that may be offered in Nancegollan would be put forward for a development brief and then further consultation would take place.

The issue of siting a speed visor on the road through Crowntown was discussed. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith seconded by Cllr. T. Martin and carried unanimously that Cornwall Council be asked to site the visor (providing it is set at 40mph) on the stretch of road from Nancegollan towards Crowntown near the Crowntown Village sign (Nancegollan end of Crowntown not the school end), OS Grid Ref SW637310, somewhere near the end of Bridleway No 27 and report the findings back to the PC in due course.

Mrs. Wallis asked what progress was being made on the new Planning Application at Mellangoose. She asked on what grounds the PC had refused the last application. Cllr Pascoe said that it was due to the condition of the existing dwelling, being too near to the river and the lack of services. Cllr Bickford-Smith came in at 20.40 and declared a personal interest as he knows the agent dealing with the application. Cllr Deacon said it was further from the river than the existing dwelling. Mrs. Wallis said she had a photo of the house in better times. She stated that in the new application the size of the property had been reduced and it was more of a cottage style this time and she hoped it would be more acceptable to the PC. The Clerk stated that unfortunately the application had arrived the day after the Planning Committee had met, and as interest had been expressed in viewing the plans it would need to go to the next Planning Advisory Panel on 30<sup>th</sup> December and full Council on 3<sup>rd</sup> January which would be held at Sithney School.

## **5 POLICE REPORT**

Ceri Sadler had sent the following report and her apologies. There had been three crimes reported in November. Criminal damage to the bus shelter – graffiti, and a burglary at the garage in Nancegollan. The third report was concerning the behaviour of a dog in Trannack. This had been detected and dealt with by Restorative Justice.

The Clerk was asked to contact PCSO and ask if the clear up rate on previous reports could be included in her forthcoming reports.

She reminded the PC that the Police have started their Do not drink/drive campaign.

## 6. CHAIRMAN'S COMMENTS

The Chairman apologised for not being able to attend the Remembrance Day Service due to his hospitalisation and said he would do his best to attend as many functions as he was able.

## 7. COUNCILLORS' QUESTIONS AND COMMENTS

Following the Clerk chasing CC the overgrown adopted highway between B3303 Crowtown Lane beside Trelin to Chynhale had been cut.

Field hedges abutting road Trannack to Coverack Bridges - Cllr Pascoe said one of the hedges had been cut at low height, the other had not been touched. She asked that the Clerk write again to Ivor Mann, as no response had ensued from owners/renters of the fields, reminding them that the hedges had to be cut to a height of 17 feet to comply with the Highways Act. It was reported that the cutting already carried out had been free and gratis and carried out as a favour by Phil Bennetts.

Cllr Deacon said that Sithney Lights would be turned on 14<sup>th</sup> December.

## 8. CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

Cllr Loveday Jenkin sent a written report and apologies as she was not able to be present as the meeting clashed with Crowan's PC Meeting.

She thanked everyone for their support and their votes at the election.

The first meeting she had attended was the CC budget on 29/11 in which they agreed to accept a Government grant equivalent to a 2.5% increase in Council Tax in return for freezing the Council Tax at the current levels. The alternative proposal for increasing Council Tax by 3% was overturned. She expressed concern that this may lead to further front line services being cut and more pressure on PC's to take over CC services. There is no assurance that this grant will be available in 2012/13 which may lead to a 6% increase in that year to keep pace with increased costs. It was also agreed to ask the Government if they intended to move May Day Bank Holiday because Cornwall would like it replaced with a PH on St. Piran's Day – 5<sup>th</sup> March.

Cllr. Jenkin said she had also attended a local network meeting to discuss proposed changes in planning. NT and CPRE amongst others are concerned that this may result in areas without special protection being used for development. The only way to stop this would be high level core strategy or very locally applied neighbourhood plans and orders. These would be very costly.

Cllr Jenkin said she is to meet CC to discuss what money remains for Wendron and what timescale is envisaged for previously agreed highway improvements. She also said she would be arranging talks with housing and planning officers about Affordable housing strategies in each Parish.

## 9. PLANNING

To consider recommendations to planning applications received including: -

### Planning Applications

The PAP had met on 2<sup>nd</sup> December and the following recommendations had been made:-

PA11/08730 Conversion of barns to form 2 dwellings (amended design PA/07/1902) to use garage and workshop as workshop and annexe and add link block. Boscadjack Farm, Coverack Bridges, Helston

*The panel supported the amendments with the hope that the works would be sensitive to the surrounding area.*

PA11/08311 conversion of Barns into 2 residential dwellings, Lowertown Mill, Lowertown, Helston

*The panel supported the application, but were surprised at the inclusion of maps of Cornwall and bus timetables in support of the application.*

It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith, seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried that the recommendations of PAP be approved.

### Permissions Granted

PA/11/05083 Erection of timber storage shed, Kestrel View, Boscadjack Farm, Coverack Bridges.

PA/11/04318 Listed building consent for re slating of roof to farmhouse and barn, re plastering walls and modification and replacement of chimneys, Tuckingmill Farm, Tuckingmill, Lowertown.

### Permissions Refused

PA/11/05655 Conversion of redundant barn to dwelling Mellangoose Barn, Mellangoose, Sithney

**OTHER PLANNING MATTERS:** Cllr Paterson reported that at the CC Planning Committee meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November the application PA11/02725 Retention of pond as an environmental feature for wildlife together with field drainage, Boscadjack Farm, Coverack Bridges, Helston was approved.

It was proposed by Cllr Bickford-Smith seconded by Cllr. Morgans and carried unanimously that the PAP committee did not wish to retain planning applications as they no longer need to be returned unless they were controversial and then they will be retained until the matter was resolved. The Clerk asked if anyone wished to

borrow a booklet from CPRE - How to respond to planning applications – an 8 page guide; this was borrowed initially by Cllr. T. Martin.

#### **10. PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY**

Parish Walk 29 and 30 details were to hand.

The final payment for footpath maintenance in the sum of £975 had been received from Cornwall Council.

Cllr. Williams had e mailed the Clerk to report that b/w 27/1 – Freddie James Lane - was blocked and had been for some time. Upon accessing it beside Springfield Cottage, Crowntown the trees were too low to ride under. Cllr Pascoe said she felt that the contractor who maintains the paths currently had not been cutting back overhanging trees and bushes, but merely trimming ground level. She stated that B/W 30 Rocky Valley is also badly in need of overhanging debris being cut back. Cllr. Paterson said this work would not be done until next year now, but it is the landlord's responsibility to cut back anything overhanging footpaths/bridleways.

**11. REGENERATION** - Nothing to report.

**12. LOCALISM** – Cllr Paterson said he had heard nothing. The Clerk said she had heard a rumour that it was now law but had no proof. Cllr. Paterson to investigate.

**13 CODE OF CONDUCT**– Councillors had been asked to consider the e mail from CALC seeking views on whether there should be a single code of conduct for Cornwall or whether town and parish councils should have their own code and whether PC felt that there should be any amendments to the existing code. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith seconded by Cllr. T. Martin and carried unanimously that there should be one code for the whole of Cornwall covering both County and Parish/Town level. This view to be conveyed to CALC.

#### **14. ADOPTION OF BT PHONE BOXES**

The Clerk had raised the queries requested at the last meeting with BT, but despite chasing a response none had been forthcoming. The Clerk to chase again.

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

Instructions from last meeting

The blocked drain at Truthall had been cleared within 24 hours.

The Clerk asked for a representative of the PC to attend Sithney School Carol Concert on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> December 1.30 and 6.30pm.

**The e mail from Coastline Housing circulated 18/11 also see minute 17 August 2011 minutes re request to sell land for housing Sithney Memorial Garden was discussed.** *Cllr Bickford-Smith stated that when he spoke to Coastline about the possibility of putting a marquee on the land for the Golden Jubilee he was told that Coastline wanted to give the land to the PC. The Clerk warned that if the land had any value, this would not be being offered. It was agreed that as there was no proof available that this had ever been a memorial garden it should be called Sithney Amenity Area in future. Coastline to be advised of new name but no action to be taken about the 'gift' unless anything further was heard.*

Cornwall Council (off street parking Places) Order 2012 consultation ends 16<sup>th</sup> December, 2011

Letter of thanks from Sithney Christmas Lights Committee for donation. *Cllr Deacon said without this donation the lights could not have gone ahead and added his thanks to those of the committee.*

CALC issue 47 and 48 previously circulated

Policy update week ending 11<sup>th</sup>, 25<sup>th</sup> November and 2<sup>nd</sup> December, 2011 circulated to Cllrs.

CC waste and recycling dates for Christmas and New Year circulated to Cllrs. Cllr Paterson had kindly agreed to laminate these and put on the notice boards.

E mail from leader of CC re toilets and budget circulated to Cllrs.

E mail from Helen Crouch re renewable energy circulated to all Cllrs.

Rural Services Network e news 28/11 and 5/12

Carol service and person to read second reading on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December at 6.30pm St. Sithney Parish Church.

CC, Dan Senior, had stated that the damaged footpath sign (230) 2/1 os SW637283 (Parc-an-lthan) which had rotted off had been added to a list for the Countryside Ranger to inspect.

#### **16. QUEEN'S DIAMOND JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS**

Cllr. Bickford-Smith stated that 30 people had attended the first meeting and only 8 the second. A document re Jubilee Beacons, and the minutes of meeting taken by Mike Morgans were circulated by e mail 18/11/2011.

The Clerk reported that a request for funding up to a maximum of £2,000 had been received from the committee. This would be considered under the Precept at item 20. Cllr. P. Martin resigned from the committee in order that a quorum could vote on this matter. The Clerk stated that she had taken legal advice from CALC

who advised that the committee would have to set up a separate bank account, no signatories should be councillors. The Council should give say £500 initially; receipts would have to be presented to Council before additional funding would be made and any left over funds would have to be returned to the PC. Ideally Councillors should not be key players in the committee.

**17. LEGAL ADVICE POLICY** - Cllr. Paterson said this could now be removed from the agenda. Noted.

### **18. FINANCE**

To consider the following accounts for payment:

It was proposed by Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe, seconded by Cllr. Paterson and unanimously agreed that the following accounts be paid:-

Pauline Williams, Clerk	Salary (gross)	397.64)
	Office Allowance	20.00)
	Mileage	34.00)
	Telephone	8.10)
	Reimburse Petty Cash	17.87)
Cornwall Council	Refund BACS in error	39.02
Cornwall Council	Printing Newsletter	87.86
RBL Poppy Appeal	Donation	60.00

The donation to RBL Poppy Appeal was considered. It was resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 and 139 of the Local Government Act 1972, should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure. It was proposed by Cllr Paterson seconded by Cllr Deacon and carried unanimously that a donation of £60 be made.

To consider the following applications for donations: None received.

Cllr Deacon and Cllr P. Martin left at this point 21.23.

**19. CLERKS CONTRACT OF EMPLOYMENT** – The press and public were excluded on the grounds it may involve disclosure of exempt information – Part 1 Schedule 12, Local Government Act 1972.

All items in the contract have now been resolved to the satisfaction of the Clerk except item 10.4 which concerns paying an agreed sum for use and depreciation of the Parish Clerk's personal computer.

In the past the PC have been requested to, and have paid towards repairs of the previous clerk's computer. In 2010 £75 was paid. Since leaving Sithney the previous Clerk's computer has had to be replaced at Madrons cost! In order for there to be no unexpected expenditure in the future the Clerk suggested that a sum is paid monthly (as in model contract of employment supplied by NALC) with the salary, rather than quarterly and it is a minimum per month of £10. On 2<sup>nd</sup> November my computer monitor broke and its replacement had cost her £120; having just started the job, this was a sizeable chunk of her first month's salary, which cannot be reclaimed against tax. It was proposed by Cllr. Bickford-Smith, seconded by Cllr. T. Martin and carried that £10 per month be paid to cover repairs and depreciation of the Clerk's personal computer. This being agreed the Chairman of the Council and Clerk signed the Clerks Contract of Employment.

### **20. SITHNEY PARISH PRECEPT 2012/2013**

The draft proposals were discussed. It was felt that the maximum increase should be 2% over 2011/12. Cllr Ashmore and Cllr. Mrs. Pascoe proposed £2,000 be allocated towards the cost of the jubilee celebrations and it should be met from reserves. However, a quorum was not present so this is to be deferred to the next meeting. (Cllrs. Deacon, T. Martin, Bickford-Smith, Morgans, Ashmore and Paterson having declared interests as committee members). It was agreed that Cllr. Bickford-Smith and Cllr. T. Martin should go through the individual items and the budget be further discussed at the next meeting.

### **21. TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Tuesday 3rd January 2012 7.30p.m. at Sithney School