

MINUTES of a MEETING of ST AUSTELL BAY PARISH COUNCIL held on THURSDAY 18 APRIL 2024 at 6.00pm in The Pattern Hall, Charlestown

Present: Cllrs Bill Leach, Sue Leach, Nick Foster, Chrissie Wright, Jackie Bull, Trudy Reynolds, Sandie Bailey, Matt Sanders and Richard Whitehouse

In attendance: Cornwall Councillor James Mustoe (part of meeting), Julie Larter (Clerk), 18 members of the public

(23/179) Apologies for Absence

Cllr Mustoe apologised that he was likely to be late.

(23/180) Minutes of a Meeting the Parish Council held on 21 March 2024

It was **RESOLVED** that the minutes of 21 March should be signed as an accurate record of the meeting, subject to the following addition.

(23/169 (i) should have included "the Clerk was asked to seek clarification whether the plot was considered greenfield or brownfield".

(23/181) Matters to Note

The Clerk reported that a defibrillator had been installed outside the hall and that she would be arranging a training session shortly. The Clerk reported that Cornwall Outdoors has been granted a licence for 12 months to operate a pop-up sauna on the green at Porthpean Beach. She also reported that the disused chapel in Campdowns cemetery is to be used as a community café.

Councillors were not happy with either of Cornwall Council's decisions.

(23/182) Declarations of Interest on Items on the Agenda

The Clerk explained that although not bound by the same Code of Conduct as councillors, she had accepted an invitation to attend a jewellery making course in the hall free of charge.

(23/183) Chairman's Announcements

The Chairman said that it was with regret that he had to announce the death of former parish councillor Nick Tamblin. Mr Tamblin held office from June 2013 – April 2017. Mr Tamblin's funeral will be held on 25 April.

The Chairman then re-ordered the agenda, pending the arrival of Cllr Mustoe.

(23/184) Public Participation

The Chairman stated that he had written to Gavin Smith, Planning Team Leader seeking clarification on whether land known as the Former Orchard is a brownfield or greenfield site but he had not as yet received a reply.

The applicant said that the parish council minutes of December 2022 state that the parish council would be likely to accept one dwelling on the site. He stated that he wouldn't have proceeded with the application if the land was greenfield and pre-application advice in February 2024 makes reference to the principle of development on the site. It complies with Policy 3 of the Cornwall Local Plan and a full application was submitted on the basis of the pre-application advice received.

The Chairman stated that the decision at the December 2022 meeting was marginal.

Cllr Reynolds said that pre-application advice is only guidance.

Cllr Sue Leach said that she felt the parish council was unable to make a decision until it knew for certain whether it is brownfield or greenfield land.

A discussion took place about a building on the site but it was confirmed that this is not in the current ownership of the land.

(23/185) Planning Applications and Related Matters

(i) PA24/01509 – Land known as The Orchard Adjacent to the Lovering Clay Dry: Erection of a new dwellinghouse

It was **RESOLVED that the matter be deferred until a definitive answer regarding the status of the land had been received from Cornwall Council.**

(ii) PA24/02296 – The Courtyard, Manor Farm Road: Works to trees covered by a TPO – T19 Ash, fell to ground level and replant with Sessile Oak. T5 Ash, fell to ground level and replant with Sessile Oak, T6 Ash, fell to ground level, replant with Sessile Oak. T22 Sweet chestnut, crown lift over bat house to clear by 3m

It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond to the Planning Authority (Cornwall Council) stating that provided the Tree Officer is content, the parish council has no objections to the proposed work.**

(iii) PA24/02219 – Pier House: Advertisement Consent for Proposed Signage Scheme to Grade II Listed Pub

It was **RESOLVED that the Clerk should respond to the Planning Authority (Cornwall Council) stating that the parish council has no objections to the proposed signage for the Pier House, but objects strongly to the proposed signage for Harbourside as it considers the design for the sliding doors to be garish, out of character for Charlestown and totally inappropriate for a Listed Building in a Conservation Area which is within a World Heritage Site.**

(b) An update was given on the following planning applications

(i) PA23/07802 – Ocean House, Porthpean: Proposed change of use of garden to allow for the siting of temporary two holiday accommodation units

Cllr Mustoe is currently discussing this application with the Planning Group Leader, Cornwall Council.

(ii) PA22/09849 – Former Lovering Clay Dry: Proposed demolition and redevelopment of Clay Dry to provide 15 dwellings and associated works without compliance with condition 2 of decision notice PA19/07235 dated 08/06/2020

The Clerk reported that discussions between Cornwall Council and the development company regarding S106 funds are still ongoing.

(23/186) 80th Anniversary of D Day

Cllr Sue Leach has been working through the guidance for the event on 6 June and provided an update on progress so far.

Former parish councillor Malcolm Neill is to read the International Tribute because of his connection with the Merchant Navy, Cllr James Mustoe is to read the Proclamation and the Chairman and Mr Neill will light the beacon. Members of the Regatta Committee will deliver the beacon to the harbour office. Cllr Leach has sourced a PA system and is trying to source a bugle player. Cllr Leach will undertake a risk assessment. Cllr Leach said that National Fish and Chip Day has been arranged to coincide with the D-Day anniversary in order to recognise the work fishermen and land girls did to feed the nation during the war. Cllr Leach asked for volunteers to act as marshals – Cllr Sanders volunteered.

(23/187) Social Media

(i) Website

It was **RESOLVED** that **Cllrs Reynolds and Leach should review the parish council's website and recommend options for improvement.**

(ii) Facebook

Cllr Foster presented usage figures during the 6 month trial. The page has been set up to prevent comments which he feels works well. It was **RESOLVED to continue with the use of Facebook on a permanent basis.** It was suggested that planning applications should be posted on the page but it was decided that this was not necessary as there are other ways residents can be made aware of new applications.

Cllr Foster attended a NALC presentation on the use of social media and asked whether the council would agree to have a regular post entitled "meet your councillor" with a photograph and a short statement from each councillor.

The matter was deferred to the next meeting.

(23/188) Footpaths – Walks Booklet

The Clerk has obtained quotes for printing the walks booklet and it was **RESOLVED to have the booklet redesigned by St Austell Print and have 100 copies printed initially.**

Cllr Reynolds wondered whether there should be a QR code linking to the history boards in Charlestown. Cllr Reynolds will finalise the back cover to include contact details.

(23/189) Highways Matters

(i) Residents Parking scheme for Duporth Road

Cllr Bull reported on a meeting held virtually on 28 April attended by Cllr Richard Williams-Pears (Cornwall Council Portfolio holder), Zoe Hall (Parking Enforcement), Rachael Tatlow (Highways), the Chairman, Cllrs Bull and Foster and the Clerk. Discussions took place around Cornwall Council's reluctance to agree to a residents scheme and councillors counteracted their arguments. Councillors stressed that there is a safety issue on Duporth Road and previously agreed yellow lining cannot proceed without a residents parking scheme. It was agreed that officers would go away and discuss the matter and see if they could come up with a solution acceptable to all parties.

(ii) Highways Concerns

The Clerk reported that Cormac continues to monitor the car parking area at Trenarren and there remains to be a slight creeping of the slope. The Clerk also confirmed that the salt bin for Trenarren will be delivered in May.

Cllr Leach reported a large pothole at the junction of Church Road and Charlestown Road.

Cllr Foster reported that on 14 April, 3 coaches were parked in a line on double yellow lines outside Alan Leather's offices. Blue badge holders were parked on the opposite side of the road. Apparently when tackled about parking, one of the coach drivers said that they had permission from 'the council' to park there. The Clerk offered to write to the coach company pointing out that parking here is not permitted and that they should drop passengers off and park elsewhere.

The Clerk reported a road closure for Porthpean Beach Road on 9 July.

(23/190) Financial Matters

The current financial position was noted and the following payments authorised

DD	EE	Mobile phone monthly charge	£	18.00
DD	BT	Telephone and internet	£	67.28
DD	Lloyds Bank	Credit card	£	35.87
DD	Xerox Finance	Quarterly lease on printer	£	141.26
BACS	Duchy Defibrillators	Defibrillator for The Pattern Hall	£	3,348.00
BACS	Amanda Rae Thompson	Illustrations for walks booklet	£	165.00
		Annual bin collection Orchard Way and Porthpean		
BACS	Biffa	BR	£	624.00
BACS	Biffa	Monthly collection The Pattern Hall	£	26.38
BACS	Cornwall ALC	Annual subscription	£	548.16
BACS	Lyreco	Stationery	£	23.70
BACS	Cormac	Salt bin for Trenarren	£	315.25
BACS	ITEC	Monthly photocopy charge	£	16.87
BACS	Unity Trust Bank	Quarterly bank charge	£	£18.00
BACS	Staff/HMRC/CPF	Salaries and oncosts	£	2,160.70

It was agreed that the defibrillator should come out of the Parish Projects budget.

(23/191) Meetings/Training Attended

- 6 April – The Chairman, Cllr Sue Leach, Trudy Reynolds and the Clerk attended a drop in regarding the proposed redevelopment of Watering Lane nursery
- 17 April – Cllr Sanders attended St Austell Air Training Corps open evening
- 18 April – The Chairman, Cllrs Bull and Foster together with the Clerk attended a meeting regarding a proposed residents parking scheme for Duporth Road

(23/192) Correspondence

A list of correspondence had been previously circulated and in addition the following had been received:

- Letter seeking a bathing water champion for Duporth Beach – Cllr Sanders volunteered
- Clean Cornwall newsletter

(23/193) Dates for the Diary

19 April – Cormac Spring engagement event – Cllr Wright and the Clerk to attend
24 April – Community Area Partnership Meeting – 6.00pm
24 April – Meeting regarding proposed Watering Lane Nursery redevelopment – 6.30pm

(23/194) Dates of future Parish Council Meetings

Annual Parish Council Meeting 16 May, 20 June, 18 July, 5 September, 17 October, 21 November, 19 December 2024. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held on 16 May.

(23/195) Cornwall Councillor’s Report

Cllr Mustoe reported that Cormac have received a large number of complaints about the boggy nature of footpaths including the South West Coast Path. This is a county- wide problem caused by the relentless wet weather. The Countryside Officers will be starting their biannual survey of the SWCP shortly and will identify any issues that need attention. Cllr Mustoe pointed out a concerning change in procedure at Cornwall Council’s Planning Committee meetings whereby Committee members can no longer question the parish council speaker or the members of the public speaking for and against an application. There are many Cornwall Councillors who are concerned about this change and it has been agreed that the committee responsible for making the change will reconsider the decision when it meets in June. Councillors were appalled by the change as they felt it amounted to a removal of democracy. The Clerk is to write to the appropriate committee accordingly.

The meeting closed at 7.30pm

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Chairman

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Date