

LANDRAKE with ST. ERNEY PARISH COUNCIL

Authority and Police and Crime Panel Meetings) (England and Wales) Regulations 2020 (“the 2020 Regulations”) permits Parish Council meetings to be held by remotely.

Minutes of virtual Parish Council meeting Held on Tuesday 13th April 2021.

COUNCILLORS VIRTUALLY PRESENT: Mr M Gingell (Chairman), Mr G Francis (Vice Chairman), Mrs Hazel Cartledge-Claus, Mrs Penny Mathers, Dr S Walker, K Smeardon, Miss T Barton

IN ATTENDANCE: Mrs K Heald, Outgoing CC Jesse Foot and three members of the public (which include CC Candidates Martin Worth and Sam Tamlin)

OPEN FORUM

The following issues were raised:

- Parking issues at the end of Home Park. The green patch of land and the possibility of a road behind the area was discussed. The area is owned by Cornwall Housing
- Mr Robin Grigsby advised the Community Speedwatch should be up and running shortly. The team will be concentrating on the school run. Complaints regarding individual vans speeding down Tideford Road have been received.

1. Apologies for Absence

Cllr Nigel Owen

2. Declarations of interest on any agenda items

None received.

3. Approval of minutes from the Parish Council meeting held on 13th March 2021

It was proposed by Cllr Cartledge-Claus, seconded by Cllr Savery and unanimously agreed by all Councillors that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th March 2021 are agreed. **Resolved.**

4. Any matters arising from the minutes which are not agenda items

- The Clerk advised she has emailed Highways England requesting information on when the footbridge will be painted and cleaned.
- The idea of a seed swap box was discussed. It was agreed Paul Lamerton or other local contractors would be asked to produce something that could be located near the telephone kiosk box / book swap shop. Action: Clerk to forward image to the Chairman.
- The ownership of the trees at Home Park was discussed. It was confirmed the land was owned by Cornwall Housing. The Chairman provided a bit of background information. Approximately 8 trees were planted around the time of the millennium. The trees were damaged. If trees were planted they would need to have guards around them. Cllr Savery suggested rather than trees low growing shrubs are planted.
- Cllr Barton suggested the Council could make use of the narrow piece of earthworks/brambles up further up Pound Hill for access route / parking for Home Park residents. Cllr Gingell suggested a review of the ownership of landownership in the parish.

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5. Declaration of Interest form for Kathy Smeardon

Noted. The Chairman welcomed Cllr Smeardon to the Council. It was noted, after the elections, all Councillors would need to sign the Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms. Completed election expense declaration forms will also need to be completed (even if the expenses are nil).

6. Recreation Field

The field was cut approximately five days ago. A new lock and key is being organised. Cllr Savery raised safety issues relating to the football pitch. When young children have been playing the football goes under the bar onto the road. It was agreed the Chairman would ask Mr Paul Lamerton to cost up the netting. It was agreed, should the costs be under £200 the purchase and installation of new netting would go ahead.

Having visited Pillaton, Cllr Gingell suggested the Council looks to the possibility of installing a zip wire at the bottom end of the football field. The Council also discussed the long-term vision of a skatepark. Cllr Smeardon suggested exploring modified slides for skateboard usage. Cllr Cartledge-Claus confirmed planning permission is in place for a skatepark on the recreation field. Having discussed various options it was agreed Cllr Savery, Cllr Smeardon and Cllr Cartledge-Claus would do some research and report back to the Council. Cllr Gingell suggested the Council looks into organising a survey / questionnaire.

7. Not used – agenda numbering error.

8. Sir Robert Geffrey Memorial Hall

Cllr Gingell confirmed a copy of Sir Robert Geffrey Memorial Hall's insurance policy has been provided to him by Graham Knowles. The policy was updated in March 2021. The fire service has replenished and replaced the fire extinguishers. New electronic relay boxes have been installed.

An additional grant payment of approximately £4,000 is due to be paid to the hall.

Cllr Savery said new members are needed to join the committee.

Cllr Gingell was concerned, although initial communication has been received the hall committee has not received confirmation from Cornwall Council that the hall has been booked for the elections. It was agreed the Clerk would contact Cornwall Council to check the hall has been booked and that Cornwall Council will be responsible for the Covid secure risk assessment.

Cllr Francis advised an invoice has been received for the defibrillator payments.

It was proposed by Cllr Barton, seconded by Cllr Mathers that the quarterly payment for the defibrillator internet costs was approved for payment. **Resolved.**

9. Village playground and village maintenance

Cllr Gingell advised the play park safety inspection will be completed on 19th April 2021. It was noted weeds are coming up through the matting and will need investigating.

10. Environmental Sustainability Working Group

Cllr Mathers provided an update. 17 people attended the first open working group meeting.

(i). Cornwall Council consultation on the Climate Emergency Development Plan (deadline 16th April 2021)

It was proposed by Cllr Cartledge-Claus, seconded by Cllr Barton and agreed by all Councillors that Cllr Mather's draft letter, which was completed in consultation with Cllr Francis and Cllr Walker that the letter is approved. (see appendix 1)

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(ii). Establish a funding vehicle for environment projects.

The Council discussed establishing a funding vehicle for the working group's environmental projects.

Cllr Francis said Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) would be useful source of information.

It was agreed the Clerk would ring-fence income in the Councils accounts.

(iii) Funding from the Parish Council

It was proposed by Cllr Savery, seconded by Cllr Francis and agreed by all Councillors that the Council ring fences £500 to kick start the Environment working group.

Cllr Mathers suggested if the group is looking at reducing carbon emissions we need to know what the emissions are. Some parishes are completing audits.

11. Community Network Panel

Nothing to report this month.

12. Saltash Area Road Safety (SARS)

Nothing to report this month. Meetings are usually every three months.

13. A38 Trerulefoot to Carkeel Safety Project

The Council discussed meeting dates and it was agreed the Clerk would put forward dates for week commencing 26th April (preferably 28th or 29th April 2021 at 7pm)

14. Usage of designated Council email addresses

The Clerk highlighted the reasons for using designated Councillor email addresses.

Those using the email addresses said they have had issues printing from the webmail address.

15. Future Parish Council meetings

(i) Legislation for remote meetings and potential way forward

The Clerk said there is a court case with a call for remote meetings. Luke Hall MP is supporting the court case.

A discussion took place on the options for hybrid meetings in the main room of the village hall. Some Councillors were concerned that it is too soon to meet for face to face meetings and the facility allowing for remote meetings is available for a further six months. Cllr Francis read a proposed letter to send to Luke Hall MP, Robert Jenrick MP and Sheryll Murray MP. (See appendix 2). It was agreed the Clerk would send the letter on behalf of the Council.

(ii) Annual Parish Council meeting (must within 14 days after the Councillors officially take office)

Cllr Gingell offered to contact the local school to see if the Council could use the school hall, which has a one way, Covid compliant system, for the Annual Parish Council meeting.

(iii) Notice of Decision on Nominations and publication of statement of persons nominated

It was noted Landrake St Erney Parish Council election is uncontested. Graeme Knowles has not stood for election. Rachel Price will be joining the Council.

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20:48 – Sara Walker vacated the meeting.

(iv) **Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government: Local Authority Remote Meetings: Call for Evidence**

The Clerk requested Councillors fill in the online consultation.

16. Finance

a) **Update on the Councils bank accounts and to note the Council's bank balance.**

Cllr Gingell announced the current bank balance is just over £43K. The first installment of the Council's precept has been received. An amount of £100 has been transferred to Nat West to cover the safe deposit fees.

b) **To discuss opening a savings account for the Council's reserves**

The Clerk advised Unity Trust has charged an £18.00 service for an account not being used. Once the account has been closed Unity Trust agreed to refund the service charge. The Council discussed the options of opening up a fixed deposit savings account. As the interest rates are so low the Council agreed there was no real urgency. It was agreed the Cllr Francis and the Clerk would put together recommendations.

c) **Update on the internal audit**

The Clerk advised the accounts have been handed over to Mr Ian Biffen, the appointed Internal Auditor, for review.

d) **Donation from Landrake Carnival Committee**

Cllr Gingell highlighted £50.00 has been raised by the Carnival Committee from an Easter window display competition. The committee has raised the funds for playground equipment improvements. **Action:** Clerk to email Sue Palsar, Landrake Carnival Committee thanking them for the funds. Cllr Gingell will transfer the funds.

e) **To note the precept and Council tax support grant received from Cornwall Council**

It was noted the first installment of the Parish Council's precept submission and Council Tax support grant has been received.

f) **Note / approval of payments as detailed below**

Recipient	Details	Amount
Paul Lamerton	Village maintenance March 2021	339.84
Tartendown Nurseries	Christmas tree (authorised minute 16, 08/09/20	£90.00
K Heald	Clerk's office costs: Jan, Feb & Mar 2021	£17.64
K Heald	Clerk's mileage: Feb & Mar 2021	£22.50
Nat West	Safe deposit	£25.00

In addition to the above payments, a payment of £239.80 has been made to HMRC, to cover the payment a missing payment when the Council had issues with Nat West.

It was proposed by Cllr Savery, seconded by Cllr Barton and agreed by all Councillors that the payments listed above are authorised. **Resolved.**

Cllr Gingell recommended the Council joins Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC). Cllr Francis highlighted the benefits. It was agreed further information would be provided at the next meeting.

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17. Newsletter

Currently being produced by the Environment Working. Action: the Clerk to include 'survey' on the agenda for the June meeting.

18. Correspondence

- 2020/21 AGAR – External Audit instructions
- Great Western Railway -gradual lifting of Covid-19 restrictions begins, from today (Monday 29th March)
- Cormac – weed spraying.
- Playground inspection
- Cornwall Air Ambulance thank you for donation
- Women's Centre Cornwall – thank you for donation plus publicity.

Citizens advise acknowledging the Council's donation.

Action: Clerk to contact Cormac to find out what type of weed treatment they are using and to request the map, making sure Home Park is included.

19. Items for discussion and requests for future agenda items

Cllr Francis requested dog warden services are investigated.

Action: Clerk to contact Saltash and Torpoint Town Council

Cllr Mathers requests the Council looks approving a letterhead. Action: Clerk to forward previous suggestions in one email.

Cllr Barton raised the safety concerns over road conditions at the top of Pound Hill. Cllr Gingell said he would report the issue to Cornwall Highways.

Cllr Smeardon asked if footpaths could be included in the June meeting.

20. Date of next meeting

21. The Council resolved that pursuant to section 1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960 and the Local Government Act 1972 S100 (2) the public and press leave the meeting because of the confidential nature of the business to be transacted.

The members of public and the Clerk left the meeting.

22. Closed session: To discuss and review the Clerk's role and pay

It was proposed by Cllr Hazel Cartledge-Claus, seconded by Cllr Mathers and agreed by all Councillors that the Clerk is paid an extra £350.00 for the Clerk's additional working hours. **Resolved.**

The meeting closed at 21:35hrs

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1. Climate Emergency DPD

Letter to Cornwall Council – Planning

Members of our Parish Council have reviewed the Cornwall Council Climate Emergency Development Plan Document and our comments are as follows.

We broadly welcome the Plan, its vision and the guiding principles. We have formed an Environmental Sustainability Working Group in order to take many of these ideas forward.

We believe that it is a useful document in developing and reviewing the neighbourhood Development Plan and will be interested in the further guidance being developed by the Neighbourhood Plan Team.

The Development Plan is a long document that is challenging to read online. We would like to request a few hard copies, as they become available. We will use it as a valuable guiding document.

We recognise that we have little control over total emissions in Cornwall, but we can and will take an active role in setting a positive role model and influencing others.

We agree with the guiding principles but ask that in developing policies and guidance greater consideration be given to empowering and enabling communities to find solutions that work locally and in our case rurally.

The following are specific comments that we hope you will consider.

Policy C1 – 8) reduction of pollution – currently waste from SE Cornwall is transported to St Dennis for incineration, whilst a nearer alternative exists in Devonport. Is it possible for Cornwall Council to strike a deal with Plymouth City Council to allow incineration of waste from SE Cornwall in Devonport in order to reduce the carbon footprint of transporting it to St Dennis?

Policy G2 – Biodiversity Net Gain – there is provision made for Biodiversity Offset Units (BOUs) to be permitted in cases where the developer does not meet the criteria onsite. How can Cornwall council police this? Will the BOUs be tradable or be tied specifically to Cornwall council driven initiatives (such as planting a number of trees in a location owned by the Council)? Our preference would be to see any offsetting be specifically tied to Cornwall Councils own projects rather than some national scheme. In the past, fossil fuel generators have imported wood chips to meet green certificate targets.

Policy AG1 – agree with this policy – what we would like to see is specifically implementable schemes that allow farmers (who are facing more uncertainty than ever post-Brexit) a clear incentive to provide the environmental goods that Cornwall Council are seeking and at the same time allow community groups to benefit. An example would be grants / subsidies for farmers to create areas of wildflowers with public access benefitting pollinators and people at the same time.

Policy AL1 – support this policy. However, in our parish we have a development (Dolbeare Court), which has proceeded with no consultation, as it is essentially a conversion of a caravan site to up to 60 static permanent dwellings, using the existing consents for the caravan park. The loophole in the law has allowed a national Park Home owner to purchase the site and sell “bungalows” – static caravans – as permanent dwellings, paying council tax. This development will not satisfy any of the tests in Policy AL1. It is one mile away from the main road; uses LPG for heating, and in the short term at least will rely on removal of sewage from a large septic tank. There is no provision for renewables, no sense of place or community, an unsustainable transport policy as all residents would depend on their cars, and no compliance with our Neighbourhood Development plan. The 60 homes planned on site are double the amount of housing in the parish NDP to 2030, and in completely the wrong location. If a new conventional housing development proposal for 60 permanent dwellings in the open countryside, and one mile from the nearest bus stop was received by Cornwall council, our view is that it would be refused on the policy grounds above. Cornwall council is at particular risk of more such schemes springing up all over the county. With the pandemic many people in other areas of the country are looking for affordable homes in the South West. Whilst arguably affordable, these properties (“bungalows” for the purposes of advertising, but static caravans for the purpose of planning) will materially detract from Cornwall Councils policy aims for meeting net Zero Carbon by 2030. For this reason we urge Cornwall Council to lobby Parliament to close this loophole as a matter of urgency, before hundreds more unsustainable homes are built in unsuitable locations.

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Policy SEC1 – whilst Cornwall council is taking many steps to promote energy efficiency through planning, one of the areas where significant carbon gains could be made is by retrofitting existing older traditional housing stock through improved insulation. Is Cornwall Council able to provide any funding for this purpose, which could help to reduce fuel poverty through smaller energy bills? Are there any funds available from Central Government that Cornwall council could harness to create local projects to retrofit insulation / double glazing etc?

The Plan demonstrates that actions required to reduce emissions are multi-faceted and numerous. It is a daunting task. One that we are keen to embrace. We would be interested to know what support will be available from Cornwall Council to help Parish Councils.

Yours faithfully,

Karenza Heald
Parish Clerk
On behalf of Landrake with St Erney Parish Council

2.

Remote working for Parish Councils

We refer to our previous correspondence and would again ask the Government to urgently reconsider its position on remote meetings for Parish Councils after 7th May.

We note that you have now come out in support of the ongoing court case brought by Hertfordshire County Council and others to ensure that Councils have the legal right to conduct their business by remote meetings after the 7th May.

In the event that the court case fails we will be in a situation where we cannot rely on existing laws to protect our parish councillors and clerk. In this case, will you please assure us that the Government will take action to pass an emergency bill in Parliament to allow remote meetings to take place for a further period of at least 6 months.

This should be easily achievable for the following reasons:

- The Government enjoys a significant majority;
- The Minister supports the court case and is therefore in favour of allowing remote meetings;
- Parliament itself will continue with remote meetings for some or all of its business post 7th May;
- When a matter is urgent (eg Brexit) Government has been able to pass legislation swiftly and decisively; and
- Government advice will still be for the rule of 6 indoors on May 7th.

Whilst Covid case levels continue to fall, the Government still urges caution among the general population. Please protect your parish councils and clerks by doing the right thing and ensuring they can continue their business remotely.

During the pandemic, remote meetings have been a success for our parish with increased levels of public participation and engagement, which we want to continue.