

NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 9th AUGUST 2021

Present:

Mary Budge
Ralph Hudson
David Daniells
Brian Ruby
Adrian Parsons
Mervyn Stephens
Stuart Maher

In Attendance:

Rev Stuart Clancy
Mr D Jackson
Ms A West
Mr S Sandercock
Mr D Fenn

The Parish Council meeting held in the Village Hall with the Chairman welcoming all present.

1. RECEIVING APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

- 1.1 Cllr Randall – Apologies Sent
- 1.2 Adele Jones – Annual Leave

2. NEW COUNCILLORS

- 2.1 No new Councillors have come forward.

3. PUBLIC SESSION

3.1 The Reverend Clancy introduced himself. He is based in South Petherwin and is responsible for 5 churches, including St Torney's at North Hill. He explained that the Church Conservation Trust would be taking over the church and that the process will take some time. In the meantime, the church and grounds remain consecrated. The grounds are available for funerals and external ceremonies only. Weddings and ceremonies inside the church are no longer available.

3.2 The old churchyard is the responsibility of Cornwall County Council. The Parish Council organises cutting and trimming, with a small grant from the County Council. The Parish Council maintains the cemetery.

Cornwall County Council take responsibility for any liabilities arising from public access to the old graveyard.

4. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

- 4.1 None

5. APPROVING MINUTES

5.1 The minutes of 12 July 2021 were approved with two corrections:

- a. Para 6.1 second line to read, '...Lynher Cottage, Middlewood', not 'Lyner Cottage, Bathpool'.
- b. Entry needed to reflect question about how to deal with hemlock invasion. (Issue addressed at agenda item 7.3 of this meeting).

Sign & Date _____

Chairman

Approval of minutes proposed by Cllr D Daniels, 2nd Cllr M Stephens. All Councillors in favour of the Chair to sign.

6. REVIEW OF PLANNING APPLICATIONS

- 6.1 PA21/06173 Erection of 5 new houses at Coads Green. A site meeting was held on 3 August. The prospective developer attended. The Chair explained how the impact on nearby dwellings had been addressed. The meeting was minuted.
- 6.2 Lynher Cottage, Middlewood – Complaint by Mr Fenn and Mr Jackson. Cllr Ralph Hudson read out the Parish Council's letter of support for the complaint raised by Mr Fenn and Mr Jackson. It was reported that the complainants had received a reply from the County Council and expect a further response within 21 days. There is scope for the complaint to go further as the County Council have acknowledged that written notices were not issued for this planning application because of COVID constraints and that the new property cannot be considered in-fill. It was agreed that Mr Fenn and Mr Jackson will attend the next Parish Council meeting so that progress can be reviewed.
- 6.3 PA21/06576 Conversion of traditional building – The Bull Pen, Tolcarne. The proposed conversion has no impact on the nearest dwellings and, as a barn conversion, is in keeping with planning policies. No objections were raised. Proposed: Cllr D Daniels, 2nd: Cllr S Maher. All Councillors present supported with exception of Cllr B Ruby (abstained). Cllr B Ruby explained the reasons for his ongoing abstention from all votes on Planning Applications, asking for a record to be minuted of his dissatisfaction that the County Council consistently refuse to be influenced by Parish Council recommendations. Cllr A Parsons explained that the County Council has to implement national policies. Comments were offered, encouraging everyone to use their vote as a matter of principle, even if individual votes appear to have little influence.

7. REVIEW OF CORRESPONDENCE

- 7.1 Complaint from Mrs C Marshall. Cllr M Budge read out the original letter of complaint. Cllr R Hudson explained that there were 2 points raised in the letter and that each had been addressed separately. Councillors made the case that the time allocated to Mr S Sandercock reflected primarily the questions that needed to be put to him after the site visit. Cllr M Budge responded to the complaint that words she used after the site visit implied concerns had been expressed too forcefully, when in reality the meeting had progressed constructively. Cllr M Budge acknowledged that this site meeting had indeed been conducted in a positive way but that the experience of the previous site justified a reference to the limits within which people should feel free to express themselves. Since the Planning Application has now been withdrawn, it was recognised that the debate had led to an outcome that all parties could accept.
- 7.2 Highways Tolcame – Trekernell. Cllr R Hudson reported that the work has been completed.
- 7.3 Hemlock Dropwort. A reply has been received from the Environment Agency (EA), which advised that guidance on how to deal with hemlock will be provided by one of the EA's local teams. A site visit by the EA to the River Lynher appeared to suggest that nothing could be done. Hemlock is known to be pervasive and a growing problem. The Council agreed to review the situation when further advice has been received from the EA.

Sign & Date _____

Chairman

- 7.4 Anti-Social Behaviour in North Hill Village. It was acknowledged that the person in question has been playing loud music at regular intervals, has a track record personal issues and is known to the Social Services. He is a Council tenant and is being contacted by the Housing Anti-Social team. Councillors agreed to keep the situation under review.
- 7.5 Mr Steve Smith of Cornwall Council – Request for Article on Playground Completion. Mr Smith has contacted the Parish Council asking for a report on the work to be conducted on playground refurbishment. Work is expected to start mid-September this year and the Council will be pleased to submit an article to the County Council.
- 7.6 North Hill Cemetery. The Parish Clerk has requested a progress report from Kivells on the application for change of land usage. Kivells has advised that the report should be available by the end of August.

8. REVIEW OF CLERK'S REPORT

- 8.1 TerraCycle - Meeting at Bathpool 26 July 2021. Cllr R Hudson reported that an informal meeting on behalf of the Climate Emergency Action Group had been held at Bathpool to discuss a possible site for a third TerraCycle collection point in the Parish. The meeting was informal but well attended by 14 villagers, with others joining in. Discussions were led by Ali Humphreys, Jill Goodman and Ralph Hudson.

The response to the TerraCycle proposal was positive and well understood. Only one villager questioned whether a collection point was needed at Bathpool but was otherwise behind the principle. The first site offered, next to the postbox, was not considered attractive by anyone present. The following points were made:

- The area is prone to flooding;
- Rats have been reported in the area;
- The site is next to the fire hydrant and stopped cars might be an obstruction for fire appliances;
- Parking space is limited;
- The local bus stops at this point.

An alternative site was found, just on the village side of the village sign on the road down from Botternell. This is currently a verge with long grass on a quiet, straight stretch of road with room to stop for those dropping off their recycling. 2 wheelie bins could be positioned there without any of the risks identified for the more central site above. Ralph Hudson has agreed to cover the funding for suitable wheelie bins, pending an opportunity to apply for Council funds.

Cllr R Hudson asked for the Council's endorsement of the Terracycle initiative and steps to proceed further with the new proposed site. All were in favour. Proposed: Cllr B Ruby 2nd Cllr M Stephens.

Cllr R Hudson will contact the County Council Highways team to check the regulations for use of the roadside.

- 8.2 Rubbish Bins for Play Area. Cllr M Budge requested that the decision on bins be delayed until September, when it will be clear how the playground refurbishment is proceeding.
- 8.3 Seating for Play Area. Cllr M Budge requested that the decision on seats for the play area also be delayed until September. The Council noted the importance of having seats that are suitable for the disabled and those in wheelchairs as some of the playground features are designed for the disabled to use.

Sign & Date _____

Chairman

8.4 Remembrance Sunday Service. The Council agreed that the Remembrance Sunday Service should be held as before. Cllr M Stephens offered to help arrange the Service and check to see who is available to lead it. If Jo Smart is not available, the Rev Stuart Clancy and then Brian Davies could also be asked. Cllr M Budge suggested that Brigadier Mike Anderson be asked to lay the wreath.

Cllr M Budge asked that the date and time of the Service be announced in the Parish Magazine. Suitable posters from previous services can be edited and re-used for this years' Service.

8.5 to 8.8 Cllr S Maher to sign documents. All documents were signed as requested.

9. FINANCES

9.1 Authorisation of Expenses. The Kompan Deposit of £23783.16 was authorised. A ream of paper for the Parish Clerk was authorised at £3.99.

9.2 Wages. Wages of £719.64 to cover room rent, internet and mobile costs were authorised.

9.3 Update of Current Account as of 28 July 2021 was £20794.58. Payments received: HMRC VAT claim 20/21 £533.40. Cornwall County Council 106 Grant £24068.16.

The accounts were approved, covering items 9.1 to 9.3 above: Proposer Cllr D Daniells, 2nd Adrian Parsons. All in favour.

9.4 Monthly Budget Sheet. Provided for information. No comments were raised.

9.5 RAG. Provided for information. No comments were raised.

10 NEXT MEETING

10.1 Next Meeting - Monday 13 September 2021 at 7.30pm, North Hill Village Hall.

11 ANY OTHER BUSINESS

11.1 Ms A West called for road repairs at the side of the road from Lydgate to Waycross. Cllr A Parsons understood this had been reported and asked for the issue to be discussed again at a future meeting.

11.2 Mr S Sandercock raised a concern that nothing had been done to trim low hanging foliage on the road down to Bathpool. The responsibility is the landowners. Cllr M Stephens had investigated other sources of support from the County Council but found that ash dieback is dominating the use of County resources. The Parish Council will continue to monitor the situation.

12. THE PUBLIC LEFT THE MEETING.

Sign & Date _____

Chairman