

NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mary Budge

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 5th FEBRUARY 2024

Present:

- Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman
- Councillor Hayley Budge
- Councillor David Daniells
- Councillor John Harcourt
- Councillor Ralph Hudson
- Councillor Adrian Parsons
- Councillor Brian Ruby
- Councillor Steven Sandercock
- Councillor Courtney Walters

In attendance

- Mrs Lena Batten (clerk)
- Two members of the public were in attendance.

1. To receive apologies:

To receive apologies – Councillor Richard Randall.

2. Code of Conduct:

- a) To receive declarations: None.
- b) To grant dispensations: None.

3. Public comments on items on the agenda only:

Two members of the public confirmed that they were present in relation to the grant application for Coads Green Village Hall. The Chairman confirmed grant applications would be discussed at Item 7.2.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the 4th December 2023 full Council Meeting:

It was proposed by Cllr H. Budge and seconded by Cllr C. Walters that the minutes of the meeting of North Hill Parish Council held on the 4th January 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. Cllr A. Parsons and Cllr D. Daniells abstained as they were not present at the January meeting.

5. Any matters arising from the past minutes not on the current agenda:

Cllr S. Sandercock commented that there is extensive hedge growth around the Bathpool turning to Botternell Mill onto the B3254 and could the clerk contact Highways to see if they could address this as it was causing visibility difficulties for vehicles exiting the junction.

6. To consider planning applications from Cornwall Council by the date of this meeting:

Sign and Date Chairman

PA23/09194 – Lane End, North Hill, PL15 7NT – renewal of permission for the siting of a mobile home without complying with condition 1 of decision 94/1949 dated 14th November 1994 – A brief discussion took place where the importance of Parish Council recommendations being made was highlighted. It was emphasized that Cornwall Planning do take these recommendations into consideration hence the five day protocol for this application which was now likely to proceed to a committee meeting.

PA24/00688 – Not listed on the agenda due to being received on the 2nd February 2024 – The Bull Pen, Tolcarne Road, North Hill, PL15 7PE – Non material amendment to decision PA21/06576 dated 27.01.2022 for alterations to internal layout, fenestration and roof design. Introduction of solar panels and change to materials to NW gable of approved car port –

Resolved that a site meeting was arranged for Thursday 15th February 2024 if this was convenient to the applicant. Clerk to confirm and arrange this.

One Councillor raised concern that when applications for comments are requested, the address is not always clear. It was agreed that the applications forwarded from Cornwall Council planning department often had incomplete addresses.

Resolved that the clerk would try to ensure that she updated these to full addresses moving forward.

7. To review correspondence and to agree to responses required:

7.1 Cornwall Association of Local Councils Training opportunities:

The training schedule was shared with the meeting. It was commented upon that a majority of the training is during working hours which is not convenient for the Councillors. No training was booked however one Councillor raised concern about the use of mobile phones at meetings. Current legislation details the use of mobile phones at meetings to be discreet, proportionate and appropriate to the circumstances.

7.2 To consider / resolve three grant applications:

It was confirmed that grant applications are normally requested in November and agreed in December however due to St Torney's Footpath Fund being discussed following a previous meeting, two further grant applications were also considered. One member of the public on behalf of Coads Green Village Hall detailed that the hall had requested a grant due to the edges of the car park having sunk causing a potential health and safety concern. She confirmed that several quotes for repair to the car park had been sought. A brief discussion took place however it was not possible to reach a conclusion. A second grant application was discussed from St Torney's Footpath Fund, again a decision was not made due to the delay of one quote. A third grant application was discussed from Coads Green Methodist Church, it was agreed that previous amounts that had been given were required before a decision could be made.

Resolved that the clerk would research the amounts paid in grants for the previous two years. The clerk would contact all three applicants and request a copy of their accounts / bank statements as directed by the grant policy which details that "Applications should be accompanied by a copy of the organisation's most recent accounts and/or of its latest bank statement". Grant applications would then be listed on the 4th March 2024 meeting for a resolution.

7.3 To resolve next steps regarding the fitting of a notice board at Coads green:

Sign and Date Chairman

It was detailed that both Highways and Coads Green Primary School had agreed to allow a notice board to be fitted. It was agreed with all in favour to purchase a notice board which would be placed on the wall of the school for Parish Council use.

Resolved that the clerk would purchase a wall mounted notice board to hold a maximum of four sheets of A4 which was magnetic and lockable preferably in grey.

7.4 To resolve the option of a monthly article in Cornish and Devon Post:

Resolved that the clerk would email a short synopsis to the Chairman once a month following the meeting for distribution.

7.5 To note for information fly tipping in the North Hill area:

It was noted that the clerk had recently reported fly tipping in the North Hill area, to Cornwall Council.

7.6 To receive information from Tamar to Moor regarding services at Household Waste Recycling Centre in Launceston:

Information was received regarding the upcoming redevelopment of waste disposal facilities and resulting reduced capacity at the Launceston Household Waste recycling Centre. One Councillor reported that there was a meeting due to be held at North Hill Village Hall on the 28th March 2024 at 2.00pm to 4.00pm for the public to obtain more information regarding the new waste system shortly coming into place.

7.7 To receive information regarding switching of lighting between midnight and 5.00am:

A brief overview of the new reduced street lighting adopted in some areas was given. To reduce carbon, save costs and contribute to the environment phase 2 of the switching off and dimming of street lighting was due to commence under a more extensive roll out of the programme. North Hill and Coads Green will now have lighting switched off from midnight to 5.00am from the 15th January 2024. Councillor A. Parsons reported that there had been no complaints received to date. Following a brief discussion, the general consensus was an agreement that this was a positive step as long as crime did not increase as a result. There was some historical evidence to suggest that switching off lighting could reduce crime rather than increase it.

7.8 To receive information regarding potential purchase of Lapel Pins for D-Day:

Resolved that most Town Councils were preparing events for D-Day and funds would be best spent on local amenities rather than Lapel pins.

7.9 To consider / resolve the request for public electric vehicle charges to be installed:

Consideration of the fitting of public electric vehicle charges being installed took place.

Resolved that the clerk would forward the details to both Coads Green Village Hall and North Hill Village Hall and would invite a representative from rural EV charging to attend a future meeting with a presentation.

7.10 To consider / resolve completion of the clerk’s probation period:

Resolved that it was proposed by Cllr B. Ruby, seconded by Cllr H. Budge with all in favour that the clerk’s probationary period concluded successfully.

7.11 To agree to advertise tender for the footpath, play area and graveyard maintenance:

Resolved that the advert was placed in the Cornish and Devon Post and the Cornish Times for a period of one week. The clerk would forward the advert to be placed on the facebook page and the website.

8. Approval of list of payments / receipts for December 2023 and to receive December 2023 bank statement:

8.1 list of payments –

Sign and Date Chairman

- i) £18.00 (PAYE G. Pollard Jan)
- ii) £9.00 (bank charges)
- iii) £43.64 (room rent, phone, Lena Batten)
- iv) £713.96 (Salary, Lena Batten Jan inclusive of tax)
- v) £24.00 (ICCM membership until 31st March 2024)
- vi) £102.00 (ICCM Sexton training)
- vii) £2.75 (recorded postage for Elan City Cheque)
- viii) £14.58 (Ink, Lena Batten)
- ix) £28.80 (TEEC website management) Paid in retrospect, not listed on agenda).

Resolved that all expenses were authorised proposed 1st Cllr H. Budge, seconded Cllr S. Sandercock with all in favour.

8.2 Receipts –

None

8.3 To receive January 2024 bank statement:

The bank statement as of the 28th January 2024 was confirmed as an accurate record at £18,749.78.

9. To review the monthly budget reconciliation:

It was agreed that as Cllr R. Randall was absent, the monthly budget reconciliation would be ratified at the next meeting due to be held on the 4th March 2024.

10. To review monthly RAG:

10.1 The monthly RAG sheet was sent to Councillors for information:

Community Speed Watch update – It was noted that the new speed camera at Coads Green was working well. Cllr H. Budge, the lead for Community Speed Watch confirmed that they were just waiting for the two sites located and agreed to be approved on line. There were now five in the team trained and once the sites had been approved, would be ready to start. The Chairman reported that it was commendable that they had now got a team together.

Bathpool Defibrillator update – The cabinet was now completed and Duchy Defibrillators had visited the located site for fitting and spoken with the host. It was now confirmed that the defibrillator would be fitted on the 29th February 2024.

War Memorial railings update – The insurance company had agreed to accept the cost of repair minus the excess of £100.00. The quote had been accepted and the contractor requested to commence work. No date for completion had yet been confirmed.

Tree at Uphill in Bathpool – A Section 154 notice had been served upon the owner of the tree, if they had not complied by 31st March 2024 Highways would advise of the next steps.

Inability to pay Elan City – The clerk confirmed Elan City had now been paid in full on the 8th January 2024 with evidence to confirm this.

Tunnel in play area – this would be listed for discussed when the weather improved and work could commence.

11. To discuss general maintenance / upkeep of North Hill Parish footpaths:

It was confirmed that the clerk had reported path 528/15/1 in Bathpool and requested a replacement stile for path 528/18/1 which had not yet been delivered. A general discussion took place regarding the deterioration in the footpaths within the parish.

Resolved that the clerk would email the Chairman with contact details for countryside services in order that she could liaise with them direct to get the replacement stile

Sign and Date Chairman

delivered. The clerk would contact countryside services to request any advice given that signage was not being given priority at this time.

12. Report from Cornwall Council Ward Member Councillor Parsons:

Councillor A. Parsons reported that the steps Cornwall Council were taking to outline the financial challenges were being discussed when cabinet meet in Truro next week. The latest figures showed a reduced forecast overspend. Increased costs were concentrated around children’s social care, school transport and homelessness. The next financial year budget would also be discussed which had been helped by the additional receipt of £6.5 million. Cornwall Council had been provisionally allocated £5.5m from the Department for Transport’s Local Electric Vehicle Infrastructure and was looking for community suggestions to ensure spending this wisely. Switching of street lighting continued to roll out across Cornwall.

The Good Growth programme was benefitting communities, in December 2023 the Government approved £137.6 million. Projects ranged from small community led schemes through to multi million pound investments including offshore renewable energy. Cornwall was well on track to spend it’s allocated funds. Although most of the current funding was now earmarked Councillor Gardner had reported that there were still funds available for businesses and community projects with grants. More information was on the Good Growth website.

13. To review details of North Hill Parish Council Cemetery:

It was confirmed that the Sexton Training for the clerk had been postponed due to overbooking, until the 21st March 2024. North Hill Parish Council was now a member of the Institute of Cemetery and Crematorium Management and paid until the 31st March 2024 when subscription would be renewed.

14. Items for inclusion at the next meeting:

To list for discussion the parking difficulties at the junction at the bottom of Uphill in Bathpool as if there are several cars parked, this obstructs vehicles from being able to get around the corner.

Clerk to contact Countryside services for advice regarding signage replacement on the footpaths and list on the next agenda.

15. Date and time of next meeting:

Monday 4th March 2024.

18. Close of business:

The meeting closed at 9.12pm.

Sign and Date Chairman

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