

NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL

Chairman: Mary Budge

MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 8th OCTOBER 2024

Present:

Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman
Councillor Hayley Budge
Councillor David Daniells
Councillor John Harcourt
Councillor Ralph Hudson
Councillor Richard Randall
Councillor Brian Ruby
Councillor Steven Sandercock
Councillor Courtney Walters

In attendance

Mrs Lena Batten (clerk)
No members of the public were in attendance.

1. To receive apologies:

To receive apologies: Councillor Adrian Parsons.

2. Code of Conduct:

- a) To receive declarations: Cllr H. Budge item 9.1 (viii).
- b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted Cllr H. Budge dispensation to remain in the room but not contribute to the discussion.

3. Public comments on items on the agenda only:

None.

4. To receive and approve the minutes of the 2nd September 2024 full Council Meeting:

It was proposed by Cllr J. Harcourt and seconded by Cllr R. Randall with all in favour that the minutes of the meeting of North Hill Parish Council held on the 2nd September 2024 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

No matters arising.

Councillor D. Daniells entered the room and gave apologies for being late.

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

6.1 PA24/05278 – Penhallow, Chapel Lane, North Hill, PL15 7PQ – Demolition of the existing wooden carport and replacement with single storey extension, and a single storey extension to the side and rear.

Resolved that a site visit took place on the 1st October 2024. It was agreed that there were no objections, all present were in favour and felt the application would improve the property.

6.2 PA24/05961 – Land at Coads Green – re consultation with additional plans – to consider the need for a further site visit given additional information received.

Resolved that following receipt of additional dimensions which had previously been circulated via email, there was no need to complete a further site visit and no objections were raised.

Any applications received before the date of this meeting:

6.3 PA24/07455 – East Lawn Cottage, Newtown Road, Congdon’s Shop, PL15 7LS – two storey extension on the site of an existing dwelling.

Resolved that it was agreed that a site visit was not required as the proposed extension could be observed from the road. The application was discussed in the meeting where it was agreed that there was no objection, the meeting felt the application would enhance the current building. All were in favour with one Councillor abstaining.

Councillor C. Walters entered the room and gave apologies for being late.

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

7.1 To note the response provided by Cllr R. Hudson in relation to Cornwall’s Housing decarbonisation Strategy:

Councillor R. Hudson confirmed that he had submitted the survey on behalf of North Hill Parish Council. The survey had been well structured and was clearly explained as an important element of Cornwall Council’s obligations to address the climate crisis. In particular, the survey took account of the demographics and state of the housing stock in Cornwall, recognising that many people across the County would find it difficult to understand or afford the changes being considered.

Given the extensive work already done to address the need for lower emissions, the survey reflected the need to reduce emissions at source and introduce heating systems that achieve a major reduction in emissions. Air source heat pumps were identified as a leading contender for electrical and efficient heating systems, offering scope for decarbonisation that cannot be achieved by techniques such as improved home insulation or modifications to existing oil and gas systems.

From a technical perspective, the introduction of electrical systems is consistent with the global trend towards electrification from renewable sources and the fundamental need to reduce reliance on fossil fuels. In the survey response, Councillor Hudson commented that for this approach to work, more attention would have to be paid to the scepticism, costs and practical challenges that apply to the installation of heat pumps in particular. North Hill Parish is a rural community with many old Cornish buildings. Insulation, double glazing and even draught proofing can all be problematic for a population with many people near or past retirement age. Every house is different and resources will be needed to assess properties on a house-by-house basis, both to find the most efficient installation and to win the support of those living there.

Although the drive towards decarbonised heating systems is fundamental, the survey appeared to miss the potential of improving internal insulation. This is only a partial contribution to the problem but should be included in each assessment of the options available. The survey response also emphasised that stronger leadership and communications will be vital to help people understand the longer term benefits of changes involving significant capital outlay. The importance of local employment, skills and training needs more emphasis.

Councillor Hudson explained that he holds a copy of the survey response, which could only be partially downloaded from the survey website and which needs to be read alongside the Cornwall Housing Decarbonisation Strategy itself. He will be pleased to respond to any queries.

7.2 To confirm a date for May 2025 for the meeting as it cannot be held before the 12th May 2025 due to the election:

The clerk detailed that due to the local elections to be held on the 1st May 2025 the meeting date would need to be re arranged. The 6th May is the earliest opportunity to issue a summons with the 12th May being the first date for the annual meeting and 22nd May being the last.

Resolved that Thursday 15th May would be the date for North Hill Parish Council Annual Meeting and the room was booked.

7.3 To note for information that the Highway Safety Inspector will arrange a site inspection of Bathpool and then serve notice to cut on the relevant landowners as necessary:

This was noted for information.

7.4 To consider any response to CCLT following email received requesting the opportunity to discuss housing needs in the parish:

A brief discussion was held regarding a request from Cornwall Community Land Trust to engage with parishes across Cornwall to address housing needs.

Resolved that the clerk would respond to state that if CCLT were able to identify suitable potential sites in the parish, the Parish Council would be happy to attend a meeting to discuss the best way forward.

7.5 To acknowledge receipt of an additional dog poo bin in Bathpool and agree fitting date as it will be emptied from the 1st November 2024:

It was acknowledged that both the dog poo bin and the salt bin had now been delivered. The dog poo bin would be fitted to the agreed location the weekend of the 26th October 2024 as the first date for emptying of the bin was the 1st November 2024.

7.6 To note clerk has read the minutes at Kresen Kernow and resolve whether to instruct a solicitor:

The clerk detailed that the minutes of North Hill Parish Council Meetings had now been read which confirmed that the playing field was donated by Trebartha Estate to the Parish Council as Trustees in 1950. However, the minutes did not confirm where the boundary was in the car park. A discussion took place regarding the ongoing difficulties with the parking both in the car park in front of the village hall, due to this being used repeatedly by parishioners who had not attended the hall, and behind the hall, due to the area there being not quite large enough to allow for two rows of cars. The Parish Council confirmed that they were keen to ensure that car parking remain available to those who attended the cemetery or the play area however there had been persistent complaints regarding village hall users who were unable to park in the car park due to the lack of space. The clerk advised that given

the amount of time spent at each meeting where the car parking was repeatedly discussed, it may be appropriate to form a car park committee. There was also concern raised that the Council were giving a clear message that persistent parking was not allowed by fitting the signs however some members of the public felt that they were able to park there.

Resolved that Councillor B. Ruby and the clerk would arrange a convenient time to visit the owner of one trailer to request this was moved. The clerk would return the call to the owner of the second trailer to request it was also removed. The clerk would write to Springfield House Care Home to request that staff did not park in the village hall car park. The clerk would send a letter to one other property to request removal of their vehicle. The matter would be listed on the November agenda, and should the trailers not have been removed, the Council would make arrangements to get them moved. The clerk would also list on the next agenda the option of creating a Car park committee. The clerk would contact Parnalls Solicitors to request completion of the Land registration, proposed Cllr C. Walters seconded by Cllr D. Daniells. Discussion regarding the back car park being extended would be postponed until the spring of 2025.

7.7 To note for information the dangerous car parking at North Hill has been reported again:

This was noted for information. It was also noted that members of the public who were struggling with visibility at the junction should report their concerns direct to Cornwall Council.

7.8 To resolve / confirm details of the laying of the Wreath for Remembrance Day:

It was confirmed that a previous Councillor would be laying the Wreath, Dr Brian Davis had confirmed he would read the service. PCSO Sarah Ross would attend, the clerk was to pick up the wreath on the 25th October 2024 and the Chairman would organise the War Memorial being cleaned and the hedge being cut the day before.

7.9 To receive an update regarding Plusha Junction:

A detailed report was kindly forwarded by Cornwall Council Ward member, Councillor A. Parsons and was listed under item 12 below.

7.10 To note Highways report the Copper Beech tree in Bathpool appears to be within the limits of the Highway, but is not formally recorded as a highway tree:

The clerk detailed the response received from Highways regarding the Copper Beech tree at Bathpool.

Resolved that the clerk would respond to confirm that Birch contractors had been down and topped the tress however did not top the Copper Beech and the cables were still touching it.

8. To review details for North Hill Parish Cemetery:

Councillor B. Ruby confirmed that the pathway was now complete and fit for purpose. A brief discussion took place where it was agreed that a further cemetery committee meeting was arranged.

Resolved that a further cemetery committee meeting would take place at 6.00pm on the 21st October at North Hill Village Hall. Clerk would send an invite to all members of the committee with an agenda which would include the cutting of the field and spraying of the car park. The clerk would list on the next agenda anti social behaviour in the playing field.

9. Approval of the list of payments / receipts for September 2024 and to receive September 2024 bank statement:

9.1 List of payments:

- i) £18.00 (PAYE G. Pollard September, dd)
- ii) £713.96 (Salary inclusive of tax, Lena Batten, September)
- iii) £43.64 (room rent, Lena Batten, September)
- iv) £8.00 (bank charges, 18th September)
- v) £8.40 (paper, Lena Batten)
- vi) £53.30 (Kresen Kernow milage including purchase of copy minutes)
- vii) £354.48 (Glasdon UK Limited, poo bin / salt bin)
- viii) £319.50 – incorrectly listed on agenda.

Resolved that all expenses were authorised proposed Cllr J. Harcourt seconded Cllr R. Hudson with all in favour.

9.2 Receipts: £8625.00 (precept 2nd instalment).

9.3 To receive 28th September 2024 bank statement:

Bank statement as of 28th September 2024 £23,244.39.

Resolved that the bank statement be agreed proposed Cllr R. Randall, seconded Cllr H. Budge as correct and the Chairman signed the bank statement.

9.4 To receive six month financial review:

Resolved that the six month financial review was accepted and agreed proposed Cllr R. Randall, seconded Cllr R. Hudson with all in favour.

10. To review monthly budget reconciliations:

10.1 Cllr R. Randall reported that he had been unable to check the budget sheet and the clerk shared a copy.

Resolved that the budget sheet was agreed to be an accurate record for September 2024 proposed Cllr R. Hudson, seconded Cllr J. Harcourt with all in favour.

11. To review monthly RAG:

11.1 The Monthly RAG sheet was sent to Councillors for information:

Difficulties in the car park of the village hall –

This was previously discussed at item 7.6. to remain on the RAG whilst further investigations took place regarding boundaries of the land. The known owners of vehicles in the car park would be contacted to request they were removed.

Highways contacted regarding dangerous parking on the junction –

The clerk had repeatedly reported this to Highways and the police. Highways report that they would be sending an officer to look but could not give a timeframe for this.

Footpath maintenance –

Two individuals were now official volunteers for the posts and markers, the clerk was expecting a delivery within the next three weeks. It was now confirmed that the stile delivered last year had been fitted. The clerk would write a letter to the owner of the land where the recent stile was delivered to confirm fitting.

Tunnel in play area –

Maintenance in the play area was ongoing, the handyman had been restricted by bad weather. The tunnel required a period of good weather to be completed and this may potentially need to wait until spring 2025.

Salt bin at Newtown –

New salt bin had been delivered and was given to Cllr S. Sandercock to deliver to the exact location.

12. Report from Cornwall Council Ward Member Councillor Parsons:

Cornwall Council leaders have joined Cornish MPs in calling for a devolution deal that will help drive Cornwall's potential, without the need for a mayor or becoming part of a combined authority.

Following a meeting to discuss the new government's devolution plans, leaders expressed their 'shared commitment' to secure a deal that will provide more autonomy for Cornwall based 'solely on a Cornwall geography and non-mayoral model' as opposed to a 'combined authority that stretches across the Tamar'.

The group advocated for a 'much broader and deeper devolution settlement' that reflects Cornwall's shared status with the Welsh, Scots and Irish in 'all areas of economic, social, political, and cultural life', and agreed that as Cornwall is 'perfectly positioned' to play a key role in delivering a green economy.

The group noted that although not formally invited to submit a devolution settlement 'Expression of Interest' – unlike Plymouth which currently has no devolved powers – Cornwall remains 'ready, willing and able to take back control in its own right'. Leaders agreed to write to the Deputy Prime Minister requesting a conversation about the proposals and how they align with the new Government's plans.

At last weeks Full Council meeting there was little again on the agenda, although there were three motions of note put forward as can be seen below

Motions concerning vaping and children, cuts to winter fuel payments and the preparation of Education Health and Care Plans were all submitted for debate at last weeks full Council meeting in Truro.

Councillors voted to demand the government halts its planned changes to the Winter Fuel Allowance after a debate at a meeting of the full Cornwall Council today.

A motion calling for the authority to run an awareness campaign to maximise uptake of pensions credit, and to endorse a letter from the council to the Chancellor calling for her to reconsider the policy It was widely supported by councillors, with 53 votes for, and just three votes against.

During the meeting councillors also approved two other motions; one calling for greater controls on access to vapes for children and young adults, and one calling for fairer funding to ease the pressure on creating Education Health and Care Plans (EHCPs).

Currently there is a vote of no confidence against the leader of the council being tabled, it has reached the required 29 votes but apparently it was only reached after the cut off deadline, the problem being no one realised there was a deadline!

Plusha

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all those who turned out on the 26th of September at Lewannick village hall for National Highways presentation regarding their current proposals which involve various changes to the junctions between Kennards House and Five Lanes. Living locally I fully understand the impacts that these plans will have on all of us, which is why I had been pushing for this meeting to take place. National Highways should be thanked for attending, it's just a shame they weren't prepared for such a large public turnout. To the point the meeting became a little chaotic, they ran out of feedback forms within the first hour, due to the volume of people it wasn't easy to gain accessing to all the information, combined with it not being obvious who the National Highways representatives were. That said I'm certain they were given a feeling for what many thought, let's hope they go away and have a serious think about what's really required. We all know

just how dangerous this stretch of road has become, with the right attitude and working with the community, I'm hopeful a way forward can be found. Please also if you could spare a moment to add your comments on their consultation page it would be most appreciated. [https://nationalhighways.co.uk/.../a30-kennards-house.../...](https://nationalhighways.co.uk/.../a30-kennards-house.../)

Following this meeting a lobby group has been formed to challenge National Highways on their current proposals. As you know prior to this meeting we had little documentary information from National Highways on the project and, at the moment little access to the detailed plans or reasoning behind them. Furthermore, National Highways are indicating that they will only accept feedback for two weeks from the date they put the details of the scheme on their website. I've managed to get this extended to the 30th of October. It is recognised that the wider community needs to be able to scrutinise the proposals and assess the benefits and detriments of the proposals before passing comment and make representations to the relevant bodies personally or via an action group and/or their elected representatives at parish, county, and national levels.

The most critical short-term objectives are to:

1. Get an extension of the time to respond to NH Plans once published
2. Get sight of ALL the data used by NH as a basis for their proposals
3. Get sight of the NH detailed project benefits analysis

What NHs say

A30 Kennards House to Five Lanes road safety improvements We're investigating safety improvements to the A30 from Kennards House to Five Lanes that would improve road safety for drivers and local communities. Start date Spring 2025 End date Winter 2025 Cost £4.6m Latest updates 12 September 2024 - What we've been doing We've been gathering information to help shape our plans to improve road safety on the A30. Information gathering is key when planning any scheme. It helps us get a full picture of where improvements are needed. So far, we've reviewed: • 10 years' worth of safety data for the route • traffic flows and movement round junctions, both on the A30 and on local side roads We've also assessed: • junctions, signs, road markings and studs, safety barrier and visibility splay and developed plans to improve them • agricultural vehicle movements to identify improvements we could make for these types of vehicles • pedestrian, cyclists and horse-rider movements to identify improvements which could be made for these types of users • environmental and cultural heritage improvements we could incorporate into the scheme We're keen to use local knowledge, advice and experience. We've started to gather information, ideas and opinions from stakeholders including: • your local councillors • parish council members • blue light services • Cornwall Council 18 September 2024 - Meet the team and discover our safety improvement plans - 26 September 2024 Thank you to everyone who attended the public session on 26 September at Lewannick Village Hall. It was incredibly useful to listen to and understand comments from the local communities. We will be uploading the proposals and questionnaire to this website next week. This will then remain open for two weeks to allow for feedback. Overview The A30 between Kennards House and Five Lanes suffers from a significant level of collisions, particularly at junctions. We are carrying out surveys and investigations to help identify opportunities to improve road safety along this route. The road safety improvements will include activities such as: 1. junction and visibility improvements, including partial gap closures diverting some traffic to other junctions 2. working with Cornwall Council to provide mitigation where traffic is diverted to local roads 3. improvements to traffic signs, road markings and road studs Kennards House Five Lanes A30 Safety Improvements Engagement Strategy Page 8 4.

improvements to safety features such as roadside barriers This work is to improve safety and won't change capacity along the A30. Benefits Benefits include: • improving safety along the A30 and local road junctions – reducing the number, severity and frequency of incidents for the travelling public and local communities • improving the experience of driving on the A30 • reducing delays as a result of a reduction in incidents • improved agricultural provision • improved historic cultural heritage feature including a mile stone marker

Pot Holes

As always now there has been a number of complaints about potholes, for your information I've asked the highways steward to look at the road heading out of North Hill by the old chapel, past the treatment station on to the B3254, as it's falling into poor condition and concerns have been raised.

13. Items for inclusion at the next meeting:

It was agreed that the clerk would write a letter of thankyou to Mr Scott to thank him for the hardcore provided to the Parish Council.

Grants and budget to be listed on the next agenda.

It was also agreed that the clerk would contact the Cornish and Devon Post to see if we could clarify why they would not put a short piece in their monthly news about North Hill Parish events.

14. Date and time of next meeting:

The next meeting was confirmed for 4th November 2024.

15. Close of business:

The meeting closed at 21.39pm.