**NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Mary Budge**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 2nd JUNE 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman

Councillor David Daniells

Councillor Corinne Dennis

Councillor Laura Fishleigh

Councillor Steve Sandercock

Councillor Courtney Walters

**In attendance**

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

**1.** **To receive apologies:**

To receive apologies: Councillor H. Budge, Councillor R. Hudson, Councillor Adrian Parsons, Councillor Richard Randall – Vice Chairman.

**2. Code of Conduct:**

a) To receive declarations: None.

b) To grant dispensations: None.

**3.** **Public comments on items on the agenda only:**

No members of the public were in attendance.

**4. To receive and approve the minutes of the 15th May 2025 full Council Meeting:**

It was proposed by Cllr C. Dennis and seconded by Cllr L. Fishleigh with all Councillors in favour that the minutes of the meeting of North Hill Parish Council held on the 15th May 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman.

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

None.

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

None.

**7. Any applications received before the date of this meeting:**

None.

**8. To review correspondence and to agree responses required:**

8.1 To resolve / confirm Cllr H. Budge as representative for Coads Green Primary School:

The Chairman confirmed that although Cllr H. Budge had given apologies to the meeting, she had agreed to be representative for Coads Green Primary School.

8.2 To consider / resolve the quote received from Kompan for the replacement of the steps at the play area at a cost of £2022.55. The handyman has confirmed he will prioritise the steps this month:

The clerk advised that the handyman had now completed the repairs to the steps at the play area. No further action was required.

8.3 To consider / resolve whether to replace the sign at the play area entrance as it is spelt wrong:

It was confirmed that now the spelling had been identified, it was also mis spelt on the other sign. Consideration was given to the fact that the signs had been in place for several years and nobody had noticed until now.

**Resolved that** the signs would not be replaced due to a spelling error, when they needed replacing due to general wear and tear, then the spelling would be rectified.

8.4 To accept response from Parnalls Solicitors regarding the car park at the village hall and consider next steps:

The Chairman shared the map which identified the area being discussed and the Statement of Truth. A discussion was held in relation to the footprint of North Hill Village Hall.

**Resolved that** the clerk would clarify with the solicitor that the identified area included the footprint of the North Hill Village Hall building and return the response to the next meeting prior to the solicitor submitting the Statement of Truth.

8.5 To discuss / resolve the purchase / repair of the dog poo bin between Trebartha and Congdon’s Shop as the lid is broken:

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of repair to the bin however it was concluded that the lid could not be fixed.

**Resolved that** the clerk would proceed and purchase a new bin and ask the handyman to fit with a post behind to stop the lid from flipping back when windy.

8.6 To share that St Torney’s Church has a cleaning day on Wednesday 18th June at 10:30 and volunteers are needed as the church has been shortlisted for the 2025 Cornish Buildings Award:

This was noted for information.

8.7 To consider / resolve whether to ask for funding for double yellow lines opposite the hall entrance from the community network panel for Highways improvements:

Considerable debate took place as this was an ongoing difficulty which affected many of the local residents when driving and was a consistent safety concern. North Hill Village Hall car park was again raised within the conversation as many local residents use the car park which left minimal space for village hall users. It was agreed that half of the car park should be retained solely for users of the village hall, many of whom were older or less able bodied. Further suggestions included painting clear red markers half way down the car park to ensure regular users parked within the designated area. Finally, methods for the management of correct parking were debated.

**Resolved that** no funding would be requested for double yellow lines as this would merely move the parking back into the car park causing further difficulties for village hall users. The clerk would prepare a sign clearly stating that the general public would need to park in the designated area and would return this to the next meeting. The sign would be displayed for a three month period warning individuals that the designated area was to be kept empty for village hall patrons. Finally, the clerk would obtain costs of the purchase and fitting of two posts and accompanying chains with padlocks.

8.8 To consider / resolve a request for more extensive traffic calming measures outside Coads Green School:

The Chairman read out an email from one member of the public who was raising concern about the safety of the children at Coads Green Primary School, the email detailed that the singular speed bumps are easily ignored and the signage is faded, tired and hard to see. Three options for more extensive traffic calming measures were suggested. One Councillor had given a detailed response to the email which was also read out. This email outlined the measures taken to date to try and address speeding traffic through the village by the school. It further outlined that a speed watch group had been set up but this was restricted due to a lack of volunteers. Overall, it agreed with the concerns raised and confirmed that the Parish Council were fully in support of any further traffic calming measures that could be put into place due to the ongoing risk of children crossing the road. Debate then took place as to the options available which potentially could include a zebra crossing, full width speed bumps, thus to avoid the current ones which were frequently straddled, traffic lights or average speed cameras. However several Councillors felt that as this was a commute road, Highways were reluctant to put in additional speed management.

**Resolved that** the clerk would contact Highways to express the concerns and copy in Councillor Adrian Parsons, she would also contact the clerk at Pensilva to gain clarification of the threshold criteria required for the full width speed bump placed in Pensilva.

8.9 To confirm three Councillors are still required to sign disclosure of Pecuniary Interests:

The clerk confirmed that there were still three Councillors required to complete Disclosure’s of Pecuniary Interests and the deadline date was within twenty eight days of taking office. Disclosure forms were distributed to all three Councillors.

**Resolved that** the clerk would seek further advice from NALC as one Councillor did not agree to complete the form.

**9. To review details for North Hill Parish Cemetery:**

The group would remain with Cllr M. Budge, Cllr D. Daniells, Cllr C. Walters, Cllr S. Sandercock and the clerk.

**Resolved that** a further meeting would be held at the cemetery on the 16th June at 7.30pm, an agenda would be distributed several days before.

**10. Approval of the list of payments / receipts for May 2025 and to receive May 2025 bank statement:**

10.1 List of payments:

i) £18.00 (PAYE G. Pollard May, dd)

ii) £673.60 (Lena Batten, May salary)

iii) £85.60 (Lena Batten, May tax)

iv) £43.64 (Lena Batten, Room rent)

v) £102.66 (HMRC National Insurance April / May)

vi) £52.00 (ICO annual registration fee)

**Resolved that** all payments were authorised proposed by Cllr C. Dennis and seconded Cllr C. Walters with all in favour.

10.2 Receipts:

None.

10.3 To receive 28th May 2025 bank statement:

Bank statement as of 28th May 2025 £17,926.93.

**Resolved that** the bank statement be agreed proposed Cllr D. Daniells and seconded Cllr L. Fishleigh as correct and the Chairman signed the bank statement. The bank statement for Unity Bank on the 31st May 2025 was also agreed at £490.68 and this was noted for information.

The clerk confirmed the standing order had been transferred from HSBC to Unity Bank on the 2nd June 2025 for the amount of £18.00 per month payable on the 1st of every month to Gareth Pollard. It was also confirmed that the funds would be transferred this month and the Chairman signed the request for closure of the HSBC accounts.

**11. To review monthly budget reconciliations:**

11.1 Budget Sheet attached:

**Resolved that** the budget sheet was agreed to be an accurate record for May 2025 proposed Cllr C. Walters and seconded by Cllr S. Sandercock with all in favour.

**12. To review monthly RAG:**

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

Highways dangerous parking at North Hill Village Hall junction – Agreed to remove from RAG as this was not a Parish Council matter but Highways to manage.

Hedges between Bathpool Junction and Botternell Hill on the B3254 need cutting back - the clerk confirmed a response had been received from Highways which stated that the area was inspected on the 19th May and a defect raised for visibility junction cutting which was completed on the 22nd May 2025. It further confirmed that Highways do not service notice to cut until after the bird nesting season, post 31st August and the site would be visited again in September 2025.

North Hill Car Park – previously discussed at item 8.4.

Hedges affected horse riders and walkers – The Chairman raised an email received by a member of the public raising concern that Addicombe Lane, a green lane, was becoming overgrown. She proceeded to confirm that another green lane had been identified where the same problem was prevalent, Battens Mill to North Hill Road. It was agreed that the clerk would pass the matter onto Highways.

**13. Report from Cornwall Council Ward Member Councillor Parsons:**

The Chairman read a report received from Councillor Adrian Parsons who had previously given his apologies for non attendance at the meeting.

On May 6th, I attended County Hall for an Induction Day and signed the acceptance papers. This will be followed up over the next few weeks with various mandatory training sessions that newly elected councillors are expected to undertake, ranging from planning to the code of conduct. There is much to go over again! Having attended Cornwall Council's AGM today, we have seen the new council administration formed, made up of the Lib Dem and Independent group. Rob Nolan takes on the role of Council Chairman, with Leigh Frost as the Leader of the Council and Adam Paynter as the Deputy Leader. Members of the new cabinet have now been revealed as Cllr Jim McKenna (Independent), Cllr Hilary Frank (Lib Dem), Cllr Tim Dwelly (Independent), Cllr Sarah Preece (Lib Dem), Cllr Loic Rich (Independent), Cllr Peter La Broy (Independent), Cllr Dan Rogerson (Lib Dem), and Cllr Thalia Marrington (Lib Dem). Their portfolios have yet to be confirmed.

Reform, who are the largest group on the council, didn’t put anyone forward for any positions and pretty much abstained from all voting. It’s going to be interesting to see what strategy they use going forward, with all new and inexperienced councillors!

On the Plusha front, I had a good meeting with Lee Quinney and the project manager, who will be taking responsibility for the re-evaluation of options to get a grade-separated junction constructed at Plusha. It was encouraging to hear that Cornwall Council and National Highways are working together to complete the work and, in due course, develop the business case to push for funding from the Department of Transport. There will be a further meeting next week with NHs and our MP to discuss a way forward here.

Locally, concerns have been raised regarding the visibility on the A388 and again at the Stourscombe junction, so I have asked for the Highways steward to look and get the verges cut back where appropriate.

Since April, there have been several complaints regarding changes to the number 12 and 76 bus services, which has been split into three sections, being a mix of commercial and subsidised services. Peak end-to-end. With that in mind, these changes were considered low impact but widely publicised since registrations were submitted in early March. The shame is the Bude to Plymouth service was one of our best-used locally. Now, by splitting the journey, it’s added time, inconvenience, and extra cost for users. It’s not working well and has proven unpopular. Working with Cllr Adam Paynter and Cllr Andrew Long, we are looking to get this decision overturned and have a meeting to discuss this matter tonight.

Parking issues continue at the entrance to North Hill Parish Hall. If funding is available again under this administration for local highway improvements the PC could look at implementing double yellow lines in the areas where the problems are, which is something which requires debate.

Issues with speeding have been raised in Bathpool and implementing a speed limit under the same scheme could also be a consideration.

I’ve asked Highways to inspect the overgrown hedges which had been raised at the past PC meeting, and a defect notice will be raised if there’s an issue.

Regarding committee places for the year ahead, I’ll be on the East Cornwall planning, strategic planning and licensing committee.

**14. Items for inclusion at the next meeting:**

Parking in the layby at Congdon’s shop by the bus stop as this is used by parents to drop children of for the bus. One vehicle is persistently parking in the bay.

The top of a footpath sign has been removed and needs replacement. One Councillor will pick up a sign and also the memorial bench from the clerk prior to the next meeting.

The clerk to purchase a plaque “in memory of Councillor Brian Ruby” to place on the bench.

**15. Date and time of next meeting:**

The next meeting was confirmed for the 7th July 2025 at 7.30pm.

**16. Close of business:** The meeting closed at 9.26pm.