**NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Mary Budge**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 10th FEBRUARY 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman

Councillor Hayley Budge

Councillor David Daniells

Councillor Ralph Hudson

Councillor Richard Randall

Councillor Steven Sandercock

Councillor Courtney Walters

**In attendance**

Two members of the public, Mrs Lena Batten (clerk).

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

To receive apologies: Cllr Adrian Parsons.

**2. Code of Conduct:**

a) To receive declarations: Cllr S. Sandercock item 6.4.

b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted Cllr S. Sandercock dispensation to remain in the room but not contribute to the discussion.

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

Two members of the public were present and shared their plans for outline planning permission for a one bedroomed dwelling at a local hamlet. It was confirmed that North Hill Parish Council were unable to comment until a request to submit comments was received from Cornwall Council however were pleased that they had taken the time to attend the meeting and share the proposed plans. One member of the public detailed that the building was to be stone faced, one storey and one bedroom. The design was sensitive to the outline surroundings and no concerns had been raised by neighbouring properties. One Councillor asked about waste disposal and was informed that there was a treatment plant already in the location with the capacity facilitate the build. The clerk obtained contact details in order that when the application was formally received and due to be discussed, both members of the public would be informed. The Chairman thanked both members of the public for their attendance. Both members of the public left the room.

**4. To receive and approve the minutes of the 6TH January 2025 full Council Meeting:**

It was proposed by Cllr R. Hudson and seconded by Cllr C. Walters with six Councillors in favour that subject to the amendment of “Trewartha” to “Trebartha” on page 3, item 10.1 (v) that the minutes of the meeting of North Hill Parish Council held on the 6th January 2025 be confirmed as an accurate record and signed by the Chairman. One Councillor abstained due to not being present at the previous meeting of the 6th January 2025.

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

Cllr S. Sandercock reported that he had recently contacted Birch tree services in relation to the two trees at Bathpool which were still clipping the wires. He had been informed that Birch would return to cut both trees back within the next six weeks.

The clerk reported that she had received a phone call the morning of the 3rd February 2025 from a tree surgeon from Cornwall Council who was due to cut down two trees on the border between the cemetery and Parish Council land. Both trees were reported to be suffering with ash dieback and needed to be removed. The tree surgeon wanted to clarify if any members of the Council wanted the chopped wood and chippings that would be left, rather than remove them. The Chairman confirmed the clerk could respond to state that they could leave the wood and the chippings and one member of the public would remove the debris for firewood.

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

6.1 Noted for information - PA24/08898 - Land South East Of Drogeada Close, Drogeada Close, Coads Green, Launceston, Cornwall, PL15 7LU - Proposal Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for new fodder and machinery store - Prior approval not required.

6.2 Noted for information – PA24/08792 - Potok House North Hill Launceston Cornwall PL15 7PQ - Proposal Proposed roof alterations/extension, removal of existing chimney, replacement doors and windows, Air Source Heat Pump, and PV solar panels - approved.

6.3 Noted for information - PA24/08862 - Tregood Farm Bodmin Road Congdons Shop Launceston Cornwall PL15 7PN - Proposal Prior approval for change of use of two agricultural buildings to 2no. dwellinghouses – withdrawn.

6.4 PA25/00348 – Land South East of Moorfoot Mill, Mill Lane, Bathpool – application in principle for the construction of up to 1 dwelling. North Hill Parish Council discussed the application and agreed to approve as it was considered to be infill within the two properties that exist already.

6.5 Noted for information - PA24/08417 – Trebartha, Barton, North Hill, Launceston, PL15 7PD - Proposal Listed Building Consent for construction of a new agricultural livestock building, creation of a new agricultural access and removal of an outdated livestock building – approved.

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

None to date.

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

8.1 To consider / resolve some form of memorial in memory of Cllr B. Ruby to be located in the Parish:

Discussion was held as to the communal high regard given to Cllr Brian Ruby and the many years of service that he gave to the Council. There was a consensus that this should be marked in some manner and agreed that an engraved bench seat in the graveyard would be appropriate.

**Resolved that** the clerk would speak with F.D. Hall in the first instance to clarify who would need to be contacted to request permission to place a bench seat in the new graveyard. Secondly, the Chairman would speak with Councillor B. Ruby’s wife to obtain her views of the type of bench seat required. The clerk would obtain some quotes and return them to the next meeting. One Councillor raised how Cllr B. Ruby had wanted to change the gates entering into the new cemetery which was not yet open.

**Resolved that** changing the gates of the new cemetery was to be addressed as part of the working party meetings which were due to resume in May 2025 when the weather had improved.

8.2 To accept the formal resignation of Cllr J. Harcourt as from the 1st January 2025:

The clerk read the resignation email sent by Cllr J. Harcourt who reported that he stood down with a heavy heart due to health difficulties. The clerk reported that one member of the public had since expressed an interest in being a Councillor.

**Resolved that** the clerk would contact her and request she forward a brief synopsis of why she wanted to be a Councillor and invite her to attend the next meeting. The clerk would list the co-option of a new Councillor on the next agenda.

8.3 To consider / receive the National Planning changes and Neighbourhood Plans briefing notes forwarded on the 11th January 2025 and consider any comments on the policy position statement:

North Hill Parish Council had no comment to make. The information was noted.

8.4 To consider next steps in relation to potential changing of bank account:

The clerk fed back that she had completed the initial stage of the application with Unity Bank. It was agreed that it would be best to proceed with a change of bank due to the past and potential future difficulties with HSBC. The clerk raised her concern about the bank doing the complete transfer as if it did not go smoothly, potentially the Council could be left unable to pay invoices.

**Resolved that** the clerk would continue with the application, two Councillors gave their full details to enable them to become signatories on the account. The clerk would open the Unity Trust Bank account first, then transfer all direct debits, standing orders etc to the account once the Council were in agreement that the account was running effectively.

8.5 To review / re adopt North Hill Parish Council Code of Conduct:

The Code of Conduct had been distributed with the Summons to give all members the opportunity to read it and raise any amendments.

**Resolved that** the Code of Conduct was agreed and adopted with no amendments, proposed by Cllr R. Hudson, seconded by Cllr, H. Budge with all in favour. All Councillors except Cllr A. Parsons who was absent, signed.

8.6 To consider any response from the email received regarding the Climate and Nature Bill:

Details of the Climate and Nature Bill were not shared in full as it was confirmed it had failed in the House of Commons.

**Resolved that** no action was required.

8.7 To agree / accept the 2025-2026 quote for emptying of the dog poo bins at £604.92 plus VAT:

**Resolved that** the clerk would contact the provider and accept the amount of £604.92.

8.8 To confirm Bathpool public access defibrillator cabinet now has a bleed control kit installed, to resolve whether to subscribe to the annual payment of £40.00 per annum maintenance:

A brief discussion took place and it was raised that two members of the public had kindly offered to facilitate the defibrillator initially and this had now been in place for one year. The defibrillator did use a minimal amount of electric and it was proposed by Cllr S. Sandercock and seconded by Cllr H. Budge with all in favour that some form of thankyou would be appropriate.

**Resolved that** the clerk would purchase a thankyou card and a £25.00 gift voucher to deliver to the property on behalf of North Hill Parish Council.

8.9 To consider / resolve any actions as a result of the latest Kompan inspection report:

It was confirmed that the Kompan inspector had recently visited the play area and completed the first inspection report for 2025. All items on the report were rated low risk except the steps which were rated higher (moderate) risk. It was agreed that there was no immediate risk identified.

**Resolved that** the clerk contact the handyman and request that any repairs to the steps be prioritised.

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

It was noted for information that a further Cemetery Committee Meeting will be arranged following the Annual Parish Meeting to be held on the 15th May 2025.

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

10.1 List of payments:

i) £18.00 (PAYE G. Pollard January, dd)

ii) £759.20 (Lena Batten, January salary / tax)

iii) £43.64 (Lena Batten, Room rent)

iv) £17.77 (emptying of additional dog po bin)

v) £43.20 (renewal of email account for 2025-2026)

vi) £28.89 (Lena Batten, Ink)

vii) £45.00 (village hall room hire, Oct, Nov, Dec)

**Resolved that** all payments were authorised proposed by Cllr R. Hudson and seconded Cllr S. Sandercock with all in favour.

10.2 Receipts:

None.

10.3 To receive 28th January 2025 bank statement:

Bank statement as of 28th January 2025 £15,681.23

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

Cllr D. Daniells reported that the cost of ink had increased. A brief discussion was held regarding the option of a tank printer.

**Resolved that** the clerk would look at the potential costs of the purchase of a tank printer and return to the March meeting.

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

11.1 Budget Sheet attached:

**Resolved that** the budget sheet was agreed to be an accurate record for January 2025 proposed Cllr C. Walters and seconded by Cllr S. Sandercock with all in favour. Cllr R. Randall reported that expenditure remained within budget to date.

**12. To review monthly RAG:**

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

Car park at the village hall – It was noted that the trailer had now been removed from the car park thus allowing further parking for village hall users. The clerk reported that no update had been received from the solicitor and she would email for any information.

Highways contacted due to dangerous parking – It was reported that no update had been received.

Footpath maintenance – It was confirmed that both stiles had now been delivered to the land owners, item would be removed from the RAG.

Copper Beech tree in Bathpool – the clerk reported that she had received different information regarding the cutting back of the two trees from the cables at Bathpool. The email had stated that all works had been completed and no further works were proposed at present. Cllr S. Sandercock had earlier in the meeting confirmed he had received a different response. The clerk would request an update.

Hedges between Bathpool Junction and Botternell Hill and the drains at Mill Lane flooding – Highways confirmed they would be sending a Highways inspector to assess.

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

Cllr A. Parsons sent apologies to the meeting however had forwarded a report as detailed:

Councillors from across the political divide recently united at Cornwall Council to call for a Cornwall-only devolution deal rather than a cross-border agreement with neighbouring authorities. The motion, submitted for debate by Cllr Dick Cole, confirmed the position of the council set out in a joint letter from group leaders and Cornwall’s MPs sent to the Deputy Prime Minister in September. However, the Government’s English devolution white paper, published in December, sets out their preference for deals involving combined authorities with a population of more than 1.5 million people, effectively ruling out a Cornwall-only deal unless an exception could be made.

Councillors from all political parties spoke at a meeting of the full council in Truro recently to outline their support for a Cornwall-only deal, and for the need to present a united front in order to try and secure the best possible deal for Cornwall. A number of members raised concerns that a refusal to even discuss any potential deals could leave Cornwall left-behind in terms of devolution of powers and additional funding, while supporting the desire for a Cornwall-only deal. The meeting also saw a motion calling for the National Trust and other significant landowners in Cornwall to be asked to consider switching their holiday lets to permanent rental homes to help address the housing crisis. The motion, introduced by Cllr Julian German, was widely supported by councillors across the chamber.

Future devolution for Cornwall, safety work on the A30 and a call for the National Trust to use holiday homes as long term lets were all submitted as motions for debate when Cornwall Council meets in Truro next week. The meeting also considered the governance arrangements for council-owned entities, the future chairmanship of the Audit Committee, and a review of the council’s procedures surrounding extraordinary meetings. The first of the three motions submitted for debate calls for a re-evaluation of safety plans for the Plusha junction on the A30 following several accidents and has been submitted by Cllr Adrian Parsons. Unfortunately, this was deferred due to cost implications to the council and will be now put to Cabinet in late March. Sadly, we have seen another serious accident at Plusha on Friday which reinforces what we have all been saying. The temporary measures in place do not fully address safety concerns and that a more permanent solution is required.

The second, submitted by Cllr Julian German, calls for the National Trust to use the holiday homes it owns in Cornwall for long-term lets for local people to help address the current housing crisis. The third motion, which calls for any future devolution to be done on a Cornwall-only basis and not on any cross-border deal with neighbouring authorities, has been put forward by Cllr Dick Cole.

The Growth Hub has launched another round of grant funding for businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly, thanks to the Good Growth Programme. The funding is available to enterprises with the ambition and capacity to grow, to improve their productivity and competitiveness. The scheme also aims to stimulate innovation and support the development of high-quality, well-paid employment. The Growth Hub Business Grant Scheme offers funding from £20,000 to £200,000, and businesses will be required to match fund the grant with their own investment. The funding is available to all businesses in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly with growth ambitions, but priority will be given to projects from the distinctive sectors identified in the Cornwall Good Growth Plan, and the supply chain for those sectors. Key sectors targeted for investment are:

• Critical Minerals, Harnessing sustainable extraction and processing in Cornwall.

• Renewable Energy: Innovations in floating offshore wind, deep geothermal, and biomethane capture.

• Data, Space and Aerospace: Exploiting our physical, digital, and intellectual assets to address local and global challenges.

• Marine: Including emerging FLOW opportunities and decarbonising shipping and associated activity. Projects will also be considered that focus on improving the quality of year-round employment, earnings and business performance in the Plan’s Core sectors such as the Visitor Economy, Agrifood, and Creative Industries.

Finally, flooding. Following the deluge of rain at the end of January I have been inundated with complaints regarding blocked drains and flooding, as always I’ll endeavour to do my best to ensure things are followed up, and rectified.

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

Highways clearing of the drains at Chapel Hill, Bathpool as there had been repeated flooding due to blocked drains.

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

The next meeting was confirmed for the 3rd March 2025.

**16. Close of business:** The meeting closed at 21.11pm.