**NORTH HILL PARISH COUNCIL**

**Chairman: Mary Budge**

**MINUTES OF THE COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THE 6th JANUARY 2025**

**Present:**

Councillor Mary Budge – Chairman

Councillor David Daniells

Councillor Ralph Hudson

Councillor Adrian Parsons

Councillor Richard Randall

Councillor Steven Sandercock

Councillor Courtney Walters

**In attendance**

Mrs Lena Batten (clerk)

The Chairman announced the sad passing of Councillor B. Ruby on the morning of the 6th January 2025, it was agreed that given his significant contribution to the Parish over many years, that listed on the next agenda would be discussion as to how the Parish Council could recognise this with a memorial of some description.

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

To receive apologies: Cllr Councillor Hayley Budge, Cllr John Harcourt

**2. Code of Conduct:**

a) To receive declarations: Cllr R. Randall item 6.5, Cllr D. Daniells item 10.1 (v).

b) To grant dispensations: The Chairman granted Cllr R. Randall and Cllr D. Daniells 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 December 2024 full Council Meeting:**

It was proposed by Cllr C. Walters 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 December 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:**

Cllr D. Daniells inquired about the resolution made at the last meeting not to purchase an additional salt bin for Chapel Hill, Bathpool, stating that the hill becomes slippery due to the drains being blocked. A discussion was held as it was reported that there were already three salt bins in Bathpool and if the blocked drains were the cause of the dangerous condition of the hill, then Highways should be advised rather than rectifying the problem with the purchase of another salt bin.

**Resolved that** the clerk would contact Highways to advise them that the drains were blocked at Chapel Hill and could they please undertake a site inspection.

Cllr S. Sandercock reported that a bleed kit had been recently fitted in the defibrillator at Bathpool. The clerk confirmed that this was listed on February’s agenda for resolution as there was the option to subscribe to an annual payment to ensure the bleed kit remained up to date and in service.

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

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

6.2 Noted for information - PA24/08898 - Land South East Of Drogeada Close Drogeada Close Coads Green Launceston PL15 7LU - Prior notification of agricultural or forestry development for new fodder and machinery store.

6.3 Noted for information - PA24/05278 - Penhallow Chapel Lane North Hill Launceston Cornwall PL15 7PQ - Proposal Demolition of existing wooden carport and replacement with single-storey extension, construction of a single-storey extension to the side and rear of the dwelling, installation of solar panels and other associated works - approved.

6.4 Noted for information - PA24/08770 - Tuckers Garage Coads Green Launceston Cornwall PL15 7LY - Proposal Submission of details to discharge Condition number 2 in respect of Decision Notice PA23/00832 dated 21/06/24.

6.5 PA24/08849 – Berrio Cottage, North Hill, PL15 7NL – Listed building consent for proposal to remove and relay the existing roof which is suffering from nail fatigue and allowing water ingress – comments submitted to confirm North Hill Parish Council had no objection and agreed maintenance work had to be completed.

6.6 Noted for information – PA24/08082 - The Agricultural Barn, Hallicombe Farm, Bathpool, PL15 7NP – Prior approval for change of use to a single dwellinghouse and operational development not required.

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

None.

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

8.1 To accept feedback from Cllr R. Hudson regarding Voice Over telecommunication resilience:

Cllr R. Hudson gave feedback from the emergency management plan and confirmed he was happy to proceed with the development of the plan and was keen to set up a forum. A considerable amount of work would be involved in order to put this into practice which included identification of volunteers, also those at risk.

**Resolved that** the item be listed for further discussion in the March 2025 meeting.

8.2 To note for information that the clerk has sent a letter to Miss Elsie Crane to say thankyou for sounding the post on Remembrance Day 2024:

This was noted for information.

8.3 To consider email regarding a vote of no confidence in Cornwall Council Planning Enforcement:

Several Councillors had read the article and agreed to support the motion of no confidence in Cornwall Council’s planning and enforcement department.

**Resolved that** the clerk would respond to confirm that North Hill Parish Council was in support of a motion of no confidence.

8.4 To note for information that Kompan failed to complete a playground check in November and have kept next years inspections x 3 2025 at the same price, a total of £385.41 in the way of apology:

Clerk completed a visual check prior to Christmas and also confirmed that all work completed in the play area by the handyman was covered under his insurance. Next Kompan check is booked for January 2025.

**Resolved that** it was useful and appropriate to have certified individuals completing the checks and Kompan would continue to complete four monthly checks through 2025.

8 5 To consider / resolve next steps if the trailer in NHVH has not been removed by 6th January 2025:

The clerk updated the meeting that she had received a text message from the owner stating that her husband had been unwell and consequently unable to move the trailer to date. The clerk had responded to state that she hoped he would improve soon however could not comment on what the Parish Council would agree at the meeting. A discussion was held regarding the length of time that it had taken to try and get the trailer removed.

**Resolved that** the clerk would make contact during the course of January 2025 to reinforce that the trailer needed to be removed. Should the trailer still be in situ at the next meeting due to be held on the 3rd February 2025 the Council would remove it the following day, the 4th February 2025.

8.6 To agree any response to the A388 Road Safety Campaign request:

The Chairman read the email to the meeting which detailed the A388 to be one of the most dangerous roads in Cornwall. Conversation took place as to the best way to support the campaign given that the budget for 2025-2026 had already been set and financially, the Council were not in a position to offer support.

**Resolved that** the campaign would be placed on the website and facebook to highlight and promote the key messages to the wider community. The clerk would respond to the Community Link Officer to update them that although North Hill Parish Council were unable to provide financial support, efforts would be made to Highlight the campaign through social media.

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

It was noted for information that a further Cemetery Committee Meeting will be arranged for the beginning of the spring.

**10. Approval of the list of payments / receipts for December 2024 and to receive December 2024 bank statement:**

10.1 List of payments:

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

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

iii) £43.64 (Lena Batten, Room rent)

iv) £135.00 (Cllr D. Daniells, hire of digger)

v) £313.20 (Whitehall, purchase of new display case for Trewartha)

vi) £54.00 (Western Web, repairs to laptop)

vii) £259.04 (Lena Batten, purchase of new gate and accessories for top car park)

**Resolved that** all payments were authorised proposed Cllr C. Walters, seconded Cllr R. Hudson with all in favour.

10.2 Receipts:

£970.22 (LMP grant).

This was noted for information.

10.3 To receive 28th December 2024 bank statement:

Bank statement as of 28th December 2024 £17,271,31

**Resolved that** the bank statement be agreed proposed Cllr R. Randall, seconded Cllr R. Hudson as correct and the Chairman signed the bank statement. The clerk suggested that Unity Bank be contacted with a view to potentially opening an account with them. They are the recommended bank for Parish Council’s and more accessible than HSBC.

**Resolved that** the clerk make preliminary inquiry into opening an account with them.

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

11.1 Budget Sheet attached:

**Resolved that** the budget sheet was agreed to be an accurate record for December 2024 proposed Cllr R. Randall, seconded Cllr R. Hudson with all in favour. Cllr R. Randall reported that 78% of the budget had been spent hence the Council were reasonably on track for the end of the financial year.

**12. To review monthly RAG:**

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

North Hill Village Hall car park was considered and an update given - The Council continue to await an update from the solicitor and the clerk would send an email this month to see if there was any progress made. Inconsiderate parking continued to impact upon some of the more vulnerable hall attendees and this needed to be addressed.

Dangerous parking on the North Hill Village Hall junction – Highways would be completing a site visit however the clerk had not received any confirmation that this had taken place to date.

Footpath maintenance – remains ongoing, the weather has restricted the footpath signage from being fitted at this time but this would be done in due course. It was also confirmed that the clerk now had two stiles delivered as requested. One Councillor agreed he would pick these up and deliver them to the owners of the land later in the week.

Cutting back of the copper beech tree at Bathpool – It was confirmed that this had not been completed to date. It was agreed that the clerk would contact Highways to obtain an update as she had previously been informed Birch services would be completing the work on the 6th December however this has not happened. One Councillor also asked if the hedgerow on Botternell Hill to the Bathpool Junction could also be raised as high sided vehicles were unable to pass.

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

Councillor Adrian Parsons read a brief report stating that Cornwall Council continued to propose cuts particularly in adult education. The consultation was now live if anyone wanted to contribute. The government had announced a significant increase in house building targets. This impacted upon planning applications, and also the Neighbourhood development Plan. Cornwall Council were also looking to lease car parks, again that consultation was ongoing. Finally, he reported that Councillor Linda Taylor had requested more information on devolution.

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

Items to be included at the next meeting included feedback from Highways regarding Bathpool trees and hedges, also the acknowledgement of the commitment to the Parish following the sad loss of Councillor Brian Ruby. Thirdly, the costs involved in the annual maintenance of a bleed kit now installed in Bathpool defibrillator.

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

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

**16. Close of business:** The meeting closed at 21.03pm.