

5th February 2021

MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF SENNEN PARISH COUNCIL HELD VIA ZOOM ON FRIDAY 5TH FEBRUARY 2021 AT 7.00PM.

PRESENT

Councillors Mr A Thomas (Chairman), Mr A Tonkin, Mr C McClary, Mr A Semmens, Mr C Angove and Mr A Rowe.

ALSO PRESENT

Councillor Mrs Helen Hawkins, Mrs A Male (Clerk) and two members of the public.

21-120 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies were received from Councillor D Angove who had no internet access due to lockdown.

21-121 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Councillor C McClary declared an interest in Planning Application No PA21/00252.

21-122 DISPENSATION APPLICATIONS

No applications had been received.

21-123 INFORMATION AND COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC

No member of the public wished to speak.

21-124 MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The minutes of the meeting held on 15th January 2021 having been circulated, it was resolved that they should be signed as a true and correct record.

21-125 ENFORCEMENT OFFICER

Unfortunately, Mr James Peck (CC) had been unable to attend and the matter was postponed until the next meeting.

21-126 GRAZING ON MAYON CLIFF - A DISCUSSION WITH ASH PEARSON (NATIONAL TRUST)

Ash Pearson ran over the history of the matter saying that the ponies had been left on Mayon Cliff on 23rd November 2020 but had been moved again that day which would be it for the time being, returning in the autumn. The idea was to get the habitat in really good condition; heather was okay but maritime moor grass was not so good. An electric fence had been erected to contain the ponies. It was planned to get the whole area stock proof in keeping with the site but this had not been possible because of team capacity due to Covid19. A piece of land at Escalls was owned by the trust and two ponies had been put there that day and would remain until the end of February; ponies were usually put on land from October to February when there was the least number of visitors and no wildflowers but they were mindful of the mud and negative impacts. Ash said that they would use Sennen Community page on Facebook to get the news out to the community; they had already had some feedback. They would also try to get some fencing put in at Escalls. Both sites involved grazing for bracken and montbretia control. There could be some Coastal Path realignment at Escalls further from the cliff. It was questioned why so much had to be cut rather than just a strip and the reply was that it always looked drastic at first and stark at this time of year but it was done to avoid shorting the electric fence and to get the ponies into the brambles. The safety of the ponies so close to the cliff was questioned but councillors were assured that they were very sensible, shrewd and sure-footed so there had not been any problems in that regard. It was a five year scheme. The electric fencing was taken down

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when the ponies were taken off the land. It was not wanted for the brambles to grow back, wanting heather and maritime grassland, and it was pointed out that, as the grass recovered, there would be less need for scrub clearance. Ash Pearson was asked why such a drastic process was used at Treen where the character had now completely changed and he replied that the management prescription had been to decrease the scrub and increase the grass; it had been run by Natural England and the farmer. Escalls was about bracken, montbretia and bramble cover reduction. The concerns about protecting Cliff Castle were raised but Ash Pearson said that they had to clear the ramparts so as not to have it put on the Heritage at Risk register.

Ash Pearson was thanked and he left the meeting.

21-127 PUBLIC TOILETS

- Councillors were informed that replacement hand sanitisers had been ordered and that the gents had been re-opened by a new cleaner in error but this had hopefully been corrected. It was considered that the gents required a good clean and during the meeting a message was answered saying that the operative would be asked to give it a clean before locking up.
- It was reported that James Hardy (CC) had said that Catriona Smith was waiting to hear from the parish council re the heads of terms for the lease but the clerk had heard nothing from her since September 2020. Councillor Mrs Hawkins said that she had been told the same thing so Councillor Mrs Hawkins would contact Catriona Smith to sort the matter. There followed a discussion about Cornwall Council being responsible for getting the lease sorted and that it should have been settled before the parish council took on the toilets. Councillor Mrs Hawkins was also asked to get Cornwall Council to send a copy of the lease to the clerk and that it should be sorted before the start of the season. There were concerns about the responsibility of maintenance of the building and it was agreed that the original intention was that the building would stay in the ownership of Cornwall Council while the parish council maintained it and operated the public toilets.
- It was brought to the attention of councillors that the toilet block required painting. Councillor Alan Rowe offered his and Councillor Derek Angove's labour so long as the materials were provided. Councillors were also reminded that Cormac were supposed to have installed the new urinal.

21-128 PLAYGROUND

An email had been received from the Headteacher, Nichola Smith, which informed members that, following a recent inspection of the playground, the old play equipment had had to be condemned due to safety concerns. A quote was awaited for repairing it to an acceptable standard and they would keep the parish council informed.

21-129 COUNCIL WEBSITE

Despite Councillor Chris Angove contacting the suggested website builder, no call had been received by the clerk. The use of Hugo Fox was further discussed and it was agreed to go ahead with the Gold Option so that they could build the website.

21-130 NOTICEBOARD

The Chairman told members that the weather had not been conducive to finishing the work on the noticeboard but the next couple of days were supposed to be dry so the re-siting of the noticeboard would hopefully be completed.

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21-131 VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETINGS

A suggestion had been made that the parish council changed from Zoom to Microsoft Teams. The clerk pointed out that she would have to learn how to host meetings on Teams and that councillors would have to get accustomed to another format. Also, on the internet, the general opinion was that Teams was good for internal meetings but Zoom was better for external and public meetings. It was also illustrated that the actions such as 'waving' or 'agreeing' that could be used on Teams, were also available on Zoom. It was agreed to remain with Zoom.

21-132 PLANNING

- **Planning Applications**

- PA21/00252 - Mrs J Brownbridge - Construction of manager's residential unit (amended design and siting) with non-compliance of condition 3 in relation to decision notice W1/03/P/0423 at Seaview Holiday Park, Sennen. It was agreed to object to the removal of Condition 3 on the original planning approval commenting that no reason could be found for converting this building to something that amounted to an additional dwelling. Also, a comment would be made that, should further reasons for the removal of this condition be provided, the parish council could then re-assess the need for this dwelling.

- **Decisions and Other**

- A list of decisions was read out.

- **Correspondence and other matters**

- Parking at Old Success – Councillor Tonkin had reported this matter on the enforcement portal but had not heard anything back. The need for parking spaces was discussed but Councillor Mrs Hawkins informed members that parking was not allowed to be used as material grounds when considering planning. Also, it would appear that the report had not been received by enforcement so Councillor Tonkin would go through the process again and the matter placed on the next month's agenda.

- **Neighbourhood Development Plan**

Councillor McClary reported that the Steering Group had met the previous Wednesday but that more members with expertise and local links were required. The next stage would be for the clerk of the parish council to submit a designation of the area that the plan would encompass which was envisaged would be the parish boundary. Councillor Mrs Hawkins pointed out that the designation had already been submitted by the clerk a couple of years previously. Councillor McClary said that a page on the parish council website would be required. Also, the cost would be approximately £5000 so they would be looking for some funding from the parish council. Councillor Mrs Hawkins pointed out that the funding needed to go through the parish council, not from the parish council. Councillor McClary urged anybody wanting to get involved or knowing of anybody who would be interested to get in touch.

21-133 FOOTPATHS AND HIGHWAYS

- There were concerns about the parking close to Blue Haven which was causing problems. A letter had previously been sent to residents so it was now suggested that a request was made to LiveWest to erect a larger sign.
- It was reported that the road surface at the junction of the lane to Blue Haven and Atlantic Crescent required attention. It was decided that Councillor Mrs Hawkins would report it and Councillor Rowe would report it via the online service.
- Councillors were reminded that a number of the outstanding issues such as the railings opposite the school had a job number so would be completed.

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- The pothole between Cove Road and Sunny Corner Lane had been reported.
- It had been suggested that a second Vehicle Activated Sign (VAS) be purchased for the western end of the village. It was reported that the Crowdfunding had raised £150 but the group were willing to contribute the funds towards the cost of another sign being purchased by the parish council. It was pointed out that, if the VAS did not have the desired effect, the parish council would only be left with the cost of one sign so the decision to purchase a second sign should be left until the effectiveness of the first sign could be judged. This would also mean that the cost would appear in the following financial year. There was a discussion about the siting of the pole for the sign at the western end of the village saying that the VAS would not protect the caravan park or Tower Close. The clerk explained that the request had been for the VAS to protect the area around the First and Last Stores which was why Andy Hosken (Cormac) had chosen the site. It was suggested that this matter could be discussed at a later date.
- An email had been received from the family whose seat had been repaired by a member of the public saying that, because the member of the public was refusing payment, the family wished to make a donation to a good cause. Councillors thought that Cornwall Air Ambulance was a worthy cause that served all the community.
- A resident of Stonechair Lane had written to make councillors aware that, due to the recent heavy rains, their rear boundary retaining wall to Stone Chair Lane had suffered substantial land slip within the boundary of their rear garden area. As this boundary adjoined the footpath, their builder would take immediate steps to ensure the continuing safety of any members of the public using the footpath whilst he undertook the necessary repairs. If the parish council had any questions or concerns they should contact him.

21-134 REPORTS FROM EXTERNAL MEETINGS AND CORRESPONDENCE

- West Penwith Community Network Panel Thursday 17th January 2021- Councillor McClary attended and reported there was a Community Network Panel Facebook page; there was a possible extension to SSSI sites (up to 2800 hectares) which would need agreements with landowners and occupiers; Dark Skies would now take longer to complete but it should be noted that they could be built into Neighbourhood Development Plans. The draft notes had been circulated to councillors.
- Cornwall AONB – Monumental Improvement Project – This was a survey that required individual responses and councillors were urged to do so.
- West Penwith & Hayle Police Liaison Meeting, Thursday 18th February at 7pm – No councillor offered to attend.

21-135 FINANCE

- Payments were agreed for payment from the Parish Council account
 - Cormac Solutions Ltd - £656.10
 - Ryan Jackson - £129.00
 - Alexis Male re Kingfisher Direct Ltd - £47.98
- A proposal to subscribe to Cornwall Association of Local Councils had been made, suggesting that this was a great resource for the councillors and the clerk. The cost would be £383.53 for membership until 31st March 2022. It was agreed to subscribe.

21-136 REPORT FROM DIVISIONAL MEMBER

- There was a charity providing hot meals to those who were isolated or in need. If councillors knew of anybody, they should contact Councillor Mrs Hawkins.

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21-137 COUNCILLORS' REPORTS

- Councillor McClary had used Cornwall Council's reporting system and was able to report that it could save a lot of time.
- Councillor Rowe informed members that he had reported a dangerous dog to the Police the previous day.

21-138 ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON THE NEXT MONTHS AGENDA

- A request for Covid19 as an ongoing agenda item had been received. It was pointed out that all updates received by the clerk were already circulated and that there were other ways of this sort of report to be received, such as on the agenda item 'Councillors' Reports', when any member with further information could enlighten councillors and any members of the public present. A heated discussion followed during which members were reminded that the parish council did not meet for the purpose of bullying the clerk or anybody else. It was agreed not to include this as an agenda item.

21-139 DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting would be held virtually on Friday 5th March 2021.

There being no further business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 9.25pm

Chairman
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