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Minutes of an Ordinary Meeting of St Erth Parish Council held on Tuesday 2nd August 2022 at The Cabin, St Erth School, commencing at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors W Chappell, T Greatrex, E Jenkin, J Kersey, J Lee, S Murley, J Parris, N Player (Chair), & T Taylor (Vice-Chair)

In attendance: Fiona Drew (Clerk) & 4 members of the public.

053/08/22-23 Apologies for absence

Councillors P Rodda & A Spencer-Smith.

054/08/22-23 Declarations of interest & dispensations

None

055/08/22-23 Community participation

Two members of the public had attended for a planning application and the Chair agreed to allow them to speak during consideration of that item. Two other residents were interested in any update from Cornwall Council in relation to the Hayle River Community Project.

056/08/22-23 Action required on matters raised during community participation

None.

057/08/22-23 Minutes

It was **RESOLVED** that the Chair signs as a true and accurate record, the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on 5th July 2022, as previously circulated. (Action: The Chair)

058/08/22-23 Clerk's Report

The Council noted the Clerk's report regarding updates from previous minutes as follows:

- **162/01/21-22ai)** PA22/12013 – Land South East of Boscarnek regarding the inclusion & emptying of appropriate bins to include dog mess – the Clerk has followed up with Cornwall Council who has confirmed that they 'are not currently able to add to existing numbers of bins in terms of provision or emptying due to budget pressures ... there may be the opportunity for the Parish to fund the emptying if they so wished?' The Clerk will therefore put together a report to include costings for the provision of bins, installation, & emptying and also include costings for buying in Enforcement as an option.
- **200/03/21-22e)** Toilet Door – the Ladies / Accessible door – work on this has been delayed due to illness – a new frame is being fitted and work on the door itself should be completed in the next couple of weeks.

- **221/04/21-22** Buses – the Clerk has circulated the further response from Cornwall Council’s Team Lead for Bus Operations which continues to highlight budget pressures and lack of general patronage county-wide as the reasons that nothing can be done to improve the service at present.
- **031/06/22-23ai)** PA2204664 – Hayle Causeway East Culvert – Hayle – the RSPB has now been consulted as the Council had requested – awaiting decision.
- **032/06/22-23c)** Utility Contracts – Cornwall Council Procurement & Joint Purchasing – waiting for an update from Cllr Sherfield-Wong for a future agenda item.
- **033/06/22-23a)** Cornwall Councillor Report - Bus Petition & other outstanding matters – waiting for an update from Cllr Sherfield-Wong.
- **033/06/22-23b)** Suez Community Liaison Group – waste being brought in from other areas – update received from Cornwall Council Waste Management Team Leader; SUEZ Project Manager will look at, to ensure that any overflow traffic does not use Fore Street.
- **046/07/22-23ai)** PA22/05221 – Treven Farm, St Erth Praze – awaiting decision.
- **046/07/22-23aii)** PA22/05557 – 1 Vicarage Gardens, St Erth – awaiting decision.
- **047/07/22-23bi)** Defibrillators – the Clerk has contacted the Head of St Erth Primary School who is keen to have a public defibrillator at the school; following a recent report suggesting that all state schools will be provided with a defibrillator by summer 2023, the Clerk will speak to him again after the holidays to ascertain if the need is still there, and, if not, include locating a defibrillator elsewhere in the parish as a future agenda item.
- **047/07/22-23bii)** Police Liaison Group – the Clerk is in discussions with Cornwall Council regarding the potential of using a mobile CCTV unit in the parish; the Clerk has discussed regular police reports with Gwinear-Gwithian Clerk who provides a link to the police website with each agenda but does not receive a direct report from the police.
- **048/07/22-23di)** GWR Community Funding – neither application has been successful but both projects have been appointed a project-lead to offer support through another route – the Clerk is currently awaiting contact from the leads and will update Council further.
- **049/07/22-23a)** Road improvements at Treloweth Lane – the Clerk has contacted Highways to discuss the issues regarding accessing the cycle path by the new build out and has been informed that ‘it was never designed as a cycle bypass and was only intended to allow water to pass freely by as there is not enough carriageway width to accommodate the build-out with a cycle bypass, due to the required signage clearance’. Councillors were disappointed with this response and noted their concerns regarding cyclists safety. Highways has confirmed that they will address the overgrown hedge.
- **050/07/22-23** Vandalism to the Youth Shelter – the Clerk is still waiting for quotes regarding repair work but is also investigating if there is the potential for the work to be carried out through the Community Payback Scheme.

059/08/22-23 Planning

a) Applications:

i) PA22/06112: Proposed new ancillary outbuilding to dwelling to accommodate home gym and craft room; Trelean Barns, North Barn, Steppy Downs Road, St Erth Praze. Councillors considered the application and objections from residents including additional pressure on the sewage treatment plant (it was agreed there would be no additional pressure as the number of people using it would not increase); loss of view (it was agreed that this is not a material planning consideration); reference to other similar applications being refused (no applications could be found that met this criteria). It was **RESOLVED** to support the application with the request that conditions be included to restrict the building’s use to non-residential only and that it be tied to the main dwelling in order that it cannot be sold off separately in the future. (Action: The Clerk)

ii) **PA22/00620**: Demolition of existing timber barn and construction of annexe and store; Sunrise Farm, 68 Bosence Road, Townshend – amended application. It was **RESOLVED** to support this application with the request that a condition be included to tie the building to the main dwelling in order that it cannot be sold off separately in the future. In addition, that provision is made for nesting birds as per the Preliminary Visual Assessment, and that when the old barn is demolished, care is taken in relation to any wildlife that may be on site. (Action: The Clerk)

iii) **PA22/06457**: Construction of single rear extension; Steppy Downs House, 13 St Erth Hill, St Erth. It was **RESOLVED** to support this application. (Action: The Clerk)

b) Decisions:

i) **PA22/02016**: Conversion of Existing Garage to Annex Accommodation; The Fish Farm, The Green Lane, St Erth; Approved with conditions

ii) **PA22/01059/PREAPP**: Pre-application advice for the erection of a three-bedroom bungalow; Riverside, Tregembo Hill, Relubbus. Advice given

c) To consider any other planning matter received at or before the start of the meeting

None

060/08/22-23 Reports

a) Cornwall Councillor's Report:

No report or apology has been received from Councillor Sherfield-Wong and the Clerk has received no response from recent emails following up matters that the Councillor had been addressing from previous meetings. Following discussion, where Councillors expressed their disappointment at the continued lack of engagement and respect for both the Council and residents, it was **agreed** that the Clerk should send a letter from the Chair to Councillor Sherfield-Wong giving a two-week deadline to respond to matters raised, and request a meeting with her and Councillor Linda Taylor to address concerns. In addition to copy in the St Ives Conservative Association Chairman, Derek Thomas MP, Cornwall Council's Chief Executive & Monitoring Officer and the Chairmen / Mayor of the other Councils in the division. If no response was forthcoming, it was further **agreed** that the Clerk would contact the other Councils in the division to request that they include an agenda item to consider a vote of no confidence at their September meetings. (Action: The Clerk and Chair)

b) Other Reports:

i) **SUEZ Community Liaison Group, 20th July**: The Chair attended this virtual meeting and the key points discussed were included in the report that had been previously circulated. Minutes will be circulated to all Councillors when available. (Action: The Clerk)

ii) **Highways Meeting with Highways Manager West & St Hilary Parish Council regarding traffic issues in Relubbus, 26th July**: The Vice-Chair and Clerk attended this meeting and the key points discussed were included in the Clerk's report that had been previously circulated. The Clerk was going to liaise with Highways regarding cutting back of hedges and speed data, and would also investigate when the next round of potential CNP funding would be available. (Action: The Clerk)

061/08/22-23 Financial Matters

a) Receipts & Payments for July 2022:

It was **RESOLVED** to note receipts received, ratify regular monthly payments made and approve payments due as follows: (Action: The Clerk, Vice-Chair & Councillors Greatrex & Lee)

Receipts received:

Cemetery Fees	£170.00	Memorial inscription
Tenant	£30.00	Allotment Rent
TOTAL	£200.00	

Regular Payments to note:

South West Water	£29.00	Water – Public Conveniences
British Gas	£70.00	Electricity – Public Conveniences
SeaDog IT Ltd	£29.95	Website hosting fee
Cherry Trees	£458.81	Grass cutting – Churchyard & Cemeteries
Cherry Trees	£458.81	Grass cutting – Play areas
Utility Warehouse	£57.48	Landline, broadband, electricity - Vestry Rms
Salaries inc Tax, NI, Pension	£2,378.24	July payment
Google	£64.39	Gmail account
TOTAL	£3,546.68	

Regular Annual Direct Debit to note:

Information Commissioner's Office	£35.00	Annual Data Protection Renewal Fee
TOTAL	£35.00	

Payments due:

F Drew	£32.00	Clerk's Expenses (itemised on invoice)
SWPSI	£36.00	Monthly Play Inspection – July
St Erth School	£60.00	Hire of School for 4x meetings (April – July)
PKF Littlejohn	£360.00	External Audit
T Taylor	£11.99	Screwfix – staples for staple gun
TOTAL	£499.99	

b) Monthly bank reconciliation:

Councillor Parris confirmed that he had carried out a satisfactory bank reconciliation for June with the Clerk.

c) First Quarter Budget Update:

The Council noted the Clerk's report. No concerns were raised.

d) Toilet Water Bill:

The Clerk reported that the Council had finally received notification from Source for Business that South West Water had credited its account for £2,739.99, in relation to the excessive water bill received in April 2021 (reference 295/20-21). This means that the original bill of £2,850.04 has been reduced to £110.05 and the account is now in credit.

062/08/22-23 Highways

a) Request from Gilbert & Goode for Street Names for new development at Boscarnek:

The Council considered the Clerk's report and it was **RESOLVED** to submit the following proposals to Gilbert & Goode: Ryb an Skol (beside the school), Bosbrogh (home of the badger) or Boslowarn (home of the fox) and Davies Gilbert Close. Councillor Kersey would provide a brief outline in relation to the historical importance of Davies Gilbert and his contribution to local and national engineering. (Action: The Clerk and Councillor Kersey)

b) Recent traffic incident on the bridge:

It was **agreed** to write and thank the police for their quick action following the incident that took place on St Erth bridge recently. In addition, to look to better understand the role of First Responders locally. (Action: The Clerk)

063/08/22-23 Playgrounds

a) Monthly Inspection:

The Council noted the monthly inspection report, previously circulated by the Clerk, currently showing all areas as low risk. The Clerk advised Councillors that the annual inspection was due to take place in the next month.

064/08/22-23 Hayle River Community Project

The Council considered Councillor Murley's proposal for further action, previously circulated. It was **RESOLVED** to request a meeting at the earliest opportunity with Cornwall Council, the Environment Agency and St Hilary Parish Council to discuss the Council's request in their recent feedback to the Vision Plan regarding the need for urgent action to stabilise what is left of the bank whilst pursuing conversations with the owner at Carbis Mill regarding the possibility of realigning the footpath at Carbis Mill. In addition to find out what Cornwall Council's Plan B is if these negotiations are unsuccessful. (Action: The Clerk)

065/08/22-23 Landmark Tree

The Council considered the report and it was **RESOLVED** to request a Rowan tree from Forest for Cornwall. It was **agreed** to plant this in Location 2 of the report, on the top of the bank behind the container alongside the proposed Jubilee Bench, dependent on the need for agreement from the Environment Agency. (Action: The Clerk)

066/08/22-23 Mayor for Cornwall

Following discussion, it was **RESOLVED** that St Erth Parish Council calls on Cornwall Council to ensure that the people of Cornwall are consulted by referendum on whether there should be a Mayor of Cornwall. Such an important change to how Cornwall is governed should not, in the Council's view, be decided by a simple majority of Cornwall Councillors in one meeting. Should Cornwall Council choose not to hold such a referendum, it is essential that all Town and Parish Councils be consulted, to allow local Councils the opportunity to consult their residents directly to enable them to have a say in this important decision. In addition, to share this action on the Parish Council website and social media and give the relevant links if residents want more information. (Action: The Clerk)

067/08/22-23 Correspondence

a) Consultation on the Schedule of Modifications to the Climate Emergency Development Plan Document:

This was noted and it was **agreed** that no further action was required.

b) Derek Thomas – update on Penzance to Camborne A30 Action Ltd:

An update had been received regarding the Penzance to Camborne A30 Action Ltd's Case for Action that was submitted to National Highways earlier this year, and outlining current reserves. The Clerk will circulate this letter to all Councillors. (Action: The Clerk)

c) Environment Agency (EA) – request re proposed works to repair St Erth outfall:

The Clerk had received a request to use the access at the back of the PC land on Chenhalls Road. The EA has confirmed that the footpath will remain open at all times.

d) NALC briefing paper – Consultation re Holiday Lets:

NALC is preparing a response to this consultation by the Department for Culture, Media & Sport. The deadline for comments to be included in NALC's response is 5.00pm on Tuesday 30th August. The Clerk will circulate the paper and requests that Councillors feedback any comments no later than Friday 19th August. It was **RESOLVED** to delegate a response to the Clerk, in consultation with the Chair & Vice-Chair, based on this feedback. (Action: The Clerk & All Councillors)

068/08/22-23 Agenda Items for a future meeting

It was noted that Councillors should submit agenda items for the next meeting to the Clerk in writing no later than Tuesday 30th August.

069/08/22-23 Exclusion of the Press and Public

It was **RESOLVED** that in accordance with S.1 (2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act, 1960, the Press and Public be excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the following business owing to the confidential nature of that business.

070/08/22-23 Legal Matters relating to Planning & Enforcement

The Clerk updated on matters relating to current enforcement cases. It was **agreed** to contact Cornwall Planning Department regarding concerns about the ongoing lack of work at Chenhalls Road to request appropriate action be taken. (Action: The Clerk)

071/08/22-23 Car Park Levy

The Clerk updated on ongoing issues regarding getting a response from Cornwall Council due to change in officers and would continue to pursue a resolution to this matter. (Action: The Clerk)

At 9.30pm it was **RESOLVED** to continue the meeting to complete the business on the agenda.

072/08/22-23 Clerk's Hours

The Clerk had worked their contracted hours and taken annual leave for July.

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.32pm.

Signed: _____ Chair

Date: _____