

GWENNAP PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES OF THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF GWENNAP PARISH COUNCIL HELD ON THURSDAY 17 SEPTEMBER 2020

In attendance:

CLlr Sue Patton (Chair)
CLlr Greg Foxwell
CLlr Jan Hallett
CLlr Dave Lanyon
CLlr Lou Hitchens
CLlr Richard Williams

Kate Mitchell (New Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer)

The Chair introduced Kate who was attending this meeting as an observer prior to her formal commencement in the role of Clerk and Responsible Financial Officer on Monday 28 September.

The Chair reported that Katie had been appointed by the Panel from a strong list of interviewees.

Katie introduced herself and said that she was delighted to be appointed and was looking forward to starting this challenging and exciting role.

The meeting commenced at 7 pm.

110/20 APOLOGIES

There were none from Parish Councillors as all were present. Cornwall Councillor Kaczmarek sent his apologies.

111/20 DISPENSATION OF DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS (DPI) AND ANY OTHER SIGNIFICANT INTERESTS (OSI)

None were declared.

112/20 OPEN FORUM

There were no members of the public present.

113/20 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR

No report was submitted for this meeting.

114/20 MINUTES OF A VIRTUAL COUNCIL MEETING (Thursday 20 August)

It was MOVED by the Chair, SECONDED by Cllr Foxwell and AGREED that the draft minutes of the meeting of 20 August 2020 be APPROVED as a correct record.

115/20 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES

All matters arising would be dealt with under substantive Agenda items.

116/20 CORRESPONDENCE

- The Chair had received an email from VS on behalf of 'The Coffee Group,' requesting that the Parish Rooms be opened to be used for their meetings now that we were coming into Autumn. The Chair had responded by saying that re-opening the Parish Rooms raised some difficult issues which were being addressed. It was not possible to give any guarantees as to when the Parish Rooms would be re-opened.
- There had been some correspondence with the football club concerning the old metal storage container. It is going to be removed and cut up for scrap.
- There had been concern expressed about a bonfire. The Chair confirmed that there are no legal restrictions as to when bonfires were permitted although the guidelines are that they should not be lit at night. One bonfire does not constitute a legal nuisance.

117/20 PLANNING APPLICATION

PA20/07209 Non-material amendments including changes to doors, windows and roof lights on west and north elevations. Wee Chy an Brea, Pulla Cross, TR4 8SB

Cllr Lanyon said that he had looked at this application and there were no significant changes to the original application which the Parish Council had supported. All agreed.

It was MOVED by Cllr Lanyon, SECONDED by Cllr Hitchens and AGREED that this planning application be supported.

118/20 PLANNING DECISIONS

The planning decisions set out under this Agenda item were formally noted.

119/20 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC RIGHTS OF WAY

Whilst recognising that repairs to highways were the responsibility of Cornwall Council, Cllr Foxwell felt that we should be able to influence the priorities for repair through local knowledge. By carrying out repairs earlier, perhaps when CORMAC were already scheduled to be in the area, money **could be saved from having to carry out the repairs later when the damage could be worse.**

It was agreed that a note would be placed in the next Parish Newsletter asking people to notify the Clerk of any concerns they had which could then be passed on to Cornwall Council.

120/20 RICHARD JORY PLAYING FIELD

- A concern had been expressed about debris falling from trees and landing on cars parked on the road. Cllr Hallett agreed to contact Greens to get this addressed.
- A resident had asked that a sign be put up making it clear that the Playing Fields were not located on or adjacent to the Trelawney Estate. It was agreed that the residents would be asked to monitor the situation for the next month to demonstrate the extent of the concern and it would be reviewed at the next meeting. It was noted that Cornwall Council would not give consent for multiple signs to be put up on the highway.

121/20 PARISH ROOMS

- There was a discussion around the fact that the parking area has 'sunk' causing damage to the plastic grid covering and the kerbstones. Greens have reviewed the situation and there are two options: covering the area with 10mm gravel or to dig up the whole area and to replace it. Cllr Hallett agreed to check how long the cheaper solution of using gravel would last to help identify the most cost-effective solution.
- Cllr Hitchens reported that all the work required by the Fire Risk Assessment had been undertaken and that the Legionella consultants would be contacting the Council next week to organise a half hour meeting to explain their findings and what needs to be done in response.
- Cllr Lanyon confirmed that a plumber would be looking at the gents toilets the next day to consider the installation of a sensored cistern.
- The Chair confirmed that although the newer part of the Parish Rooms did not require asbestos testing, that did not apply to the changing room and toilets. There was a legal requirement, therefore, for an asbestos management survey to be carried out in respect of those toilets.
- Cllr Lanyon agreed to check that the plastic sheeting in the loft was safe to use and he also agreed to check the leak from the immersion heater.
- It was confirmed that the new contractors are cleaning the toilets, as agreed, but the efficacy of this is hampered by the poor general state of the toilets.
- The Chair confirmed that the closure of the Parish Rooms due to corona virus had shown that there were a few issues to address and that these matters needed to be dealt with before re-opening.
- Further to the discussion at the last meeting, it was clear that the old storage container could not be saved through cladding hence its disposal by the football club. It was **MOVED** by the Chair, **SECONDED** by Cllr Williams and **AGREED** that the Parish Council will acquire a new storage container which will be sited at the top of the car park for ease of installation and maintenance. It was thought that it could be a good youth project for it to be painted with the help of a local artist. When Greens come to prune the overhanging trees referred to under the previous Agenda item, they can do the same for the area above where the new container will be sited.

122/20 THE USE OF DRONES

This item was in response to a complaint made to Cllr Lanyon and Cllr Hallett.

Cllr Williams explained that he had researched this issue and it is complex. Although there are clear legal restrictions which apply to anyone flying drones eg that it cannot be within 50 metres of people or property, it was much less clear whether people could be banned from flying them from publicly owned land and/or whether this could be effectively enforced.

There was a long debate about this issue and although the view was expressed that signage should be put up indicating that drones should not be flown from Parish-owned land without consent, the majority view was that this was a recreational activity permitted in law and that it was an activity to be regulated through UK law not by the Parish Council.

123/20 WHEAL MAID

- It had been reported that the lock on the barrier to Wheal Maid had been cut and, therefore, the Chair had requested that a new combination lock be fitted, the number of which will be passed to the Police.
- Pursuant to a recommendation from SLR that the tailings dams be inspected on a monthly basis, the Chair and Cllr Williams had walked the site this week with a surveyor from Wheal Jane Limited. He has confirmed that they can do inspections, with an upfront cost to set up the required equipment and a monthly standard fee. A quote will be provided next week.

124/20 PARISH COUNCIL FUNCTIONS AND INSURANCE

Lockdown has given the Parish Council the opportunity to consider proper formalised arrangements for AG and the litter pickers.

The Chair had had a very positive meeting with AG this week and she has obtained an insurance quote for all the duties she carries out on behalf of the Parish Council which she has listed.

This will form the basis of new working arrangements moving forward.

125/20 ALLOTMENT PROVISION IN THE PARISH

Cllr Hallett confirmed that the previous option for an allotment was no longer feasible.

There was agreement, in principle, that a site suitable for an allotment should be identified. A request would go into the next Parish Letter as to whether anyone knew or would be prepared to offer land for this purpose.

126/20 BANGER RACING AT UNITED DOWNS RACEWAY

Several Councillors confirmed that they had received complaints about the noise emanating from the Raceway.

On the positive side, it was recognised that this use had been in place for several decades and that the noise was probably more noticeable due to the lack of meetings during lockdown and the greater frequency since restrictions were eased. It was also noted that the event organisers appear to act responsibly.

Whilst Councillors were keen to support a minority sport, there was a sense that the noise has increased and when the wind is in a particular direction, the noise nuisance was significant.

Councillors noted the terms of the existing arrangements between Cornwall Council and the organisers and that they might be a little lax.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would write a letter to Cornwall Council asking them to review the following: noise limits, start and finish times and whether the annual number of events next year could be reduced from 15.

127/20 LAND REGISTRY

Cllr Hallett reported that there appeared to be a number of small pieces of land in the parish which could be used eg for planting trees, where there is no record of registered ownership.

It was agreed that these would be identified in the next Parish Newsletter to see if anyone knew the owners to take forward discussions about potential usage.

128/20 WALNUT TREE

Due to the difficulty of siting this tree on parish land, the kind offer to gift a walnut tree has been withdrawn.

129/20 LOCAL ELECTRICITY BILL

This item had been put on the Agenda at the request of the pressure group, 'Power for People.'

They are promoting the Local Electricity Bill which, if it becomes law, would impose a duty on the energy regulator, OFGEM, to create a Right to Local Supply. This would mean that existing or new community energy companies would face set-up costs proportionate to the scale of their business. This would enable them to be financially viable and profits could be invested in local facilities and initiatives.

This Bill is supported by a substantial number of MPs and local authorities.

'Power for People' had supplied details of a specific resolution they would like to be passed.

It was **MOVED** by Cllr Williams, **SECONDED** by Cllr Hallett and **AGREED** that:

The Gwennap Parish Council

- (i) Notes that:

- The current situation, whereby the very large financial setup and running costs involved in selling locally generated renewable electricity to local customers result in it being impossible for local renewable electricity generators to do so;
 - If made law, the Bill would make the financial costs proportionate to the scale of a renewable electricity supplier's operation and empower councils, together with their communities, to sell locally generated renewable electricity directly to local people, businesses and organisations; and
 - Would result in revenues received by councils or community organisations that choose to set up local renewable electricity companies, which could be used to help fund local greenhouse gas emissions reduction measures and to help improve local services and facilities.
- (ii) Accordingly resolves to support the Local Electricity Bill, supported by a cross-party group of 187 MPs; and
- (iii) Further resolves to write to the local MP, asking them to support the Bill in Parliament and to the organisers of the campaign for the Bill, Power for People (at 8 Delancey Passage, Camden, London NW1 7NN or info@powerforpeople.org.uk) expressing its support.

130/20 FINANCE

130.1/20 Income received since the last meeting was recorded as follows: Burial £790, Grant for noticeboards £507, Cornwall Council Precept & CTS grant 2020/21 £22,084.16 Total income £23,381.16

130.2/20 The following proposed payments (excluding direct debits) were approved:

Sparkles Cleaning & Property Maintenance	£195.80
Legionellasafe Services (UK) Ltd	£594.00
Ann Gazzard - playing field duties	£197.62
Robert Hallett - litter picking	£79.95
Greens (Cornwall) Ltd - monthly play inspection	£108.00
Greens (Cornwall) Ltd - playpark tree work	£254.40
Lou Hitchens - Filter cartridge for water boiler	£45.53
Fiona Barnard - Clerking services 20/08/20 - 17/09/20	£172.50
M P Chegwiddden - contract grass cutting, invoice 010	£1,004.40
Cormac Solutions - Grounds Maintenance September	£66.43
Fire Safety Cornwall Ltd - fire safety survey & Risk Ass.	£150.00
Thomas Clifford - Culvert inspection August 2020	<u>£3,500.00</u>
<i>Total payments for approval at meeting of Gwennap PC on 17/09/20</i>	<u>£6,368.63</u>

131/20 ANY OTHER URGENT BUSINESS (to discuss any other urgent business not available to include on the agenda at the time of its publication)

There was none.

132/20 FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS/MATTERS TO CARRY FORWARD

- Richard Jory Playing Fields
- Parish Rooms
- Parish Council Functions and Insurance
- Speeding

There was a discussion about how to transact business more effectively in future and with respect to payments under the standing item of 'FINANCE', it was MOVED by the Chair, SECONDED by Cllr Williams and AGREED that the payments for the month, in future, will be listed on the Agenda and, subject to any questions, will be approved en block.


With regard to the standing item of 'PLANNING DECISIONS,' it was MOVED by Cllr Lanyon, SECONDED by Cllr Hitchens and AGREED that, as these were listed in full on the Agenda, in future, they would be formally noted en block.

133/20 CLOSED SESSION – EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

In accordance with Standing Order 48 this agenda item was discussed in closed session.

The meeting concluded at 8.50 pm.

Signed as a true and accurate record of the meeting



(Chair) 15/10/20