

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 6TH SEPTEMBER 2023 AT 7.00PM

Present	Cllr. M. Davies (Chairman) Cllr. R. Wilson Cllr. Ms. A. Lake 2 Members of Public	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk) Cllr. E. Piper Cllr. S. Coy	Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer (Vice-Chair) Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons Cwll. Cllr. Mrs. J. Cruse
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Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
150/23	Apologies:- None.	
151/23	Public Forum (Members of the public are permitted to make representations, answer questions, and give evidence in respect of any item of business included in the agenda. The designated time will be 15 minutes and no longer than 5 minutes per person, the time may be extended at the discretion of the Chair):- Two members of public in attendance, with nothing to raise.	
152/23	<p>Monthly Cornwall Councillor Report:- Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fortunately, Withiel has not been impacted by the Green Valley Road closure which has caused havoc in the villages close to Bodmin. Happy to give an update on that situation which I am monitoring daily. • There is a site meeting at Withiel on 11th September to discuss the Withiel HGV Scheme. • I have also supported the Withiel Village Hall CAP application via the Lets Talk Portal. • I have written to the Chief and Area Planning Officers to express my concern regarding Q class being used as 'fall back' to enable planning permission for new builds in the open countryside which would not be approved under Policy 7 of the Local Plan and the Withiel Neighbourhood Plan. I will also write to Michael Gove on this matter as well as it would appear some Q class applications are pushing the specifications to the limit and over what is allowed. • The Bodmin Neighbourhood Draft Plan has been published and there was a public meeting last Tuesday, good to see Councillor R. Wilson there along with quite a few Town, Parish and Cornwall Councillors. I have already made my comments on the draft and any member of the public can do so through the consultation link. • PA22/07440 – Higher Bosneives, Withiel – she had emailed the Chief Planning Officer and expressed concerns with the conflict of Q class with LP Policy 7. Having said that there is a good example in Mount (Cardinham) where a local resident has made a nice home with stables included in the overall exterior for younger members of his family. • Waste Roll out map circulated to Councillors. It will be interesting to see how the first roll out goes as it is in the limited parts of Withiel parish which are included on the map. • No schools in Cornwall have RAAC, which is good news. <p>Chairman thanked Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse for her report this evening.</p>	

153/23	Members Declaration of Interest on items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:- None.	
154/23	Confirmation of Minutes from the Monthly Meeting held on the 5th July 2023:- Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Parish Meeting held on the 5 th July 2023 as circulated were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper)	
155/23	Matters Arising from the Monthly Parish Minutes of the Meeting held on the 5th July 2023:- None.	
156/23	<p>Highway Issues in the Parish (Including Visibility at Withiel Crossroads):- Clerk reported on email received advising that many years ago the Parish Council, along with the landowner and Cornwall Highways (now Cormac) carried out work to reduce the height of a hedge at Withiel Crossroads. A bank was created with a post and rail fence to allow drivers, horse riders etc to have visibility at the junctions. Over the years this has not been maintained and now the vegetation is overgrown and blocking the site lines. Could the Parish Council please arrange for the fence to be cleared to allow visibility once again, the reason for the work being done in the first place. Councillor M. Davies has already reported today, and Cornwall Council has now come back saying there was no problem, he has gone back to them again as he is not satisfied with the response Action: Chairman and Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse to raise at the meeting next week on the 11th September 2023. Chairman to send information to Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse and Clerk to send original email received and respond advising what has happened.</p> <p>Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse on reports of unclear dirty signage. She advised if they are concealed or dirty this can be reported using the online system.</p>	<p>Chair/ Cwll. Cllr. Mrs. J. Cruse</p>
157/23	<p>Footpath Issues in the Parish:- Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Here are details of issues currently needing attention. The Clerk has written to Chris Monk to alert him, and I have supplied details and photos. Chris Monk be able to help with costs or he may say the landowner is responsible in which case, I am sure he will be helpful. I have more details of the concerns raised by our Contractor and photographs as circulated. Both ends of the footpath, between Brooklands and at the bottom of Withiel Hill need attention. The access to the path at Brooklands is very badly positioned being from the road, without signpost and slippery at the top of a bank to a stream. It needs better access. • Going over stone steps, I found the stile in pieces and with a strand of what looks like electric fence wire at eye level as shown. At the other end of the path, the fence posts are rotten and need replacing as the fence does not have a stile at all, but you have to climb over the fence to get on to the footpath as shown, by standing on a rail. The top rail swings to allow you to climb over. • At Whitehay there is another broken plank on the footbridge at the end of the path where it enters the wood. Someone has marked the broken plank with a traffic cone. • I am sure our Contractor can easily do the work, but the Parish Council would welcome a contribution from Cormac for the costs involved or consultation with the relevant landowner. 	

	<p>Clerk reported a response had been received from External Auditor Report noting the submission of the Agar 2 for Withiel Parish Council and Exemption Certificate for 2022-2023. Noting no further information is required. Providing no correspondence is received from local electors during the period for the exercise of public rights we will next hear from then towards the end of March 2024. Resolved Clerk updates website and noticeboard with Notice of Conclusion of Audit (Proposed: Councillor S. Coy; Seconded: Councillor Ms. J. Shearer) Action: Clerk.</p>	Clerk
160/23	<p>Voltaire Solar Funding and how to deal with applications and advertising:- Resolved to hold in a separate account. Councillor S. Coy suggested the wind farm deals with applications and look at their rules and regulations and draw up something we approve Action: Councillors and Clerk to look at other solar funding bodies and their regulations for the next meeting.</p> <p>Councillor R. Wilson suggested inviting members of the public along to a future meeting to discuss funding for the community and come up with some ideas. Councillor felt this was a good suggestion.</p> <p>Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse left the meeting at 7.44pm.</p>	Cllrs/ Clerk
161/23	<p>Withiel Village Hall and Withiel Parish Council's role:- Clerk reported correspondence had been received from Councillor S. Coy setting out the role of the Parish Council, with a copy of the Trust Deed. Schedule one Paragraph 1 appoints Withiel Parish Council (the Council) as the Trustee. The rest of the Deed sets out in some detail how the Hall is to be managed. Stephen Horrocks (Secretary Withiel Playing Fields Association) sets out how this works in practice in his letter to Cornwall Council. Withiel Parish Council's role is to ensure the terms of the deed are carried out by Withiel Playing Fields Association. In practice it means that they cannot sell the hall. He suggests the Withiel Parish Clerk writes to Stephen Horrocks (Secretary Withiel Playing Fields Association), and James Thomas (Cornwall Council) and Cornwall Councillor Mrs. Jenny Cruse, confirming the interpretation is correct. Resolved to confirm as set out (Proposed: Councillor Ms. A. Lake; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper) Action: Clerk</p>	Clerk
162/23	<p>Annual Documentation to be reviewed – (a) Statement of Internal Control; (b) Standing Orders; (c) Segregation of Duties Matrix; (d) Risk Management Policy; (e) Risk Assessment; (f) Financial Regulations; (g) Delegated Powers – List of Regular Payments for the Year; (h) Final Fixed Asset Register 2023/2024 (Note List of Reserves will be actioned when dealing with the Precept around November/December):- Resolved to adopt these policies as set out and include on our website. Clerk to include final items on the agenda around November/December (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor S. Coy) Action: Clerk.</p>	Clerk
163/23	<p>Camel Valley Community Area Partnership:- Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next meeting is on the 18th September so nothing to report yet but I did attend a meeting of Chairs and Vice-Chairs of all the CAP areas, which was an opportunity to meet each other. • The positives seemed to be that there was a good mix of Town and Parish Councillors across the whole of Cornwall. It is hoped that rural parishes can be encouraged to engage with the CAP areas - thus involving members of the public as much as possible. It was agreed that everyone needs to be realistic about what can be achieved and actually delivered. Meetings will be hybrid so that travel is not an issue. 	

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is considerable analysis of stats underway - age groups, health problems, poverty areas, vulnerabilities etc. We were shown an analysis of the Liskeard and Looe CAP covering a population of 67,000. Obesity is the most prevalent health problem in this area over all age groups - much greater than cancer, for example. • There was a presentation about the Community Capacity Fund. There have been lots of claims since it was launched at the end of February (including Withiel Village Hall for refurbishing the kitchen and toilet block). Members of CAP will be asked to vote on whether to support these claims. • Here is a link to the page online: https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/cap4-camel-valley • I can also update on a meeting of the 'Quietways' Operation (held today) which seeks to find funding for making routes locally which are free of heavy traffic and suitable for cyclists, horse riders and walkers. Dominic Fairman is proposing a new route for consultation. Here is a link to it: https://www.google.com/maps/d/edit?mid=1aib0UuVYJ4tVH5kolBjRbwFzDt-nHqs&usp=sharing • This initiative is in partnership with Sustrans, which is a charity which seeks to help communities 'come to life' by walking, wheeling, and cycling along safe routes to create healthier places and happier lives and who will help discuss costs. Here is a link to Sustrans: https://www.sustrans.org.uk/ • The idea is to link safe routes which will be marked on maps in the future as they are in many places worldwide. Cornwall is very short of such routes and Cornwall Council may agree to support a feasibility study to look at suggested routes. Sustrans are looking at suitability etc and costings. <p>Chairman thanked Councillor Ms. J. Shearer for her report.</p>	
164/23	<p>Climate Change and the Environment:- Councillor R. Wilson reported he was happy to report that over the Summer one of Withiel's most prominent dairy farmers have embraced the challenge of climate change by installing a significant solar panel array on the large cow shed/barn roof. This not only utilises a large area of otherwise wasted roof space, but with the inclusion of battery storage, this operation will have a much-reduced demand on grid sourced electricity without losing valuable grazing land.</p> <p>On the opposite end of the scale, he said he was saddened to hear that Cornwall Council have rejected an application for a 3-hectare solar farm. (location not supplied) For a Council committed to a Carbon neutral Cornwall by 2030 this is a disappointing approach from the conservative majority. He recognises the need to protect pasture, but we must promote renewables, including onshore wind wherever possible. As we have seen in Withiel, not only do we have a great source of renewable energy in the Parish, but we also benefit from considerable payments to help improve our community.</p> <p>Chairman advised this is a complex subject and the rejection of a planning application for ground mounted solar may well be a good thing if it is on productive agricultural land. Of course, we need 'clean energy' but personally placing this on good quality agricultural land is not the best option. Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported that apparently in France it is now a legal requirement to have solar panels arranged in all car parks offering both renewable energy and shade for parked cars. Seems a lot better than using productive farm land to me. Strange that we do not do this here.</p>	

	<p>28. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Motorcycle behaviour change campaign</p> <p>29. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Police & Crime Panel Meeting – Friday 28th July 2023</p> <p>30. Cornwall Council – Nutrient Neutrality and multi-stage consents – applications affected in River Camel SAC</p> <p>31. CALC – New Training Course</p> <p>32. Cornwall Council – Town & Parish Council Newsletter – 11th August 2023</p> <p>33. Great Western Railway – Conference – Tuesday 13th September 2023</p> <p>34. Cornwall Council – Town & Parish Council Bulletin: 15th August 2023</p> <p>35. Cornwall Council – Standards Committee are recruiting</p> <p>36. Cornwall Council – Updating the Clean Air for Cornwall Strategy: Engagement Workshops with CAP representatives</p> <p>37. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Invitation to Violence Seminar on Tuesday 19th September 2023</p> <p>38. CALC – Addressing Conflict between Employees and Members Training – Tuesday 14th November 2023 from 6.00pm to 8.00pm via Zoom</p> <p>39. CALC – Planning Training Courses for Autumn</p> <p>40. CALC – Let’s Talk Water Stakeholder Webinar by South West Water – Thursday 14th September 2023 at 2.00pm</p> <p>41. Cornwall Council – Local Area Energy Plan Engagement Event – 5th September 2023 at Theatre Room, Princess Pavilion, Falmouth</p> <p>42. Cornwall Council – Withiel HGV Scheme Site Meeting</p> <p>43. Cornwall Council – Shared Prosperity Fund Events</p> <p>44. Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner – Survey aims to help shape how police care for crime victims</p> <p>45. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Invitation to the Violence Seminar on Tuesday, 19th September 2023</p> <p>46. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – A chance for rural communities to have their say</p> <p>47. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – 200th CSW Group</p> <p>48. CALC – Extended Autumn Training Programme</p> <p>49. Cornwall Suez Visitor Centre Information</p> <p>50. Bodmin Police Station – September 2023 Bodmin/Wadebridge Neighbourhood Police Team Newsletter</p>	
169/23	<p>Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:- None.</p>	
170/23	<p>Date of next Meeting and Meetings for 2023:- Next meeting would be held on Wednesday 4th October 2023 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall Committee Meeting Room.</p> <p>All other Meetings to be confirmed as the Wednesday 1st November and 6th December 2023.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.10pm.</p>	

Signature:

Chair

Date: 4th October 2023