

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 4TH OCTOBER 2023 AT 7.00PM

Present	Cllr. M. Davies (Chairman) Cllr. R. Wilson Cllr. Ms. A. Lake	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk) Cllr. E. Piper 1 Member of Public	Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer (Vice-Chair) Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons
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Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
171/23	Apologies:- Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse, Councillor S. Coy. Chairman reported he is going to lead the meetings more efficiently and will be expecting Councillors to read reports that are sent beforehand and allow just for questions only and leave a maximum time of 3 minutes for each Councillor to ask questions about the report that will then be answered, they will get one opportunity to ask questions about a report, it will not move into a discussion.	
172/23	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):- One member of public in attendance, and reported on the poor acoustics of the Village Hall. He said meetings used to be held in the small meeting room and suggested this is better for meetings. Chairman said if there were no objections the Parish Council would be happy to move back in for the next meeting. Breaches in planning control – he wanted to know to approach and was informed to contact Planning Enforcement Team which any member of the public can do.	
173/23	Monthly Cornwall Councillor Report:- Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse reported received as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Earlier this month myself, Chair and Vice-Chair had a meeting with Cormac regarding the method of consultation for the Withiel HGV scheme. It was agreed that notice will be sent out by a variety of methods to inform residents of the proposals and an invitation to attend Parish Council meeting to air opinions. • I had a 3-hour meeting with Wainhomes last week regarding a new planning application coming forward for Halgavor Moor. A recent amendment by the House of Lords to the levelling up bill appears to put the phosphate issue back into the court of Local Authorities. I am not sure how this will affect the planning applications going forward but it does seem the issue is still not resolved. I also used the time to fully bring home the fallout from the closure of Green Valley Road and the bad publicity it had created for Wainhomes in the Bodmin area. • One of the meetings I attended last week was the Local Energy Plan and one practical thing I picked out from the meeting was the interactive map where residents can pinpoint areas of environmental interest. We do already have a great deal of protected landscape in the Bodmin area, but I think it is a good tool for registering other areas that need protection. The link is here https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/have-your-say/maps/nature-recovery-locally 	

	<p>I submitted some information on Halgavor Moor, and I am sure there are many other areas in Withiel parish that deserve being recorded on this interactive map.</p> <p>Chairman thanked the Clerk for circulating Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse's report. There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
174/23	<p>Members Declaration of Interest on items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:- Councillor Ms. J. Shearer declared a non-registerable interest in respect of PA23/07450 for Mr. Hancock.</p>	
175/23	<p>Confirmation of Minutes from the Monthly Meeting held on the 6th September 2023:- Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Parish Meeting held on the 6th September 2023 as circulated were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Lake)</p>	
176/23	<p>Matters Arising from the Monthly Parish Minutes of the Meeting held on the 6th September 2023:-</p> <p>Page 4 Min.159/23 Notice of Conclusion for Annual Audit:- Clerk reported the External Auditors had confirmed that notices of conclusion are only issued when they carry out a complete review, they do not issue for those that claim exemption, therefore, the Parish Council are not required to put a notice up.</p> <p>Page 4 Min.161/23 Withiel Village Hall:- Clerk reported information had been sent, since this the hall has had problems with a trust deed that was apparently lodged with Barclays Bank in Bodmin with a reference number. Clerk has found a copy on her computer but no details of reference number, which had made it difficult to locate as it was lodged several years ago, and no information is available to Clerk. The matter will be followed up by the hall representative again.</p>	
177/23	<p>Highway Issues in the Parish:- None.</p>	
178/23	<p>Footpath Issues in the Parish:- No update.</p>	
179/23	<p>Planning Applications received at the meeting and prior to the meeting; Planning Pre-Applications; Planning Results; Planning Correspondence; Any letters received for or against any Planning Applications:-</p> <p>PA23/07292 – Mrs. Wendy Allen – New access to agricultural land, Rose Cottage, Retire Lane, Retire, Bodmin - Support (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper)</p> <p>Councillor Ms. J. Shearer declared a non-registerable interest in respect of the following planning application and abstained from the discussion:-</p> <p>PA23/07450 – Mr. Hancock – Proposed Utility Shed, New Bungalow, Swindon Villa, Inches, Bodmin – Parish Council to go with the recommendations of the Planning Officers (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor M. Davies) (Motioned carried 3 for and 2 who supported an alternative motion)</p>	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
180/23	<p>Monthly Accounts for October 2023, including monthly bank reconciliation and budget monitoring and any other Financial Matters:- It was proposed that the Council approve and accept the accounts for October 2023 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor Ms. J. Shearer; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Lake)</p>	

	HSBC – Bank Charges	£8.00	August 2023	Clerk
	Salaries and Expenses	£254.46	October 2023	
	HMRC – Income Tax	£57.00	October 2023	
	Receipt: Cornwall Council	£3,000.00	2 nd Half Precept	
181/23	<p>Voltaise Solar Funding and how to deal with applications and advertising:- Clerk reported the best savings accounts for the solar funds as confirmed by our Bank is the Business Money Manager which allows instant access – interest rate is tiered and grows as the account balance grows which is currently 1.94% Gross/1.96% AER up to £100k and paid monthly. Resolved to open the Business Money Manager account alongside our current account and transfer the Voltaise funding (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor Ms. J. Shearer) Action: Clerk.</p> <p>Councillor Ms. A. Lake reported she had reviewed the guidance WREN have for distributing the St. Breock funds and has come up with some points for discussion for Withiel to create our own guidance for our funds Action: Clerk to send information to all Councillors received from Councillor Ms. A. Lake. Scope, eligibility, and criteria need to be discussed at the next meeting. These criteria need to focus on ‘scope’, ‘eligibility’ and ‘any amount.’</p>			Clerk
182/23	<p>Camel Valley Community Area Partnership:- Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported as follows from meeting on 18th September 2023:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The meeting was held in Wadebridge Town Hall and was well attended by a mixture of Town and Parish Councillors from the entire CAP area, approximately 45 including those who joined online. • Firstly, Councillor Robin Moorcroft (Chair) welcomed Alex Arthur from the Amethyst Strategic Intelligence Team and Environmental Partnerships and Climate Change Service, who gave a presentation called ‘Know Your Area’ (Camel Valley). This overview is intended to provide an evidence base for the CAP area as well as highlighting our specific area differences in intelligence to help inform the CAP when considering priorities for action plans. • The presentation was grouped into slides, and it is a fascinating spectrum of facts and figures which are of interest to us all but particularly relevant to any plans which may lead to actions in the future, both for towns and rural parishes. The statistics are relevant to specific issues raised in the first meeting - housing (particularly the lack of affordable housing and the issue of second home ownership), environment, health (and the lack of healthcare in certain areas) and local transport (or lack of it in rural locations). • There are 46,895 people living in the Camel Valley CAP area and 44% of these live in rural areas. 36% of the people live in the largest town of Bodmin. Bodmin has a higher number of youth unemployment, a higher number with no qualifications and a higher incidence of youth obesity than across the whole CAP area. Statistics show that a young person is also more likely to be a victim of crime in Bodmin. • The largest Employment Sector is retail, the second being health and social work. The largest industry sector is hotel and catering. • Some of the main areas of concern across the whole area are the balance between ageing and working age population and rural inequalities - access to services. House prices are variable in the CAP area - average house price in Padstow is more than double that in Bodmin (£567,763 compared with £225,482). 			

- There were questions from the audience on about how these priorities might be addressed in the future, particularly in relation to housing and the condition of social housing which in many cases is quite poor and is reflected in poor health and academic achievement as a result.
- The next presentation was given by Dougie Handford, from Cornwall Council's Nature Recovery Team also representing the Climate Team and Climate. Adaptation/Resilience Team. He made the point that we have three interconnecting challenges: climate change, ecological emergency, and climate adaptation. I have also circulated his presentation slides prior to writing this report which I feel are important to have a look at.
- We have already seen an average temperature rise in Cornwall of 1.2 degrees since pre-industrial levels and this may double in line with global predictions. This could have a devastating effect on our society, and we have already seen some significant changes to weather patterns in Cornwall in the form of higher rainfall, heatwaves, and major storms. Starting with the climate challenge, without too much scientific detail, he claims that CAP responses can change the way things develop, e.g., how we heat our homes, how we generate electricity and how we grow our food. He says we can work towards energy security.
- In Cornwall we have seen some significant changes to our natural environment, e.g., half of our breeding birds have disappeared in the last 50 years and half our terrestrial mammals. He recognises that residents care deeply about the impact of environmental damage and that our feelings are deeply connected to our sense of heritage. He feels there is a really strong case for local intervention. He says there are real opportunities for the CAPs to engage with these challenges. He praised WREN in Wadebridge for their innovative approach to energy solutions and the climate network in Bude who are doing internationally recognised work. He said that groups were popping up all over the area and would be supported by his team. They will match fund up to £5,000 community climate related infrastructure projects and offer training. They have developed a 'toolkit' for Town and Parish Councillors to help with nature recovery. There was unanimous agreement that housing should be built to climate friendly standards.
- Next Robin Moorcroft introduced Adam Stonehill, who is the Police Sector Inspector for Bodmin and Wadebridge. He explained that he had three priorities: serious violence, (he reassured us that recent tragic events in Bodmin were indicative of a national picture and not particular to Bodmin), persistent and severe anti-social behaviour, and drugs. Serious violence includes organised crime, youth crime, firearms offences, and drug related disturbances. The second priority - persistent anti-social behaviour has an impact on the quality of life of many residents and so the police will take it seriously and hope to prevent any escalation locally. The police are trying to find links between drugs, the third priority, organised crime, and drug-related anti-social behaviour. I asked about available help with Neighbourhood watch schemes as farm watches are now a thing in rural areas and perhaps there will be a crossover. He promised to get in touch. There was some chat about 20 mile per hour speed limits. Wadebridge is due to be reduced to 20 miles per hour next year.
- After these presentations, there was a general discussion about priorities which had been identified at the inaugural meeting in our CAP area.

Someone complained about the fact that young people were not high enough on the agenda and it is hoped that they will be in the future. It is felt that the lack of help for the youth age group impacts multiple factors for their future lives - crime rates, education, and health, for example. A range of activities could change their lives and particularly from the Bodmin perspective, not enough support is being offered for this age group, with funding having been often withdrawn. Someone else felt that as the whole assembly was 'the wrong side of fifty' it would be good to include younger members whenever possible, especially as they are the future, and our society will be dependent on working age groups.

- It was pointed out that with 44% of residents in rural areas, it seems wrong that rural transport is virtually non-existent. Carol Mould says that getting anywhere in a timely fashion from a rural home is impossible without a car and that the 'dots need to be joined up' in rural areas. Another frequent complaint is about the inaccessibility of Bodmin Parkway Station, which limits transport options. It is felt that the lack of connectivity also impacts the young people living in rural areas. Journeys from one area to another for work are non-existent and result in cars being indispensable.
- Sara Sims answered various comments by reiterating that there will be a focus on housing, planning, highways, transport, and youth provision in future meetings. She hopes that there will be strength in working together to pull some of these issues into shape and will arrange for planning officers to attend meetings.
- Ian Welch from the Active Travel sub-group reported that the Chair of that group, Dominic Fairman, has scoped out routes to link to the Camel Trail with less traffic, although he admits that some routes are, quite busy. There are no plans to limit traffic. The idea of choosing these potential 'quiet lanes' is more about signage - to encourage drivers to respect slower, more vulnerable road users who may be encountered on these routes. He showed a map but says this is a work in progress and he will engage with local transport companies to link in with suggested routes.
- Carol Mould wants to make sure that it is clear how housing is allocated - who we are building houses for. Understanding the need for housing is important. It is hoped that Planning Officers will attend a future meeting.

There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.

Chairman thanked Councillor Ms. J. Shearer for her report.

183/23

Climate Change and the Environment:- Councillor R. Wilson sent a report as follows:-

- He has joined the Withiel Playing Fields Committee and have suggested we research the feasibility for the fitting of 2 or 3 EV charging points in the hall car park. This would be embracing new technologies and the push for Net Zero. There are many homes in the immediate vicinity without off road parking plus many holiday visitors and guests who would be potential users. I aim to present my results at the December meeting.
- At the LAEP I met with a member of the Carbon Net Zero Team who informed me that Stoke Climsland Parish Council have recruited an energy efficiency advisor who is helping them with projects and grants across that Parish. With a view to our own Voltaise fund I wondered if our Parish Council would benefit from a talk from him. I have the contact details if Councillors think this would be useful.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With support from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse I have also been in contact with Lanhydrock Parish Council who have organised a tour of the CERC (Cornwall Energy Recovery Centre) this coming Friday. They have kindly agreed to let me join them which, given my past employment in this sector, I would find fascinating. It would be a good opportunity to meet other Councillors and report back to Withiel about this innovative project. <p>There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report. Chairman thanked Councillor R. Wilson for his report.</p>	
184/23	<p>Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:- Councillor E. Piper reported he had liaised with Councillor Miss Paula Bolton of Lanivet Parish Council who notified that social media seemed a good way forward and advertising in the village magazine and putting up posters.</p> <p>Clerk reported information had been received from Devon and Cornwall Police - Neighbourhood Watch and Farm Watch Schemes. Councillor Ms. J. Shearer had commented this refers to a request for any information about setting up our Neighbourhood/Far Watch. Perhaps Councillor E. Piper would follow up. Adam Stonehill said he was due to have a meeting about local Neighbourhood Watch Schemes so might be worth asking what is currently going on regarding any support available. Councillor E. Piper called and left a message today and was waiting a response Action: Keep Pending</p>	Cllr. E. Piper
185/23	<p>Withiel Community Emergency Plan:- No update although Chairman will put some information in the News and Views report for first responders to come forward Action: Chairman.</p>	Chair
186/23	<p>Update on Local Area Energy Plan:- Councillor R. Wilson reported from a Workshop he attended on Monday 25th September at Chy Trevail Offices as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Workshop about Cornwall and Isles of Scilly (CloS) Local Area Energy Plan (LAEP). This is a study commissioned by Cornwall Council in partnership with City Science. City Science are an Exeter based engineering company dedicated to decarbonisation who use technology to help public and private organisations to reduce their CO2 emissions. The LAEP is an ambitious project to decarbonise energy systems across the Duchy working towards achieving Carbon Net Zero by 2030. It is a detailed study of how energy is used, supplied, and managed across 7 major sectors; transport, housing, electricity supply, renewables, industry, agriculture, and aviation. The study is at a very early stage, and it is expected to take between 6 to 8 months to produce the plan. At the workshop, several members were present as well as Cornwall Councillors and an environmental advisor. There were many information boards displaying various statistics, strategic challenges, and ambitions. The most telling statistics being that Cornwall currently produces 37% (926/Gwh) from renewables, however actual consumption is over 12,000/Gwh, 70% of which comes from fossil fuels which highlights the scale of the challenge. Participants were encouraged to discuss their views with the team and use the 'post-it' note method to write down their opinions on notice boards concentrating on 3 areas, energy supply, housing, and transport. Along with myself it was good to see Councillors Leigh Frost and Jenny Cruse in attendance and share their ideas. I also had a long conversation with Lawrence of City Science on a 'just transition' to carbon neutrality. 	

	<p>Also discussed was the fragility of the current infrastructure and the possibility of devolving to our own power grid.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It was an interesting afternoon, and I made some useful contacts. If anyone is interested in learning more, full details, as well as the opportunity to join the discussion can be found on the “Carbon Neutral Cornwall Hive” and at www.cornwall.gov/climateemergency. • There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report. <p>Chairman thanked Councillor R. Wilson for his report.</p>	
187/23	<p>Parish Councillor Training Requirements:- Councillor R. Wilson expressed an interest in attending the Air Quality Engagement Event on 19th October. Councillor R. Wilson to book himself as he would need to log on to join online</p> <p>Action: Councillor R. Wilson.</p> <p>Action: Next Agenda for a report from Councillor R. Wilson.</p>	<p>Cllr. R. Wilson</p> <p>Clerk</p>
187/23	<p>Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Cornwall Council – Affordable Housing Newsletter – September 2023 2. CALC – Invitation to online Town & Parish Council Budget Update Briefing – 12th October 2023 at 10.00am 3. Cornwall Community Land Trust – September News 4. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin 5. CALC – NALC seeks views on Model Financial Regulations update 6. Cornwall Council - Forest for Cornwall Autumn Newsletter 2023 7. Cornwall Council – Town & Parish Council Newsletter – 8th September 2023 8. NALC – Events 9. CALC – Invitation to CALC AGM on Tuesday 24th October 2023 at 7.00pm at St. Erme Community Centre 10. Rural Services Network – The Rural Bulletin – 12th September 2023 11. NHS - Royal Cornwall Hospitals Annual Public Meeting - reflecting our year 2022-2023 12. NALC - Newsletter 13. Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest – September 2023 Edition 14. CALC – Executive Board Vacances 15. Cornwall Rural Community Charity – The Clean Cornwall Newsletter Issue 6 16. CALC – Training Bulletin – Newly released dates and reminders 17. Cornwall Council – Public Consultation – Licensing Act Policy Review 18. CALC – The Open Spaces Society Training: Protecting Commons, Greens and Open Spaces – 31st October – 1st November 202 via Zoom 19. Cornwall Council – New Food Waste, Recycling and Rubbish Collections 20. Cornwall Council – Community Capacity Fund – Tintagel Memorial Pavilion Project 21. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Police & Crime Panel Meeting 22. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – 2023 Community Grant Scheme 23. The Rural Bulletin – 19th September 2023 24. Cornwall Council – Have your say on Cornwall Councils draft budget 25. Great Western Railway – Rail Strikes 26. NALC – Utility Aid 27. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Up to £10k grants available to help tackle crime and antisocial behaviour 28. CALC - Jo Cox Civility Commission consultation 29. Great Western Railway - Network Rail re-signalling work 	

	<p>30. CALC – D- Day 80 – 6th June 2024 - updated details</p> <p>31. The Rural Bulletin – 26th September 2023</p> <p>32. Cornwall Council – Planning News for Local Councils and Agents</p> <p>33. CALC – News Round-up: Thursday 28th September 2023</p> <p>34. Environment Agency – Cornwall Community Flood Forum Annual Conference – Friday 3rd November 2023</p> <p>35. CALC – Reminder: Cornwall Council Budget Update on Thursday 12th October 2023 at 10.00am via Microsoft Teams</p> <p>36. Cornwall Council – Air Quality Engagement Events</p> <p>37. Cornwall Council – Polling Districts and Polling Places Review – Cornwall Council – 2023</p> <p>38. CALC – Star Council Awards 2023</p> <p>39. The Rural Bulletin – 3rd October 2023</p> <p>40. The Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest – October 2023 Edition</p> <p>41. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Press releases for Op Ragwort and Op Scorpion</p> <p>42. Cornwall Council – Draft Action Notes: Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting held on Monday 18th September 2023</p> <p>43. Clerks & Councils Direct Magazine (Councillor Ms. A. Lake)</p>	
188/23	Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:- None.	
189/23	<p>Date of next Meeting and Meetings for 2023:- Next meeting would be held on Wednesday 1st November 2023 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall Committee Meeting Room.</p> <p>Final Meeting for the year is 6th December 2023.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 8.12pm.</p>	

Signature:

Chair

Date: 1st November 2023