

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 7<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2024 AT 7.00PM

Present Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer                      Mrs. J. Burdon                      Cllr. S. Coy  
(Vice-Chair)                                      (Parish Clerk)                      Cllr. Ms. A. Lake  
Cllr. R. Wilson                                      Cllr. E. Piper                      1 Member of Public

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
20/24	<b>Apologies:-</b> Councillors Mrs. W. Symons, M. Davies, Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse.	
21/24	<b>Report from local Police Liaison Department:-</b> No report.	
22/24	<b>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):-</b> None.	
23/24	<p><b>Monthly Cornwall Councillor Report:-</b> Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse, report received and circulated as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I regret that I will not be attending this meeting as there is an Extraordinary Planning Meeting at Bodmin Town Council to discuss the Wainhomes outline planning for Halgavor Moor at the same time.</li> <li>• At Full Council we passed a motion to put in place more protection for Councillors who have suffered abuse and threatening behaviour. This has been particularly the case for women and has prevented women and minorities from taking on public roles.</li> <li>• I also asked a question regarding the extra 3.4 million that has been allocated to Highways to ask if there would be flexibility in using some funds to address flooding problems on minor roads. The answer being this extra funding should release some extra funds for flood relief. in my ward I have 6 problem areas, and these will be brought forward for discussion in the April allocation. I also have a meeting next week with Highways to discuss the outcome of the Withiel scheme consultation.</li> </ul> <p>Vice-Chair thanked the Clerk for circulating Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse's report. There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p>	
24/24	<b>Members Declaration of Interest on items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:-</b> Councillor Ms. J. Shearer declared a non-registerable interest in respect of PA24/00393 – Mrs. Heather Roberts.	
25/24	<b>Confirmation of Minutes from the Monthly Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:-</b> Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Parish Meeting Minutes held on the 3 <sup>rd</sup> January 2024 as circulated were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor S. Coy)	
26/24	<b>Matters Arising from the Monthly Parish Minutes of the Meeting held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> January 2024:-</b>	



30/24	<p><b>Monthly Accounts for February 2024, including monthly bank reconciliation and budget monitoring and any other Financial Matters:-</b> It was proposed that the Council approve and accept the accounts for February 2024 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor S. Coy; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper)</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 383 1355 573"> <tr> <td>HSBC – Bank Charges</td> <td>£8.00</td> <td>December 2023</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornwall ALC Limited</td> <td>£36.00</td> <td>Planning Training</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and Expenses</td> <td>£282.76</td> <td>February 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – Income Tax</td> <td>£64.10</td> <td>February 2024</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest</td> <td>£47.67</td> <td>January 2024</td> </tr> </table>	HSBC – Bank Charges	£8.00	December 2023	Cornwall ALC Limited	£36.00	Planning Training	Salaries and Expenses	£282.76	February 2024	HMRC – Income Tax	£64.10	February 2024	<b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest	£47.67	January 2024	Clerk
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31/24	<p><b>Voltaise Solar Funding and how to deal with applications and advertising:-</b> Councillor Ms. A. Lake reported on old application received to be used with some updates and some simple amendments to the form. Vice-Chair requested the information be included in the News and Views. Resolved the Clerk searches out the old form and Councillor Ms. A. Lake puts something together for the News and Views and updating the form (Proposed: Councillor S. Coy; Seconded: Councillor Ms. J. Shearer) <b>Action:</b> Clerk/Councillor Ms. A. Lake.</p>	Clerk/ Cllr. Ms. A. Lake															
32/24	<p><b>Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including update on Community Buses):-</b> Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported from meeting on the 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024 as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Despite very cold weather, Chairman Robin Moorcroft welcomed a large turnout for the recent Camel Valley Area CAP meeting held at Wadebridge Town Hall approximately 40 participants, including those who attended remotely.</li> <li>• Dominic Fairman delivered an update on the Quiet Lanes project - an initiative which seeks to mark out a network of connected lanes in the CAP area around the Camel Trail which are suitable for active travelling by cyclists, horse riders and walkers and will link to the key towns and villages in the CAP area and Bodmin Parkway Station. The idea is to promote health and reduce car journeys - and therefore carbon emissions - for short journeys. These routes already have less traffic and will potentially have low speed limits and carry signage alerting motorised vehicles to the presence of more vulnerable these 'active travellers'. The focus of the group since the September CAP meeting has been to put together a bid for funding for a feasibility study to be undertaken by Sustrans, who are the National and local cycling charity. The idea has been welcomed by many people who believe that car journeys can be reduced if more people are encouraged to make short journeys by bike or on foot. Dominic explained that the road maintenance budget, which has been woefully cut, is delivered from separate funds. As the CAP group is not constituted as a financial body, the application for funds cannot be made by the group on behalf of themselves, but St Teath Parish Council, who have supported the idea from the outset, agreed to make the application on behalf of the wider CAP group. Applications are initially made to the Funding Sub Group and then all members of the CAP will be invited to vote later. Dominic explained that multi-use trails are the gold standard for use by active travellers, and he has campaigned vigorously for the extension of the Camel Trail from St. Breward to Camelford, with considerable difficulties convincing landowners of the merits of the idea, some of whom have been quite hostile.</li> </ul>																

However, it is hoped that creating a network of lanes will help to reverse the population's life expectancy downward trend by encouraging more activity, promoting well-being and urgently decreasing the reliance on fossil fuels in line with government policy. He also pointed out that other dirty pollutants linked to vehicles which damage biodiversity would be significantly reduced if this scheme was successful. It was confirmed after a question about speed limits being reduced that reduced speed burns less fuel. Another point was raised that money was being spent across the CAP area on feasibility studies which might benefit a minority of residents and not spending money on the majority interests. Dominic pointed out that this aspiration concerns everyone and Sarah Sims confirmed that the scheme was relatively inexpensive.

- There followed a presentation from Emma Rowse representing the Voluntary Sector Forum, who explained that this is a huge group of people with over 5500 organisations operating in the Duchy, employing 10,000 paid staff. The sector employs more paid staff than the NHS in the county and there are huge numbers of people involved. Volunteers appear everywhere - beach cleaning, parish councils and charities. The Voluntary Sector offers support when required but there was a request for more information to be circulated as possibly support is not evident in isolated rural areas.
- Sophie Alway, the founder of Georgia's Voice gave a moving talk about her organisation formed after the death by suicide of her daughter, who had tragically taken her own life during the lockdown following bullying at school and suffering mental health issues. During the lockdown she lost the help she needed and was disconnected from friends. Georgia's Voice is a suicide prevention charity supporting young women between the ages of 18-25. This heartbreaking loss prompted research which led to the discovery that the suicide rate in young women was the highest it has ever been and so Sophie decided to honour her daughter's memory by helping others. She now has a huge team who run a network of support groups all over Cornwall, providing safe spaces for girls to talk about their anxieties, providing activities to inspire camaraderie and where they will be listened to with empathy. There is also an online support group and a charity shop in Falmouth. Georgia's Voice can be found online at <https://georgiasvoice.co.uk/>. She asked members of the CAP to help by spreading the word about this organisation whenever possible and to donate if able to.
- The next presentation - an update on the new Local Plan - was given by Adam Birchall, Head of Planning and Housing Policy for Cornwall Council with his colleague who produces visual records of statistics for presentation. Adam outlined national changes in policy and legislation which are coming in that we should be aware of in planning policy. The idea of a local plan is to have a set of rules by which planning decisions can be made and to identify areas for allocation of housing and development where appropriate. The new plan will run to 2050. National Policy changes have frequently requiring the update to the existing plan. The Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill is now an act passed in October 2023 but there are lots more to follow. In the new system, the Climate Emergency Plan will be amalgamated into the Local Plan. National Policy will sit above these, but Neighbourhood Development Plans/Statements will still have to be considered. There is considerable uncertainty surrounding some guidance about the Plan from the Government and detail is not expected until the autumn of 2024. It is said to be an opportunity to have conversations and understand what is needed.

There will be an introduction of Neighbourhood Statements to sit alongside Neighbourhood Development Plans. There was an explanation of how sites for development are identified and what the capability of deliverable sites might be. The development industry has not engaged enough in the past to fully understand capacity and so there will need to be a broader focus on local needs. There was a Cabinet Paper agreed in November 2023 and this will be followed by a call for sites in January 2024. Parishes and other stakeholders will be invited to identify sites. The increase in population means an increased demand for housing and of course, relevant infrastructure. It is vital that infrastructure is delivered. Conversations about this use the CAPs as a starting point - to discover needs, trends, and gaps. There will be workshops later to gather information from CAP members and an interim report during the summer of 2024 followed by a pre-launch of the new plan at Christmas 2024. There are currently approximately 27,000 people waiting for housing in Cornwall, although following questioning, Adam Birchall could not confirm that these were currently all residents of Cornwall but stated that some homes were needed to support the new infrastructure - i.e. teachers, medical practitioners, and staff for associated services and that the people on the waiting list have a 'qualifying Cornish connection'. There were comments that this plan might simplify the system, but it relies on people engaging with it now. Other comments related to concerns about biodiversity and the practice of allowing developers to build hundreds of free market homes alongside the allocated number of affordable homes aimed at housing our local needs.

- The next meeting will be at 6.30pm in Wadebridge Town Hall on Monday 22nd April 2024.
- Details of any documents or presentations associated with this report can be requested from Sarah Sims, our Community Link Officer - sarah.sims@cornwall.gov.uk

**Update on Community Buses and additional information:-** Report from Councillor Ms. J. Shearer:-

- I attended attended a CAP Chairs and Vice Chairs meeting on 19th January in Truro with Robin Moorcroft and can report the following in addition to my recent report, already sent. This report is in note form. All new 12 CAPs are well supported. All happy with how issues have been identified and action plans started and many concentrating on same things, but action speak louder than words, so awaiting results.
- CAPs are still at information gathering stage and then applying for funding to get actions going.
- More engagement with youth would be useful - Callywith College? Bodmin Community College, Scouts? Get public involved more? How do we engage the farming community with the Climate/Environment issue when the majority of land in our CAP area is farmland? Defra? NFU? Template for management of meetings good idea?
- Get parishes to bring problems to the meeting? Maybe round robin emails the week before (month before?) to ask them to raise anything they would like to?
- CLUP praised but crucial to get projects done quickly, and so some projects may be too short term. Buildings are being upgraded.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There exists a community bus scheme in Lanivet - (two vehicles run by Barry Cornelius) from Lanivet Community Centre. I asked how this works and costs involved and so can report on this.</li> <li>• Sarah Sims set up meeting with Barry Cornelius, Councillor Janet Shearer and Robin Moorcroft. This meeting was held on the 30th January online.</li> <li>• Current provision of this service is sparse within this area. Bodmin has no community transport and Wadebridge has had service reduced drastically. Drivers are volunteers engaged by Age UK and there are now not enough vehicles making journeys in the area from St. Issey as far as Camelford, St. Teath. There is an Age UK electric minibus also based in Lanivet, which carries up to four people and a wheelchair. The service is under some strain now as it is so popular and only six volunteer drivers and need more vehicles. Trips, for example to Treliske, doctors' appointments, and all manner of expeditions. A trip to Treliske costs approximately £15.00. A taxi quoted £180.00 for the same journey. Drivers of electric vehicles wait at Treliske during the appointment as they cannot recharge the vehicle. Wadebridge service does not exist anymore. The Centre's (Betjamen, Lanivet etc.) have details of the service. Barry Cornelius is trying to prove the need so he can get another vehicle and needs funding.</li> </ul> <p>Clerk thanked Councillor Ms. J. Shearer for her report. There were no questions from the Councillors present on this report.</p> <p>Councillor R. Wilson had a comment following the CAP Meeting, he would like Jessica Rowe's contact information <b>Action:</b> Councillor Ms. J. Shearer.</p>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
33/24	<p><b>Climate Change and the Environment:-</b> Councillor R. Wilson sent information from Rural EV Charging who specialise in setting up chargers in rural locations. He passed information to the Village Hall who were keen to know more but not keen in losing parking spaces. He thanked the Clerk for sending the information.</p>	
34/24	<p><b>Neighbourhood Watch Scheme:-</b> Councillor E. Piper reported there have been some activity in the Parish, with a Robbery and two accounts of Fly Tipping reported.</p> <p><b>Action:</b> Vice-Chair to follow up with Adam Stonehill was going to send more information on Neighbourhood Watch.</p>	<b>Vice-Chair</b>
35/24	<p><b>Withiel Community Emergency Plan:-</b> No update.</p>	
36/24	<p><b>Parish Councillor Training Requirements:-</b> None.</p>	
37/24	<p><b>Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Western Railway – Impact of Storm Henk on rail services</li> <li>2. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – Official Launch to re-open police station front desks</li> <li>3. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – Sharing your vision of a connected and visible police force</li> <li>4. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – Dates for diaries</li> <li>5. Cornwall Council – Keeping suppliers updated</li> <li>6. NALC – Events</li> <li>7. Rural Services Network - The Rural Bulletin – 9<sup>th</sup> January; 16<sup>th</sup> January; 23<sup>rd</sup> January; 30<sup>th</sup> January and 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024</li> <li>8. CALC – Training Bulletin – Spring 2024</li> <li>9. NALC – Newsletter</li> </ol>	

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>10. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – The Commissioner’s weekly column</li> <li>11. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – Community Speedwatch 2023 Annual Report</li> <li>12. Rural Services Network – Rural Funding Digest – January and February 2024 Editions</li> <li>13. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletin</li> <li>14. Cornwall Council – Camel Valley planning presentation and links</li> <li>15. Cornwall Council – Affordable Housing Newsletter – January 2024</li> <li>16. Cornwall Council – Town &amp; Parish Council Newsletter: 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024</li> <li>17. Duchy Defibrillators – 2023 Year in Review</li> <li>18. Cornwall Council – Youth Service Provision in Cornwall – Member Inquiry</li> <li>19. Great Western Railway – New Train Driver strike announced</li> <li>20. CALC – D-Day 80 – 6<sup>th</sup> June 2024 – Pin Badges now available from Empire Medals</li> <li>21. CALC – Strategic Review of Membership Services</li> <li>22. Rural EV Charging - Electric Vehicle Chargers in the Town/Parish</li> <li>23. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - You are invited to the launch of Criminal Justice and You - An essential guide for victims and witnesses</li> <li>24. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Let’s build bridges between police and our communities in Neighbourhood Policing Week</li> <li>25. CALC – Charitable Trusts – Training with Stephens Scown LLP on Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 6.30pm via Zoom &amp; Local Councils’ involvement in charitable trusts on Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 6.30pm via Zoom</li> <li>26. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Force makes significant improvement and ONS confirm the area is one of the safest in the country</li> <li>27. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January 2024</li> <li>28. Great Western Railway – Industrial action until 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024</li> <li>29. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - 'My plan to invest to protect our communities from the scourge of violent crime' - says the Police and Crime Commissioner</li> <li>30. Cornwall Council - Planning News for Local Councils and Agents - Winter 2024</li> <li>31. Cornwall Council - Local Council Planning Training: 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 - Preparing for a new Local Plan for Cornwall</li> <li>32. Cornwall Council – Important Measles information</li> <li>33. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Police &amp; Crime Panel Meeting 2<sup>nd</sup> February 2024</li> <li>34. CALC – Free Briefing: Preparing for a new Local Plan for Cornwall – Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2024 at 4.00pm via Microsoft Teams</li> <li>35. Bodmin Police Station - February 2024 Bodmin/Wadebridge Neighbourhood Police Team Newsletter</li> <li>36. Alan Percy – Devolution expectations with a caution</li> <li>37. Great Western Railway - Advance notice of Network Rail re-signalling works in February &amp; March</li> <li>38. Cornwall Council - New weekly food waste and fortnightly rubbish collection service</li> <li>39. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - PCC's weekly column- Green light for my plan to open more police station front desks</li> </ol> |  |
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	40. Cornwall Council – Have your say 41. CALC – Martyn’s Law – Standard Tier Consultation Webinar – 13 <sup>th</sup> February 2024 from 3.00-4.00pm	
<b>38/24</b>	<b>Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:-</b> None.	
<b>39/24</b>	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:-</b> Next meeting would be held on Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall. Councillor S. Coy tendered his apologies for the next meeting.</p> <p>All other Meetings confirmed as the Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> April, 1<sup>st</sup> May, 5<sup>th</sup> June, 3<sup>rd</sup> July, 7<sup>th</sup> August, 4<sup>th</sup> September, 2<sup>nd</sup> October, 6<sup>th</sup> November and 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.50pm.</p>	

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> March 2024