

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 5<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2025 AT 7.00PM

|         |                               |                                  |                                      |
|---------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Present | Cllr. M. Davies<br>(Chairman) | Mrs. J. Burdon<br>(Parish Clerk) | Cllr. Ms. J. Shearer<br>(Vice-Chair) |
|         | Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons          | Cllr. E. Piper                   | Cllr. R. Wilson                      |
|         | Cllr. Mr. A. Lake             | Cllr. S. Coy                     | 1 Member of Public                   |

| Minute | AGENDA ITEMS   | Action |
|--------|--|--------|
| 1/25   | <b>Apologies:-</b> Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse.  |        |
| 2/25   | <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> One member of the public in attendance who was disappointed the HGV sign on the old A30 is down <b>Action:</b> Chairman to report.   | Chair  |
| 3/25   | <b>Members Declaration of Interest in items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:-</b> Councillors Ms. J. Shearer and R. Wilson declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the Camel Valley CAP. Councillors Mrs. W. Symons and R. Wilson declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the News and Views.   |        |
| 4/25   | <b>Monthly Cornwall Councillor Report:-</b> Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse report received as follows:- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A Happy New Year to you all. We start the Year with some very sad news. The Chair of Cardinham Parish Council Julie Best very sadly passed away on New Years Day. She had been the Chair of Cardinham for many years and was a lovely lady, who helped me tremendously to settle in as a Cornwall Councillor. Her measured and compassionate approach to all matters in the Parish was a great example to us all. She will be sorely missed and gone from us far too soon.</li> <li>• Storm Darragh caused a great deal of problems in my area, with houses in Millpool without power for 4 days. This brought to light the very dangerous situation of the landlines and mobile phones not working at all since the local antennae needs power. Most landlines are now switched to digital and therefore if they or mobiles are needed to call the emergency services we have a black hole. I have flagged this up to our Leader and Portfolio for environment, and both have contacted the Emergency services to express concern.</li> <li>• I have heard no more about the lay by which is in a very bad state other than bollards have been placed to prevent it being used. I will chase up.</li> <li>• I would be interested to hear if there has been an improvement in the number of lorries approaching Withiel and any evidence of the TRO being ignored. In such cases we always need photographic evidence.</li> <li>• We have heard that Labours Devolution White Paper is proposing a merging of Cornwall with Devon, Torbay and Plymouth to create one Unitary Council with a Regional Mayor. I personally do not support this and doubt very much that my colleagues will be supportive either.</li> </ul> |        |

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|      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I do not know where we go from here, other than to stick to our commitment to keep Cornwall a Unitary Council within its defined borders and await what happens.</li> <li>• The weekend storms had roofs taken off cattle sheds and farm buildings, trees down everywhere and flooding in all the usual places. I went out and cleared the drains around our area and it was clear that these drains can become completely bunged up with leaves within a very short space of time. It is not possible for Cormac to address this problem in extreme weather since this happens so quickly and widely across the county. However, all culverts and drains that appear blocked should be reported either on the 'report it' site or to me so that we can keep on top of maintenance around the lanes.</li> <li>• The loss of phone signal during power cuts has shown a need for an Emergency Plan. This situation has been reported to the Emergency Services and I have circulated the slides circulated to make suggestions for make this situation safe. I know Withiel has an Emergency Plan and wondered if they would share this with other similar sized villages?</li> <li>• At Full Council it was overwhelmingly voted to keep our borders and remain as a Level 2 Foundation Devolved area without a mayor. This essentially means we will receive far less funding and devolved powers. This will at some point in the future be brought forward to be looked at more carefully by the Government, but essentially our hand might be forced on this.</li> <li>• We also voted to request the National Trust, and other large landowners look at changing suitable holiday lets into open market tenure for local residents.</li> </ul> <p>Chairman thanked the Clerk for circulating Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse's reports for January and February.</p> |   |
| 5/25 | <p><b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 (Note the January 2025 meeting was cancelled due to adverse weather conditions):-</b> Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024 as circulated which were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. J. Shearer) (All in Favour)</p>  |   |
| 6/25 | <p><b>Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> December 2024:-</b></p> <p><b>Page 4 Min.205/24 Ownership of verge nearby House of Fishes Crossroads:-</b> Clerk reported there had been no update received <b>Action:</b> Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse to follow up.</p> <p><b>Page 4 Min.225/24 Edges of roads wearing away nearby second crossroads:-</b> Clerk reported there had been no update received <b>Action:</b> Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse to follow up.</p> <p><b>Page 4 Min.225/24 Damaged Withiel Sign:-</b> Clerk reported a response had been received from Rachael Tatlow of Cornwall Highways advising the Safety Inspector has visited and the sign is not an imminent safety issue, however it's replacement will be added to the rolling prioritised programme for replacement. The sign is still visible to road users.</p> <p><b>Page 4 Min.229/24 Precept for 2025-2026:-</b> Confirmation received advising of Withiel Parish Councils precept requirements for 2025-2026 in the sum of £8,000.00.</p>   | <p>Cwll.<br/>Cllr. Mrs.<br/>J. Cruse</p> <p>Cwll.<br/>Cllr. Mrs.<br/>J. Cruse</p> |



It was suggested that Councillors S. Coy and Mrs. W. Symons to have some time together regarding the finances.

| <b>Accounts for January 2025</b>       |         |                    |
|--|---------|--------------------|
| HSBC – Bank Charges                    | £8.00   | December 2024      |
| Salaries and Expenses                  | £291.06 | January 2025       |
| HMRC – Income Tax                      | £66.40  | January 2025       |
| <b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest | £47.16  | December 2024      |
| <b>Accounts for February 2025</b>      |         |                    |
| HSBC – Bank Charges                    | £6.00   | January 2025       |
| Mrs. W. Symons                         | £22.99  | Voucher & Card     |
| Withiel Village Hall                   | £165.00 | Hall Hire for 2024 |
| Salaries and Expenses                  | £287.80 | February 2025      |
| HMRC – Income Tax                      | £66.20  | February 2025      |
| <b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest | £46.85  | January 2025       |

Clerk

Clerk

11/25

**Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions):-** Councillor Ms. J. Shearer reported from the CAP Meeting on the 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025 as follows:-

- Jessica Rowe from Sustrans updated us on the Active Travel Network in Cornwall. Appointed by St Teath Parish Council with funds from the Good Growth Fund, Sustrans has been involved in identifying suitable low-traffic routes throughout the Camel valley Area which might become accessible for more vulnerable road users - walkers, cyclists, horse riders and wheel chair users. These routes should be 'entirely accessible to a sensible 12yr old'. A survey has shown what traffic-calming measures might be utilised to make the routes safer. The study will form the foundation of further action. Councillor R. Wilson refuted the claim that 20mph speed limit saved fuel as he has tested this himself and found that at 30mph he used less fuel and got to his destination quicker, thus contradicting the claim that this speed limit helped mitigate climate change. He also said that he felt the work done on the project should be kept within the Cornish work force, i.e. done by Cormac. Councillor Dominic Fairman, who has been the main driver behind the project so far, congratulated Jessica Rowe for her lengthy and detailed report and also feels that Cornwall Council should be doing more as the idea is very well supported. He will write to Cormac and try to get an idea of how the ideas can be moved forward into action. Jessica's lengthy report is available on request from the Clerk or from Sarah Sims, our Community Link Officer. A local farmer, Jason Coad, who has a livery yard on a rural road says vehicles drive too fast near tractors and horses and welcome a lower speed limit of 20mph. Councillor Ms. J. Shearer told those present that as a teenager her horse had been killed by a speeding car and that she wholeheartedly supported a lower speed limit.
- The next item on the agenda interested both Councillor Ms. J. Shearer and Councillor R. Wilson as it is obviously something that all residents might find useful. Barry Cornelius, from Lanivet started an organisation several years ago called Community Transport and with funding has expanded the project to now include the salary for a full-time coordinator - costing £27,000.00, paid for by the Cornwall Capacity Fund.
- This is what was reported to Withiel Parish Council by Councillor Ms. J. Shearer last April: Barry Cornelius was successful in securing funding from

the CCF (Cornwall Capacity Fund) for a review of community transport strategy, although strangely, according to him.

Cormac has been engaged to do this research. He felt that this means Cormac being paid to do a job which he thought they should be doing anyway. Since the COVID era, there is much more demand for transport to hospitals, doctors' appointments and many other destinations. He already runs an Age UK electric minibuss, which has done 50,000 miles since 2020. It is quite evident that there is a lack of affordable transport in many local areas and Barry has applied for funding because he is turning away many requests for door-to-door accessible transport, especially when a wheelchair is involved. Within CAP 4 (our area) there are 4 community hubs and the study is based around these. They also run a free prescription delivery service. During 2023 the service did 375 prescription deliveries, 141 medical trips, 140 other trips carrying 490 passengers, 82 of which were wheelchair bound. They also have a diesel minibuss which is used by many local organisations. There are various issues about the driving licence required for the volunteer drivers.

- 47,000 currently people live in the 26 parishes in our area, of which 45% live in rural areas. This means that potentially 21,000 have inadequate access to public transport. 2845 are identified as in bad or very bad health. The Lanivet bus is now going further and further afield in order to deliver a service to residents needing help to get to hospitals and other medical appointments. Community Transport desperately needs support, both voluntary and financial, in order to continue. Councillor Danny Batten from Lanivet Parish Council, claims that it is unfair that Lanivet is expected to shoulder the burden of responsibility for this invaluable service and asks that the wider CAP area looks at CLUP (Cornwall Levelling Up) funding being made available through the group of 26 parishes. Everyone agreed this might be a popular idea and could be used to develop the scheme fairly and sensibly across the whole area, possibly providing more vehicles, for example. Everyone approves of this idea and also that possibly all 26 parishes in the area could be asked to contribute financially to broaden the service. Both Councillor R. Wilson and Councillor Ms. J. Shearer immediately thought that Withiel Parish Council Voltaire money might be put to a good use if we were asked to support the scheme. Drivers are currently volunteers, which is an additional concern as it is older members of the public who tend to do this and the age limit is set at 75.
- Adam Stonehill reported that the police are facing a big increase in shoplifting crime and a 20% increase in all crime but that an improvement in crime reporting accounted for some of this increase. Councillor R. Wilson congratulated the police on a big reduction in call waiting time for the 111 service.
- Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse reminded everyone that more Cornwall Levelling Up Funding is now available, subject to being signed off by Cornwall Council.
- All are welcome to attend the CAP meetings, which are held quarterly.

Chair thanked Councillor Ms. J. Shearer for her report this evening. Councillor Ms. J. Shearer believes the Parish Council may need to think about the Community transport and contributing towards it. Councillor S. Coy felt it was a good idea as long as based on electoral roll numbers, it could come from the precept being increased or Voltaire solar funding.

**Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or**

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|       | <b>questions:-</b> No update.   |                                  |
| 12/25 | <b>Parish Councillor Training Requirements:-</b> CALC – Training Bulletin for January to March 2025 received.   |                                  |
| 13/25 | <b>News and View Update:-</b> Chairman raised the issue of our report and its inclusion in the News & Views. At a previous meeting I asked the question about this, and the Council voted to continue putting our monthly report into the publication, as it was important that our report was included in the News and Views. This has all now been resolved and we would like details of who is running the newsletter <b>Action:</b> Councillor Mrs. W. Symons to send a list of contacts of the News and Views to the Clerk. The bank account is currently in Councillor Mrs. W. Symons name as that is the only way she could obtain access to it, but all can access on the committee. Chairman and Clerk confirmed that Voltaise solar applications cannot come from Councillors.  | <b>Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons</b>      |
| 14/25 | <b>Voltaise Funding – Public Register of applicants and subsequent outcome:-</b> Chairman reported he would like to have a report that is visible for transparency of applicants who have applied and what for and how much had been granted and also those who had been rejected due to not meeting the criteria. Resolved to put together the register for website (Proposed: Councillor M. Davies; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Lake) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.<br><br>Voltaise application received for the next agenda <b>Action:</b> Clerk.  | <b>Clerk</b><br><br><b>Clerk</b> |
| 15/25 | <b>Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-</b><br><ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin – 5<sup>th</sup> December, 12<sup>th</sup> December, 19<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 9<sup>th</sup> January, 16<sup>th</sup> January, 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2025</li> <li>2. Newquay Airport – Indicative Bid to acquire 25 Cornwall Council Car Parks</li> <li>3. Cornwall Council – Supplier update</li> <li>4. NALC – Star Councils Awards Finalists for 2024</li> <li>5. NALC – Events Newsletter</li> <li>6. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Announcement 'by end of week' over Devon &amp; Cornwall Police interim Chief Constable</li> <li>7. The Rural Bulletin – 10<sup>th</sup> December, 17<sup>th</sup> December 2024, 7<sup>th</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025</li> <li>8. Marazion Town Council – Council's motion of no confidence in Cornwall Council's planning and enforcement department</li> <li>9. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cuse – Loss of power and VOIP</li> <li>10. Cornwall Council - Off Street Parking Order- 2025</li> <li>11. Cornwall Council – Council Car Parks not being sold off</li> <li>12. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 18:30pm-20:30pm</li> <li>13. Zurich Insurance - Prepare for winter at your Council with these top tips</li> <li>14. Cornwall Council - Forest for Cornwall Winter Newsletter 2024</li> <li>15. Cornwall Council – Town &amp; Parish Council Newsletter: 13<sup>th</sup> December 2024</li> <li>16. Great Western Railway - Reminder - Paddington and Westbury closure for engineering works</li> <li>17. Cornwall Community Land Trust - Cornwall CLT - December News</li> <li>18. Great Western Railway - GWR Customer &amp; Community Improvement Fund to open 6<sup>th</sup> January 2025</li> <li>19. NHS Cornwall &amp; Isles of Scilly - The month in 10 - your December update</li> <li>20. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Police and Crime Commissioner's weekly column - Should we use second homes windfall to put more officers on the street?</li> </ol> |                                  |

21. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Chief Constable commits to restoring public trust and confidence
22. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – Budget Slides
23. Duchy Defibrillators - 2024 year in review
24. Neighbourhood Alert - Building on partnerships which delivered for our communities in 2024
25. Neighbourhood Alert - Should we use second homes windfall to put more officers on the street?
26. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner – The Police and Crime Commissioner's New Year's Eve column - Building on partnerships which delivered for our communities in 2024
27. Bodmin Police Station – Bodmin January Newsletter
28. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Important dates for your diaries this year
29. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Police Enquiry Office reopening's in Tavistock, Ivybridge and Liskeard
30. NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - Help us make sure local voices shape the NHS 10-year plan
31. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 18:30pm-20:30pm
32. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - The Commissioner's weekly column - Everyday heroes: How collaboration and dedication keep you safe
33. Great Western Railway Customer & Community Improvement Fund now open - and other new year updates
34. Rural Services Network Rural Funding Digest - January 2025 Edition
35. NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - Can you attend a NHS 10 year plan engagement event?
36. Cornwall Council - Local Council briefing: Planning Reform, revised NPPF and the Call for Sites – Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 4.00-5.15pm
37. Cornwall Council - Off Street Parking Order- 2025
38. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Criminal Justice & You
39. Cornwall Council - National planning changes and Neighbourhood Plans
40. Cornwall Council Highways - Tree work A389 Dunmere Bridge Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2025
41. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Police and Crime Commissioner's weekly column - A new plan and a robust budget will deliver for our communities in 2025
42. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Significant improvement in 999 and 101 service in Devon and Cornwall
43. Cornwall Council - Affordable Housing Newsletter - January 2025
44. Carley's of Cornwall Ltd - Energy Action evening: Friday 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025 Chacewater Village Hall running from 19:00 to 21:00pm
45. Cornwall Council - Town & Parish Council Newsletter: 17<sup>th</sup> January 2025
46. Proton - Climate and Nature Bill
47. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2025, 18:30pm-20:30pm
48. Cornwall Council - Briefing document on the National Planning Policy Framework and NDP's
49. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - Your month in 10 - January update
50. Zurich Insurance – Preparing for Storm Eowyn
51. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Commissioner's weekly column - My budget will keep officers where the public wants them – on our streets

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|       | <p>52. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse – Planning Reform on Nature Recovery</p> <p>53. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - Proposed budget 'will keep officers on the street' CALC – Response to Standards Consultation</p> <p>54. CALC – Response to Standards Consultation</p> <p>55. Bell Geospace – Airbourne Geographical Survey</p> <p>56. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner - You are invited on behalf of the Police and Crime Commissioner, Alison Hernandez to attend her Thank You Event Celebration – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March from 11.00am-13.00pm</p> <p>57. Cornwall Council - Planning Policy Consultation - Cornwall Interim Policy Position Statement</p> <p>58. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse – Long List of Funding opportunities</p> <p>59. Cornwall Council – Local Elections 2025 – Delivery of Nomination Packs</p> <p>60. Cornwall Rural Community Council - Clean Cornwall Newsletter</p> <p>61. Cornwall Councillor Mrs. J. Cruse - Emergency arrangements for loss of electricity and phone signal</p> <p>62. CALC - News Bulletin, Briefings and Other Information for Local Councils 28<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <p>63. CALC – Research Survey – Community Connections</p> <p>64. Cornwall Council - Planning News for Local Councils and Agents - Winter 2025 now published</p> <p>65. NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin – 30<sup>th</sup> January 2025</p> <p>66. Visit Cornwall – Press Release: Visit Cornwall Tourism Summit 2025</p> <p>67. Ron Bailey - Safety of lithium-ion batteries campaign</p> <p>68. Office of the Police &amp; Crime Commissioner – The Commissioner's weekly column - Cutting the number of serious ranks in favour of more 'worker bees'</p> <p>69. Bodmin Police Station – Bodmin February 2025 Newsletter</p> <p>70. CALC – Town &amp; Parish Council Elections 2025 – Documents to navigate the election period and training dates</p> <p>71. Cornwall Council – Local Council briefing: Interim Planning Position Statement and decision-making, Call for sites - Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025, 4.00-5.15pm</p> |  |
| 16/25 | <b>Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:-</b> None.   |  |
| 17/25 | <p><b>Date of next Meeting:-</b> Next meeting would be held on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025 at 7.00pm in the Withiel Village Hall. All other Meetings confirmed for 2025 as follows - Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April, 7<sup>th</sup> May, 4<sup>th</sup> June, 2<sup>nd</sup> July, 6<sup>th</sup> August, 3<sup>rd</sup> September, 8<sup>th</sup> October, 5<sup>th</sup> November and 3<sup>rd</sup> December 2025.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss the meeting closed at 7.59pm.</p>   |  |

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 5<sup>th</sup> March 2025