

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 5TH NOVEMBER 2025 AT 6.30PM

Present	Cllr. M. Davies (Chair)	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk)	Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons (Vice-Chair)
	Cllr. R. Wilson	Cllr. J. Hancock	Cllr. E. Piper
	Cllr. E. Piper	Cllr. D. Cotton	Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters
	1 Members of Public		

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
186/25	Apologies:- Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle.	
187/25	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) (Including the Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor if received):- Member of the public asked the position with the sign on the old A30, it was noted Cornwall Councillor C. Batters was dealing with this under his report. Christmas Tree in the village – he asked if it was likely this was going ahead? He had concerns that people park in the area where the tree may be located, and also recycling and rubbish bins are situated in this area. He also mentioned the BT box has a sign advising it needs 24-hour access. It was agreed that the Parish Council would discuss under Matters Arising this evening. Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor:- Cornwall Councillor C. Batters reported that he has got a little behind due to health issues, but is now back to work. With regards to the sign in Withiel, he has been informed there was a manufacturing fault with it, hence how it broke. This resulted in obtaining replacement signs, which are due to be reinstalled imminently. The rubbish collection, he believes, is still going on. Chairman and Councillor D. Cotton gave a brief update on the current situation, which will be discussed later on the agenda. Saints Way signage is being looked at, and since he has returned as a Cornwall Councillor, every service is short of money; work is done eventually, but everything queues up in the meantime. Chairman advised he had reported the wall had been damaged in the pull-in, he had confirmation that they would be looking at and he visited, and there were two cones put in place, and a stone was put back, and they confirmed it was repaired, which did not look substantial.	
188/25	Members Declaration of Interest in items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:- Councillor Mrs. W. Symons declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the News and Views. Councillors Mrs. W. Symons and R. Wilson declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the Withiel Playing Fields Committee.	

189/25	Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 8th October 2025:- Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 8 th October 2025 as circulated, which were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper) (All in Favour)																						
190/25	Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 8th October 2025:- Page 2 Min.174/25 Signage on entrance to Withiel from Roche end:- Cornwall Councillor C. Batters reported he has been informed there was a manufacturing fault with this sign, hence how it broke, this resulted in obtaining replacement signs which are due to be re-installed imminently. Page 2 Min.175/25 Saints Way Signage replacement:- Councillor C. Batters reported the Saints Way signage is being looked at, and since he has returned as a Cornwall Councillor, every service is short of money, work is done eventually, but everything queues up in the meantime Action: Keep Pending. Page 2 Min.175/25 Riverbank issues with the riverbank at Tregawne:- Clerk reported this had been reported to Chris Monk; however, he is off work, and we were advised the Environment Agency deals with riverbanks. This has now been forwarded to Cornwall Councillor C. Batters to follow up Action: Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.	Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters																					
191/25	Highway Issues in the Parish:- Councillor R. Wilson reported that the erosion at Pulsicky Hill appears to have had a reasonable fix. The other item outstanding is Dipper Bridge. Cornwall Councillor C. Batters would arrange a site meeting. Clerk and Chairman suggested a small Working Party of Councillors and any interested party to help clear some of the drains to ease the situation. Cornwall Councillor C. Batters left the meeting at 7.03pm.																						
192/25	Footpath Issues in the Parish:- Councillor E. Piper reported the only outstanding issue is broken signage on the Saints Way.																						
193/25	To RECEIVE consultation response requests and to RESOLVE a response. Formal requests from the planning authority received before the start of the meeting will be considered, including Results/Correspondence/Any Planning Results:- No planning correspondence received.																						
194/25	Monthly Accounts for November 2025, including monthly bank reconciliation and budget monitoring and any other Financial Matters:- It was proposed that the Council approve and accept the accounts for November 2025 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in favour <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Cornwall Council</td><td>£288.68</td><td>Election Recharges</td></tr> <tr> <td>W.H. Bond & Sons Limited</td><td>£3,300.00</td><td>Stiles for Footpaths</td></tr> <tr> <td>Mr. Simon Coy</td><td>£20.00</td><td>Remembrance Wreath</td></tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and Expenses</td><td>£304.36</td><td>November 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – Income Tax</td><td>£69.60</td><td>November 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td>Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest</td><td>£37.59</td><td>November 2025</td></tr> <tr> <td colspan="3">Councillors Mrs. W. Symons or M. Davies to lay the Parish Council wreath.</td></tr> </table>	Cornwall Council	£288.68	Election Recharges	W.H. Bond & Sons Limited	£3,300.00	Stiles for Footpaths	Mr. Simon Coy	£20.00	Remembrance Wreath	Salaries and Expenses	£304.36	November 2025	HMRC – Income Tax	£69.60	November 2025	Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest	£37.59	November 2025	Councillors Mrs. W. Symons or M. Davies to lay the Parish Council wreath.			Clerk
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195/25	Setting Precept/Budget for year ended 31st March 2027:- Resolved to set the precept at £8,000.00 (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper) All in Favour Action: Clerk.	Clerk																					

196/25	Setting List of Reserves & Reserves Policy following setting of precept:- Resolved to set reserves as set out on the precept paperwork (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper) All in Favour Action: Clerk.	Clerk
197/25	Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions):- Councillor R. Wilson reported from the Camel Valley Community Area Partnership meeting held on the 20 th October 2025 as follows:- • The quarterly meeting was held at Chy Trevail, Bodmin, on Monday, 20th October. After usual housekeeping and updates, there were 3 main presentations. The Police Liaison Officer introduced Kevin Sienfield, who spoke about a new initiative to tackle shoplifting. The 'Partners in Crime' (PAC) scheme has been trialled in other parts of the UK, and Cornwall has received funding for 12 months to roll out the scheme. Shoplifting has been a scourge for retail outlets for many years, and low-value thefts are rarely followed up, let alone prosecuted, causing much frustration for shopkeepers and police alike. Central to the scheme is an app that enables shopkeepers to share CCTV images and details of thieves with other stores and the police. Repeat offenders can be quickly identified and fast-tracked to the courts. Adam Stonehill provided figures for shoplifting, locally and nationally. In Bodmin and Wadebridge, incidents of shoplifting have increased by 73%, and nationally, over half a million cases were reported, but it is thought the actual number of incidents is more like 20 million. Shoplifting can have deeper concerns as it can be linked to county lines gangs and modern slavery, as well as domestic abuse when coercive partners force victims to partake in crime. The initial 12-month rollout will be free; however, if it is successful, there will be a subscription of £20.00 per month for each shop, but this cost will be offset by a reduction in thefts. CAP Councillors were very supportive, the only concern being whether the courts do not serve sufficiently severe sentences. Footage from the PAC app will be suitable evidence in court. • Barry Cornelius provided an update on the Camel Connect community minibus. A second electric vehicle has been ordered (arriving by Christmas) at a cost of £70,000.00 to be used, primarily, in the Wadebridge/Padstow area. It was suggested that the service can charge a nominal fee, purely to cover the running costs of fuel, etc (compared to a lady in St. Minver who was quoted £90.00 each way for a taxi to Treliske). The outstanding costs that need to be recovered are for the wages of the service coordinator. Bodmin Town Council have generously donated £10,000.00, and Lanivet have paid its share. It is hoped that all of the 22 CAP parishes will contribute to ensure the service is viable and available to everyone. The share will be based on the tax take of each parish, so the amount Withiel would have to pay is in the low hundreds. • The next presentation was by 2 representatives of the WREN wind farm fund. There is a bold ambition to make Cornwall a net-zero area, and WREN community grants give priority to renewables and energy efficiency schemes. Examples of schemes were highlighted. There was also a reminder about the Energy shop (on The Platt, Wadebridge), which offers free advice on energy efficiency and grants for renewables. Withiel has benefited from WREN grants for several years. Applications can be submitted in December for 2026.	

	- Rachael Rothero, spokesperson for Cornwall Council, gave an update on the running of Lys Kernow (Cornwall Council central hall). Full meetings are recorded and available (live) online, and there is now a new service to offer more transparency. From next week, there will be live screenings of individual Cabinet Councillors, known as Decision days. Full details are available on the Cornwall Council website. Concerns were raised about the ending of the Shared Prosperity Fund, which is one of the main sources of revenue for the CAPs. The government has ended this vital funding, and, as yet, there is no information about what it will be replaced with. There are 3,200 empty homes across the Duchy. Proposals to offer homeowners grants to encourage them to get these homes occupied have been discussed in Council meetings. - The next CAP meeting will be a virtual Teams meeting on 19th January 2026. - The main issue that concerns Withiel is whether we subscribe to the Community Minibus project. He believes our contribution would be fairly small. Chairman asked who it is there for or will it service everyone and what need do we have in Withiel and who may utilise the service. Councillor R. Wilson reported as far as he is aware it will be open to everyone. Councillor Mrs. W. Symons asked for some details of a breakdown of what they have been doing for our parish and some more context. Councillor R. Wilson suggested if we decide to go with this project we use Voltaire funding for this year and after that to build into the precept for the future Action: Councillor R. Wilson to obtain some details of a breakdown for our parish. - Expression of Interest raise – there is £97,000.00 for 22 Parish and Town Councils. Councillor R. Wilson suggested keeping our costs to the minimum to ensure the possibility of funds. Repairs for the fence was suggested or signs for Saints Way or road ploughing. Councillor R. Wilson informed Councillors to put forward and obtain quotes and discuss at the next meeting Action: Councillors. Councillor R. Wilson (CAP representative for Withiel Parish Council) Chairman thanked Councillor R. Wilson for the report; there were no questions. Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions:- Clerk to re-circulate the template Action: Clerk.	Cllr. R. Wilson Cllrs Clerk
198/25	Parish Councillor Training Requirements:- None.	
199/25	Correspondence to Cornwall Council – Waste collection St. Clement Church:- Councillor D. Cotton circulated a letter to be sent about the waste collection, and it was resolved to put forward as set out (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in Favour Action: Clerk. Christmas Tree at Bus Shelter. Councillors take on board what the members of public is saying. Looking at the photograph of the bus shelter it appears there would be room for a Christmas tree and the rubbish and recycling bins, or possibly ask a local neighbour if they would mind it being put in front of their property for one month, as the Christmas tree would only be up for December. Agreed to put the Christmas tree in place and then have a conversation with the residents who put their waste and recycling out. We will be sympathetic with the tree positioning and size.	Clerk
200/25	Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:- - NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin – 9th October, 16th October, 23rd October, 30th October 2025 - Cornwall Council - Town & Parish Council Newsletter: 10th October 2025	

	3. CALC – Short New Bulletin – 14 th October 2025 4. CALC Training Update for Planning & Finance Training Sessions 5. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 20 th October, 18:30pm-20:30pm 6. Rural Services Network - Weekly Newsletter – 15 th October, 22 nd October, 29 th October, 5 th November 2025 7. Great Western Railway - Engineering works - Newquay line 8. NALC – Events Newsletter 9. NALC - 2025 Governance Elections 10. Cornwall Council - Rights of Way Improvement Plan - Town and Parish Council Focus Session 27 th October 2025 11. Cornwall Council Planning - Understanding Cornish Places - Expiry 19/11/25 12. CALC – Reminder of AGM and other Briefings 13. Cornwall Council - Planning News for Local Councils and Agents - Autumn 2025 now published 14. CALC – Finance Training Sessions 15. Great Western Railway - Engineering works - Newquay line 16. Cornwall Council - Community Highways Improvement Programme 2026-2029 17. Cornwall Council - Cornwall Community Flood Forum Annual Conference – 7 th November 2025 18. Bodmin Police Station - November Newsletter 19. CALC – AGM – Tuesday 11 th November 2025 at 6.30pm for 7.00pm start at St. Erme Community Centre 20. Great Western Railway – Extended engineering works – Newquay line	
201/25	Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:- None.	
202/25	Date of next Meeting:- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday 3 rd December 2025 at 6.30pm in the Withiel Village Hall. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.53pm.	

Signature:

Chair

Date: 3rd December 2025