

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## DRAFT MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 4<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2026 AT 6.30PM

Present	Cllr. M. Davies (Chair) Cllr. R. Wilson Cllr. E. Piper	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk) Cllr. J. Hancock Cllr. C. Batters	Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons (Vice-Chair) Cllr. D. Cotton
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Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
16/26	<b>Apologies:-</b> Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle.	
17/26	<p><b>Public Forum</b> (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 Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor Report if received):- None.</p> <p><b>Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor</b>:- Cornwall Councillor C. Batters reported as follows –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>His Community Chest has just closed, and Withiel Parish has received the majority of the funds. £330.00 to the Church and £153.00 is pending approval for the Parish Council to be used to refurbish the bus shelter and notice board.</li> <li>The Cornwall Council budget is to be discussed later this month. Recently, the budget was being formed. There was a £13m deficit but following changes by national government this has now risen to £23m, so there will be a lot of meetings before the budget is signed off. He is against charging in car parks, and he has let this be known; he was told the car parks was not in the budget. Yesterday, he attended a meeting, and the Chairman advised that the car parks were in the budget. He was opposed to this, and there is a long list of people opposing the car parks in the budget. It is hoped the budget will be finalised later this month.</li> <li>Potholes - he suggested Parish Councils voice their concerns, they are filled, and 5 days later they are empty again, and it starts again, so it should be done the first time properly by digging out and putting in hot tar.</li> </ul> <p>Chairman thanked Cornwall Councillor C. Batters for his report this evening.</p>	
18/26	<p><b>Members Declaration of Interest in items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation</b>:- Councillor Mrs. W. Symons declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the News and Views.</p> <p>Councillors Mrs. W. Symons and R. Wilson declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the Withiel Playing Fields Committee.</p> <p>Councillor M. Davies declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the payment for Withiel PCC Grasscutting.</p>	
19/26	<p><b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026</b>:- Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026 as circulated, which were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in Favour</p>	

	(1 abstention due to absence at the last meeting).	
20/26	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 7<sup>th</sup> January 2026:-</b></p> <p><b>Page 1 Min.2/26 Application for Community Chest:-</b> Clerk reported the application had been submitted and confirmation received that it would be considered <b>Action:</b> Keep Pending.</p> <p><b>Page 2 Min.199/25 Waste Collection:-</b> Clerk reported correspondence had been received from Cornwall Council with a summary of the situation advising Cornwall Council provides a fortnightly rubbish collection for Council Tax-rated properties, along with recycling and food collections. However, when it comes to public litter bins, due to current budget constraints, we're unfortunately unable to install additional bins or add extra emptying to our existing rounds. That said, there are options available: (a) The Parish Council can arrange a collection service for the bin, Cornwall Council can provide an updated quote for emptying; (b) An independent third-party contractor could be used and paid for by the Parish Council. If the Parish wanted a revised quote for emptying, they should contact the Council. Councillor D. Cotton suggested he take the reins on this one and take sole responsibility for emptying the bin. To him, this has become a project, and he asked for suggestions to keep coming. He is requesting a meeting and will ask the Council to provide a full policy regarding 'Places of Worship' Collections.</p>	Clerk
21/26	<p><b>Highway Issues in the Parish (Including letter from Cornwall Council – Community Highways Improvement Programme):-</b> Chairman reported on the CHIP scheme. The project suggested is on the Withiel Crossroads on one side, Chairman and Councillor R. Wilson to meet and compile the online form, obtaining quotes and sending photographs <b>Action:</b> Chairman/Councillor R. Wilson.</p> <p>Chairman had circulated a list of highway issues in Withiel Parish, which he would like other Councillors to add to, and once it has been finalised, it will be sent to the Highways Department and also forwarded to Cornwall Councillor C. Batters to follow up <b>Action:</b> Clerk to forward.</p> <p>Councillor R. Wilson suggested liaising with Rachael Tatlow to arrange for the Highway Steward to hold a site meeting with him and the Chairman.</p>	Chair/ Cllr. R. Wilson  Clerk
22/26	<p><b>Footpath Issues in the Parish (Including re-appointing Footpath Contractor for the financial year 2026-2027 on a 12-month rolling basis):-</b> Clerk reported she had submitted the invoice for the Enhanced LMP stiles project <b>Action:</b> Keep Pending.</p> <p><b>Re-appointing Footpath Contractor for the financial year 2026-2027 on a 12-month rolling basis:-</b> Resolved to re-appoint the Contractor on a 12-month rolling basis (Proposed: Councillor D. Cotton; Seconded: Councillor R. Wilson) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p> <p>LMP Maintenance for 2026-2027 – Offer of £412.02 for cutting of Public Rights of Way in the Parish. Resolved to accept. (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p> <p>Cornwall Councillor C. Batters left the meeting at 7.06pm.</p>	Clerk  Clerk  Clerk

23/26	<p><b>To RECEIVE consultation response requests and to RESOLVE a response.</b>  <b>Formal requests from the planning authority received before the start of the meeting will be considered, including Results/Correspondence/Any Planning Results:-</b> No planning applications received.</p> <p><b>Planning Results:- PA25/09075 – Chloe Bines</b> – Submission of details to discharge Condition number 6 (Ecology) in respect of Decision Notice PA22/07974 dated 12/12/23, Treloowarth, Inches, Bodmin – <b>S52/S106 and discharge of condition apps</b></p> <p><b>Planning Correspondence:-</b> (a) Cornwall Council Planning - Consultation on River Camel Local Development Order; (b) Cornwall Council Planning - Neighbourhood Priorities Statements.</p>																						
24/26	<p><b>Monthly Accounts for February 2026, 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 2026 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons; Seconded: Councillor E. Piper) All in favour</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="192 871 1362 1140"> <tbody> <tr> <td>Withiel PCC</td> <td>£165.00</td> <td>Hall Hire 2025 Meetings</td> </tr> <tr> <td>St. Clements Flower Festival</td> <td>£1,000.00</td> <td>Voltaise Grant</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and Expenses</td> <td>£304.56</td> <td>February 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – Income Tax</td> <td>£69.40</td> <td>February 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Withiel PCC</td> <td>£700.00</td> <td>Annual Grasscutting</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:- Cornwall Council</b></td> <td><b>£1,000.00</b></td> <td><b>Voltaise Funding</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest</b></td> <td><b>£35.75</b></td> <td><b>February 2026</b></td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>Clerk reported there were two invoices for Cornwall Council Footpath work, we are waiting on payment totalling £4,503.13 so this will increase our bank account once received.</p>	Withiel PCC	£165.00	Hall Hire 2025 Meetings	St. Clements Flower Festival	£1,000.00	Voltaise Grant	Salaries and Expenses	£304.56	February 2026	HMRC – Income Tax	£69.40	February 2026	Withiel PCC	£700.00	Annual Grasscutting	<b>Receipt:- Cornwall Council</b>	<b>£1,000.00</b>	<b>Voltaise Funding</b>	<b>Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest</b>	<b>£35.75</b>	<b>February 2026</b>	Clerk
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25/26	<p><b>Voltaise Funding Guidelines:-</b> Resolved to amend guidance, adding a sentence that the Parish Council has the discretion to take on a community project that meets the funding criteria. To remove dates and have a rolling application and distribution date (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p> <p>Clerk reported there is now a balance remaining in the Cornwall Council held funding of £1,407.50.</p>	Clerk																					
26/26	<p><b>Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions):-</b> Councillor R. Wilson reported from the quarterly meeting held on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Councillor Ms. A Hoyle and I attended the above meeting at Chy Trevail, Bodmin. The first partner update was from Police Inspector Adam Stonehill. It was a quiet Christmas, and priorities remain the same for the new year: theft, anti-social behaviour and drugs. The new Partners against crime initiative against shoplifting has had positive results in Padstow, with data still being gathered for Bodmin. Overall, there has been a 4.7% increase in crime, which is in line with national figures. There have been sharp rises in bicycle theft and moorland fires, albeit from a small sample size.</li> <li>'Hot spot' policing is continuing to have an impact. Community intelligence is guiding drug issues, and two significant arrests have been made.</li> <li>Barry Cornelius gave an update on the Camel Connect community minibus service. Bodmin, Lanivet, Blisland and Withiel have now subscribed with Wadebridge Town Council, showing interest. It is a 3-year process.</li> </ul>																						

	<p>He hopes to make up funding with grants (including CIL and WREN) and is holding meetings about this and with other CAPs who have shown an interest. The EV minibus does not have the range for a return trip to Derriford, with charging there reserved for NHS vehicles. There is no funding for an alternative diesel vehicle. Cornwall Councillor Dan Rogerson suggested the charging points at Lys Kernow could be used.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main presentation was an online PowerPoint hosted by Caroline Barrow, the Cornwall Development Officer from Cornwall National Landscapes. There has been an 18-month consultation intended to conserve and enhance natural beauty and to understand local needs and pressures. 12 sites of national interest have been designated across Cornwall, most in coastal areas, with the exception of Bodmin Moor and the temperate rain forest at Golitha Falls. There is lottery funding available, and they are reaching out to CAPs and stakeholders to engage with projects. More information can be found on the online dashboard. Points raised from Councillors present included concerns about surplus run off water and the planned development at Halgavor Moor, the 20,000 planned new builds, and the possibility of introducing more beavers.</li> <li>• There followed a lengthy talk about the Amazon rainforest and weather patterns.</li> <li>• Council Leadership rep, Rachael Rothero reported there is consultation concerning local government settlements running and also a review of budget scrutiny. The main current issue is the cleanup after Storm Goretti. MP Dan Jarvis visited the Duchy, and it is hoped there could be extra government support. Cormac workers have done a great job stepping up to clear the debris. I raised the issue of local landowners clearing the roads themselves because, in Withiel, local farmers and tree surgeons cleared the roads within hours. Rachael Rothero is to find out the legal guidance regarding insurance.</li> <li>• A short session of Cornwall Councillor updates followed. Cornwall Councillor Moore spoke of a campaign to ban smartphones in schools, and Cornwall Councillor Dan Rogerson spoke about favourable results for the new Elastomac pothole repair material. Flooding has been an issue for all councillors, especially as gulley clearances reduced from four to one per year. Cornwall Councillor Kimber from Helland was angry that 7 large wind turbines were scheduled despite the majority of residents being against it.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor Rob Wilson (Camel Valley CAP Representative for Withiel)</p> <p><b>Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions:-</b> None.</p>	
27/26	<b>Parish Councillor Training Requirements:-</b> CALC Training Bulletin – January to March 2026.	
28/26	<p><b>Potential work by the Church and quotes:-</b> Chairman reported on the footpath up beside the Church, it appears no one owns this area so perhaps Voltaise funding could be used to bring it up to a good standard. There had been a proposal earlier this evening of doing one project a year using Voltaise funding, which had been approved.</p> <p>Resolved to put forward a project for tarmaccing this area, one quote has been obtained so it was agreed a couple more quotes should be sorted to address this area and agree to commission the work by delegated email of which contractor to appoint (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor J. Hancock) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p>	Clerk

29/36	<b>Mobile Phone Coverage in Cornwall Parishes:-</b> Chairman reported on email received on areas where there is no mobile signal. Email duly noted and filed.	
30/26	<p><b>Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Great Western Railway – Various Engineering Works, Service Disruption, Storm Updates and Travel Updates (all reported on Facebook pages)</li> <li>2. Cornwall Council - Storm Goretti Update</li> <li>3. Cornwall Council - Consultation: Cornwall Council Priorities Plan 2026-2030</li> <li>4. Cornwall Council - Off Street Parking Order – 2026</li> <li>5. CALC – News Bulletin – 12<sup>th</sup> January 2026</li> <li>6. Cornwall Council - Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026 18:30pm-20:30pm</li> <li>7. Bodmin Police Station - Bodmin Newsletter (January)</li> <li>8. Rural Services Network Weekly Newsletter – 14<sup>th</sup> January, 21<sup>st</sup> January, 28<sup>th</sup> January, 4<sup>th</sup> February 2026</li> <li>9. NHS Cornwall &amp; Isles of Scilly - Your neighbourhood health and wellbeing matters: public engagement Invitation</li> <li>10. NALC - Chief Executive's Bulletin – 15<sup>th</sup> January, 22<sup>nd</sup> January, 29<sup>th</sup> January 2026</li> <li>11. Cornwall Council - Local Council Training: Revised NPPF and other Planning Consultations and Changes – 24<sup>th</sup> February 2026</li> <li>12. Cornwall Council - Affordable Housing Newsletter – January 2026</li> <li>13. Cornwall Council - Town and Parish Council Newsletter: 16<sup>th</sup> January 2026</li> <li>14. BDO LLP External Auditors - BDO Survey - Feedback</li> <li>15. NALC – Events Newsletter</li> <li>16. Town &amp; Parish Council Websites - Customer Newsletter - January 2026</li> <li>17. Cornwall Council - Camel Trail Resurfacing</li> <li>18. Dragon Wifi - Request for local insight on mobile phone coverage in Cornwall Parishes</li> <li>19. Cornwall Council - Storm Chandra</li> <li>20. Great Western Railway - Customer &amp; Community Improvement Fund - applications closing 2nd February 2026</li> <li>21. Cornwall Council Planning - Planning News for Local Councils and Agents - latest quarterly newsletter now published</li> <li>22. Great Western Railway - GWR update - weather disruption</li> <li>23. NALC – New online resource showcasing practical case studies on devolution</li> </ol>	
31/27	<b>Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:-</b> None.	
32/27	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:-</b> Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 at 6.30pm in the Withiel Village Hall. Apologies from Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle for the March meeting as she will be out of the country.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.52pm.</p>	

Signature: .....  
Chair

Date: 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026