

# WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 1<sup>ST</sup> APRIL 2026 AT 6.57PM

Present Cllr. Mrs. W. Symons                      Mrs. J. Burdon                      Cllr. D. Cotton  
(Vice-Chair)                                      (Parish Clerk)                      Cllr. R. Wilson  
Cllr. J. Hancock                                Cllr. E. Piper                      Cllr. Ms. A. Hoyle  
2 Members of the Public

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
59/26	<b>Apologies:-</b> Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.	
60/26	<p><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) (Including Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor Report if received):-</b> Two members of the public in attendance with nothing to raise. One member of the public reported on behalf of himself and his wife. He thanked the Parish Council for sorting the footpath next to the church, as it helped a lot. He wondered if some pressure could be put on the opposite side. He is concerned that an accident could happen with people walking the Saints Way. Chairman reported that Cornwall Councillor C. Batters was going to look into ownership of this side <b>Action:</b> Clerk to follow up with Cornwall Councillor C. Batters. Member of the public asked about the grasscutting paid for by the Parish Council to the Church. Chairman reported that the Church has ownership, but arrangements are put in place for the Parish Council to cut annually.</p> <p><b>Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor:-</b> Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters with nothing to report at this time.</p>	Clerk
61/26	<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. 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>	
62/26	<p><b>Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026:-</b> Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as circulated, which were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chairman (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor D. Cotton) All in Favour</p>	
63/26	<p><b>Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2026:-</b> None.</p>	
64/26	<p><b>Highway Issues in the Parish:-</b> Chairman advised Councillors to continue logging using the online system, he uses it himself regularly, especially the dangerous potholes at the passing place. The bridge at the bottom of the village needs to be looked at before traffic for Royal Cornwall Show in June <b>Action:</b> Clerk and Chairman to liaise with Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.</p>	Clerk/ Chair
65/26	<p><b>Footpath Issues in the Parish:-</b> None.</p>	

66/26	<p><b>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:-</b> No planning applications, planning results or correspondence received.</p>																															
67/26	<p><b>Monthly Accounts up to the 31<sup>st</sup> March and for April 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 up to 31<sup>st</sup> March and for April 2026 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor J. Hancock) All in favour</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="204 568 1355 949"> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026:-</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>McAfee – Annual</td> <td>£79.99</td> <td>Subscription</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Toolstation Bodmin</td> <td>£151.07</td> <td>Paint/Materials – Shelter</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:-</b> Cornwall Council</td> <td>£152.19</td> <td>Paint/Materials – Shelter</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:-</b> Cornwall Council</td> <td>£1,407.50</td> <td>Transfer of S106 Funds</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="3"><b>Accounts for April 2026:-</b></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Cornwall ALC Limited</td> <td>£293.12</td> <td>Subscription 2026/2027</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and Expenses</td> <td>£311.11</td> <td>April 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – Income Tax</td> <td>£70.60</td> <td>April 2026</td> </tr> <tr> <td><b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest</td> <td>£34.05</td> <td>March 2026</td> </tr> </table> <p>Clerk reported she had heard regarding the work carried out for tarmac on what information was required on the invoice. Resolved the Clerk has delegated powers to pay the invoice once received and agrees with the quote (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor R. Wilson) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p>	<b>Accounts up to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2026:-</b>			McAfee – Annual	£79.99	Subscription	Toolstation Bodmin	£151.07	Paint/Materials – Shelter	<b>Receipt:-</b> Cornwall Council	£152.19	Paint/Materials – Shelter	<b>Receipt:-</b> Cornwall Council	£1,407.50	Transfer of S106 Funds	<b>Accounts for April 2026:-</b>			Cornwall ALC Limited	£293.12	Subscription 2026/2027	Salaries and Expenses	£311.11	April 2026	HMRC – Income Tax	£70.60	April 2026	<b>Receipt:-</b> HSBC – Gross Interest	£34.05	March 2026	<p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p> <p>Clerk</p>
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68/26	<p><b>Voltaire Funding:-</b> Resolved to allow a grant from Voltaire funding in the sum of £657.20 to Withiel PCC (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in Favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk.</p>	Clerk																														
69/26	<p><b>Defibrillator:-</b> Councillor M. Davies reported he had been approached by a member of public from Ruthernbridge asking for a defibrillator which is located just outside the parish of Withiel. Resolved the Clerk establish the full costs and the exact location it would be required (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor Mrs. W. Symons) All in favour <b>Action:</b> Clerk/Chairman.</p>	Clerk/ Chair																														
70/26	<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 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The meeting was a hybrid meeting, held, as usual, at Chy Trevail, with many Councillors and partners attending via Microsoft Teams. There were some notable partner apologies, with two agenda updates cancelled. Sadly, Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle was unavailable due to problems with international flights being delayed because of the Iran war.</li> <li>The first update came from Councillor Adam Paynter, Deputy Leader of Cornwall Council and leader of the independent group. He spoke at length about the Budget settlement recently approved by the Council. The report was full of figures and budget breakdown, and a full analysis is available on the Council website. Key points to note that this is the result of a 3-year (central) government settlement and part of the Fair Funding review that strongly focused on rurality.</li> </ul>																															

The first reading offered an extra £59 million rurality settlement, but after a second reading, most of this was lost with only adult social care being ring-fenced. Future settlements will be finalised in 2028. The positives are that over the 3-year period investment in children's services to increase by £37million, adult services by £43m, waste collection an extra £8m and transport and environment an extra £9m. The bad news is that there is currently an annual deficit of about £50million and over the next 3 years, savings of £154million have to be found. Council Tax to rise by a maximum of 4.99%, with 2% of the increase to go to adult care, and the other 2.99% into general taxation. It is important to remember that Council Tax only provides 27% of total revenue. The rest is made up from business rates, fees, charges and central government. Questions asked included concerns about the duration of maximum increases in council tax, concerns about business rates being detrimental to businesses and possible relief and asking more of the environmental charities to ease pressure on Cormac. It was noted that business rates currently contribute £217million to revenue, but there are rate relief schemes and charities that could possibly help. The full budget will soon be circulated to CAP members.

- Barry Cornelius gave an update on the Camel Connect minibus scheme. Recently, Blisland, St. Kew, St. Teath and St. Breock parishes have subscribed to the scheme, but Cardinham and St. Issey have declined. Barry has been visiting Parish Councils in person and is always open to invitations from others. There has been an application for a new 9-seat minibus for Bodmin. The minibus for Wadebridge is currently being built, but has been delayed because of parts from overseas. Age UK have made its vehicle available for 2 days per week. Somerset Council have a similar scheme that has been a big success, now running 6 minibuses and has received Department of Transport grants to help towards this. Barry Cornelius is hoping that he and Councillor Dan Rodgeron can visit to find out more. There is also a bid for £5k to help with Co-ordinator costs, and there has also been an application to the WREN fund. Concerns were raised about parishes that do not want to contribute, not being in the spirit of the CAP. It is hoped that with further publicity and information, they may be encouraged. The chair assured the meeting that Town and Parish Councils will not have to cover the shortfall. There will soon be standard advertising and fliers available for individual parishes to display and put in magazines. Barry Cornelius repeated it is a new way of parishes working together and a 3-year process.
- Cormac representatives Steve Bayley and Dominic Bostock gave an overview of Cormac and an update on current Highways issues. Cormac was founded in the 1980's and became an arms-length company in 2012. Cormac does more than Highways, it is responsible for maintaining Council assets, such as parks and verges and has increasing work in the environment. It is also involved in many construction projects and has its own quarry. Cormac services are also contracted out of the Duchy and work across the wider South West, but Cornwall is always prioritised. It is a limited company, operating under legal requirements, with Cornwall Council being the shareholder. The priorities are to provide good value for community services (e.g., parks and leisure), managing and maintaining the environment and infrastructure and growing the external business out of Cornwall to bring in extra revenue. Steve Bayley has worked for Council/Cormac for 39 years and gave a statistic-driven presentation about our roads.

	<p>The Cornish road network is over 4,500 miles long, the 10<sup>th</sup> largest in the UK, but funding does not match. In January, over 7,000 defects were reported across the Camel Valley area, with 4,108 of those being potholes. It was acknowledged that of those repairs, 80% are temporary and will probably fail, but given the severe winter rainfall and extra pressures from Storm Gorette, it is the only way of keeping the roads safe. It is important for all parishes, and residents to use the online link to report defects, or 'Let'sTalk' for larger projects. The storm also caused 300-400 trees to fall and over 150 floods. Over 20% of the network has been gritted this winter, a total of 35,329 miles. The workforce is dynamic, so staff working in parks during the summer are pulled onto the drains and gritting during the winter. There were many questions raised about potholes, access and maintenance. It was noted that we have an ageing and underinvested network that could need in excess of £300 million to modernise, which is just not available. There will be 'meet and greet' workshops across the Duchy this year to meet Town and Parish Councillors, and Withiel will be notified when there is one in our area.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There was a presentation from Helen Richards and Lowenna Blee, Cornwall Fostering Team. There is a national and local shortage of foster carers, and there is a big promotion to encourage more people to register. It was asked that CAP Councillors share as much information as possible, and full details are on the Council website and across local social media. Whilst the uptake in Cornwall is bucking the national trend, more carers are needed. There is to be a FosterCare Fortnight promotion from 11<sup>th</sup> to 25<sup>th</sup> May with multiple events across the Duchy, online and on the radio. Further information is available if anyone is interested through your local Council.</li> <li>• Cornwall Councillors gave short reports with Chris Batters dealing with multiple complaints about the new properties on Boundary Road, other Councillors are working with Ben Maguire MP and South West Water about water quality, with a worrying number of dead fish in the River Allen. There is soon to be a consultation about septic tanks in the area. Tintagel Parish council have reformed with new Councillors and is functioning again.</li> <li>• Meeting concluded 8.31pm.</li> <li>• There is also an annual summary of this CAP available on the Withiel Parish Council website in April's minutes.</li> </ul> <p>Councillor R. Wilson – CAP Representative for Withiel Parish Council.  <b>Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions:-</b> None.</p>	
71/26	<p><b>Parish Councillor Training Requirements:-</b> None.</p>	
72/26	<p><b>Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. NALC – Chief Executive's Bulletins</li> <li>2. NALC – Events Newsletter</li> <li>3. Cornwall Council - Affordable Housing Newsletter – March</li> <li>4. Cornwall Council - Community Preparedness Newsletter</li> <li>5. Great Western Railway - Travel updates</li> <li>6. Cornwall Council - Reminder to register: Good Growth SPF Showcase Event 18<sup>th</sup> March 2026</li> <li>7. Cornwall Council - Invitation: Camel Valley Community Area Partnership Meeting - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> March 2026 from 6.30pm-8.30pm at Chy Trevail, Bodmin</li> <li>8. Cornish Lithium - Trelavour Lithium Project – Statutory Consultation 02 March – 13<sup>th</sup> April 2026</li> <li>9. Cornwall Council - 20mph Phase 5: Bodmin (Group 1)</li> </ol>	

	<p>10. CALC - Local Plan and Local Councils involvement</p> <p>11. Rural Services Network - Your Free RSN Weekly Newsletters</p> <p>12. Cornwall Council - Town and Parish Council Newsletter: 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026</p> <p>13. Cornwall Council - Community emergency plan - New template</p> <p>14. Bodmin Police Station - March Newsletter</p> <p>15. Bodmin Town Council - Be Part of Shaping Bodmin's Future</p> <p>16. Helland Parish Council - Major Wind Farm proposal</p> <p>17. Bodmin Town Council - Annual Meeting &amp; Mayor Choosing Ceremony - Your Invitation</p> <p>18. Climate Vision - Important: Open Letter to MPs: Building Personal Climate Resilience</p> <p>19. Cornwall Council - Supplier update</p> <p>20. NHS Cornwall &amp; Isles of Scilly - Cornwall together: March 2026</p>	
<b>73/26</b>	<p><b>Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:-</b> Chairman and Councillor Mrs. W. Symons reported concerns around the future of St Clements church following the recent publicity of a public consultation into the future of Lanivet Church and its sustainability. Following Lanivet Church's decision to become a Festival Church it has less income from parishioners attending Sunday services and now it needs to look at how it funds itself going forward. Whilst this is not a Parish Council matter we feel the risk to our local churches should be discussed and we should look to support St Clements.</p>	
<b>74/26</b>	<p><b>Cleaning of Withiel Village Hall after a meeting:-</b> Parish Council resolved to ensure the hall is cleaned and tidied on leaving (Proposed: Councillor E. Piper; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in favour <b>Action:</b> Councillors.</p>	<b>Cllrs.</b>
<b>75/26</b>	<p><b>Date of next Meeting:-</b> Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026 at 6.30pm in the Withiel Village Hall, which will also include the Nominations of Chair, Vice-Chair, Officers and representatives.</p> <p>There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.33pm.</p>	

Signature: .....

Chair

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2026