

WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY, 1ST JULY 2026 AT 6.30PM

Present Cllr. M. Davies Mrs. J. Burdon Cllr. J. Hancock
(Chair) (Parish Clerk) Cllr. D. Cotton
Cllr. Mrs. A. Hoyle Cllr. R. Wilson 3 Members of Public

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
113/26	Apologies:- Councillors E. Piper, Mrs. W. Symons and Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.	
114/26	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 Report if received):- Member of public raised the Neighbourhood Development Plan and advised she was interested in the new Neighbourhood Priority Statement. There was a good response the last time she was involved. Member of public raised the Neighbourhood Priority Statement and that she believes a lot of people would still be interested and wanted to check that they would still have the opportunity to be involved. Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor:- Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.	
115/26	Members Declaration of Interest in items raised on the Agenda/Requests for Dispensation:- Councillor R. Wilson declared a non-registerable interest under Paragraph 3.5A in respect of the Withiel Playing Fields Committee.	
116/26	Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 3rd June 2026:- Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 3 rd June 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	
117/26	Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 3rd June 2026:- Page 1 Min.88/26 Septic Tanks in the catchment area:- Clerk reported she had heard today and it was confirmed information could be passed out as necessary to anyone asking. Page 2 Min.60/26 Ownership of opposite side of new footpath:- Cornwall Councillor C. Batters is still waiting for a response and had since followed up again Action: Keep Pending. Page 2 Min.93/26 Footpath 2 in the Parish of Withiel:- Clerk reported she was waiting a response from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters Action: Keep Pending.	Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters
118/26	Highway Issues in the Parish:- Chair reported on the 20mph correspondence advising he had followed up on how the consultation worked.	

	He is having an online meeting, and Councillor R. Wilson would be welcome to attend. It appears they are introducing 20mph speed signs within the areas where there are currently 30mph to further reduce speed around the more built-up areas, although Withiel do not have any speed signs at all at present. Chair was not aware that Withiel Parish Council had been consulted on this before the recent letter, and this was part of what he would be following up. Councillors R. Wilson and Ms. A. Hoyle attended the Cormac Workshop. A report was circulated by Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle, they both felt it was a very informative and interesting workshop.																
119/26	Footpath Issues in the Parish:- Cornwall Council – Enhanced LMP Grants for 2026-2027 available for Parish Councils. Clerk had contacted our Contractor for recommendations on any additional work to the footpaths required. Clerk was collating information on the Saints Way signs and other works that could be actioned under this scheme Action: Keep Pending. Councillor J. Hancock reported on the footpath from Mr. Biddick's and Trenance and reported that scrub is getting deeper. Clerk queried whether this is a LMP Footpath or not. Councillor Hancock will get more pictures and information so we can look at how best to resolve this. Councillor J. Hancock then queried the cost of replacing the Saints Way marker posts under the LMP grant. Clerk to follow up for a breakdown on the cost per post received Action: Clerk. Chair raised the footpath 2 and bridge, and two local people have been speaking to the Council for the last 18 months, and the area is under Natural England as it is a protected site but action is planned for later this summer.	Clerk Cllr. J. Hancock /Clerk															
120/26	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 applications, results or correspondence received.																
121/26	Monthly Accounts for July 2026, including monthly bank reconciliation and budget monitoring and any other Financial Matters:- It was proposed that the Council approve and accept the accounts for July 2026 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor J. Hancock; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in favour. <table border="1"> <tr> <td>Duchy Defibrillators</td><td>£246.00</td><td>Annual Monitor Fee</td></tr> <tr> <td>Max Simpson – Footpaths</td><td>£390.00</td><td>First Cut</td></tr> <tr> <td>Salaries and Expenses</td><td>£311.91</td><td>July 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>HMRC – Income Tax</td><td>£70.80</td><td>July 2026</td></tr> <tr> <td>Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest</td><td>£26.18</td><td>June 2026</td></tr> </table>	Duchy Defibrillators	£246.00	Annual Monitor Fee	Max Simpson – Footpaths	£390.00	First Cut	Salaries and Expenses	£311.91	July 2026	HMRC – Income Tax	£70.80	July 2026	Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest	£26.18	June 2026	Clerk
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122/26	Voltaire Funding Applications Received: None received this month.																
123/26	Neighbourhood Priorities Statement:- Resolved to do a News & Views article and publicise an initial meeting that will follow our next parish council meeting in August. This initial meeting will set up a steering group to take this forward. Ideally this steering group will contain both councillors and members of the public and will be established from those who put themselves forward at this meeting. (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in Favour Action: Chair.	Chair															

124/26	Suggestion for using Church Rooms for meetings to be discussed:- Resolved this cannot happen due to an insurance issue.	
125/26	Waste Bin in Withiel:- Councillor D. Cotton reported the bin was smelling recently. Resolved the Clerk requests an updated price for emptying (Proposed: Councillor D. Cotton; Seconded: Councillor R. Wilson) All in Favour Action: Clerk.	Clerk
126/26	Dog Fouling at Retire – Discussion on Signage:- Resolved to respond advising the person reporting contacts Cornwall Council (Proposed: Councillor M. Davies; Seconded: Councillor R. Wilson) All in Favour Action: Clerk.	Clerk
127/26	Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions):- Councillor R. Wilson reported following the AGM of the Camel Valley Community Partnership held on the 15th June 2026:- Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle and myself attended the above meeting at Chy Tremain, Bodmin. Proceedings began with a short AGM that saw Councillor Robin Moorcroft re-elected as Chair, and all other officers and working group representatives remained in place, as did regular co-opted members. A new member of the CAP was introduced, Clare Simpson, who is one of Cornwall Council's Strategic Directors, responsible for community well-being. Camel Valley Connect: Barry Cornelius updated on the minibus project, the main news being that this scheme is being considered as a case study of communities working together, which will be published in the national press. There are now 11 CAP Councils subscribed to the scheme, with 3 declining. So far £21,000.00 has been raised through subscriptions. So far over 1,600 passengers have used the service. Leaflet fliers have now been printed and can be found in Withiel Village Hall (and will soon be printed in News & Views). Police update: Inspector Adam Stonehill stated that priorities remain the same for this quarter: shoplifting, antisocial behaviour and drugs. The new Partners Against Crime scheme has gained real momentum with a decrease of 24% in recorded retail thefts, and 3 prolific offenders have been banned from all Bodmin shops. Community information and Hot Spot policing are having a positive effect on ASB and drugs. There has been a spate of late-night thefts from parked vehicles, often on private driveways, with 10 being reported in one night in a rural parish. These are opportunistic crimes, and the message to everyone is clear, lock your cars at night! There has also been an increase in rural thefts, particularly for scrap metal and fuel. Young Peoples Working group: Councillor Rosie Moore submitted a written report. Smartphone-free children's spaces across the CAP are being promoted across the sector with schools taking the lead. There has been a big push across Cornwall raising awareness about fostering and encouraging the use of 'Family Hubs' Water Quality: Councillor David Garrigan spoke about his work with Surfers Against Sewage and showed the meeting a newly developed portable lab instrument that tests water quality in 15 minutes. These cost £300.00 each and funding is being secured for more units. There is a need for more upstream monitoring as well as ongoing seawater tests.	

Together with Councillor James O’Keefe and local MPs, they are looking to sue South West Water for excess sewage discharge, and it is hoped that it can be forced to become a ‘public benefit company’, which is the first step towards re-nationalisation. There is an ongoing consultation about septic tank upgrades. After initial concern about this being mandatory, there is now a fear of missing out, as there is £2million available in grants for voluntary upgrades. Statistics show that septic tanks contribute just 1% of phosphate pollution in the River Camel catchment area. Concerns were raised that this was not the most effective use of public money, and any mitigation plans should be concentrated on the Nanstallon treatment works. There has been no coherent study on the treatment works, or action plans with new developments.

“Man Down, Cornwall”: The next presentation was made by Darren and Liam of Man Down, a local charity hoping to reduce male suicide, which in Cornwall is 46% higher than the rest of the UK. The charity offers peer-to-peer support in every Cornish town, every weekday. It is run by survivors of suicide with real-life experiences and is completely confidential. Suicide is the biggest killer of men under 50, and out of 700,000 suicides nationally, 74% are men. There are many social drivers of this, such as drugs, alcohol, debt and relationship problems, and there are also higher than average cases in the farming community. It is very hard to get men to express their feelings, and it is hoped that all CAP areas can promote this charity.

Campaign for Rural England, Cornwall: Mrs. Jenny Cruse presented about this small, independent charity involved in planning, conservation and environmental issues across Cornwall. This is their centenary year. They can advise Town and Parish Councils on matters such as climate mitigation, renewable energy projects, sustainable farming and planning. This particularly applies to unsuitable developments in rural areas that have a negative effect on communities and the environment. Mrs. Cruse urged all CAP representatives to ask their Councils to join CPRE at a special rate of £3.00 per month to access this help.

Council Leadership Update: Rachael Rothero gave a round-up of the coming events of Cabinet and Full Council. There is a big reform of the SEND policy, which could gain an extra £17million of government funding. The Local Plan was discussed, especially the roll out of Neighbourhood Priority Statements, with there being lots of information and support available to Parishes that wish to produce one. ‘Let’s Talk’ is currently running a Cornish language survey. Cormac summer workshops are ongoing, and the event in Bodmin was well supported. Other upcoming consultations concern bus routes and being prepared for storms.

Councillor updates: Councillor Leigh Frost has met the new devolution minister to discuss a devolution strategy that reflects Cornwall’s unique status. This aims to give Cornwall Council unique powers, such as implementing a tourist tax. Councillor Dan Rogerson reported on highway maintenance issues and getting on top of ‘red’ issues. Public transport is to get improved funding over the next three years, and there will be consultations with Parish Councils to come. The session concluded with other Cornwall Councillors present reporting on issues in their respective areas.

CPRE Membership **Action:** Clerk to include on the next agenda.

Councillor R. Wilson (CAP Representative for Withiel Parish Council)

Clerk

	There were no questions from Councillors. Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions:- None.	
128/26	Parish Councillor Training Requirements:- CALC – Training - Planning Enforcement & Appeals on Tuesday 7 th July 2026 at 6.30pm - 8.00pm.	
129/26	Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:- 1. NALC – Chief Executive’s Bulletins 2. NALC – Events Newsletter 3. Cornwall Council -- Town & Parish Council Newsletter 4. CALC – Training Courses – Chaining Skills and Clerking Essentials 5. CALC - Making Negotiations work - Last-minute training opportunity - Monday 15th June, 2.00pm 6. Rural Services Network - Weekly Newsletters 7. CALC - Cornwall Local Councils Conference 2026 - Bookings Open 8. Bodmin Police Station – June Newsletter 9. Cornwall Rural Community Council - Clean Cornwall Newsletter 10. Cornwall Council - CLT Update 11. CALC – News Bulletins 12. Great Western Railway - Essential travel only Wednesday and Thursday 13. Office of the Police & Crime Commissioner - Unsung heroes inspire pride in our communities 14. Cornwall Council - Hot weather advice for residents 15. Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - Cornwall together: June 2026 16. NALC - Star Council Awards 2026/27 – Nominations are now open 17. Clerk & Councils Direct Magazine 18. South West Water - Open letter to all Parishes and Town Councils - Cornwall - Dwr Glan Campaign. Resolved to support the Dwr Glan Campaign Action: Clerk to defer to the next meeting for a decision.	Clerk
130/26	Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting:- Chair reported that we make our responses to the Parish Council through the Clerk, as all Councillors are working on matters together. Cornwall Councillor C. Batters is very approachable. Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle requested a date to hold the first Steering Group for the Neighbourhood Priority Statement and how we were going to arrange. It was suggested to publish in the News and Views and on Facebook Action: Chairman. It was agreed to set a date for the inaugural meeting to follow the next Parish Council meeting on the 5th August 2026, to be publicised in as many forums as possible.	Chair
131/26	Date of next Meeting:- Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 5 th August 2026 at 6.30pm in the Withiel Village Hall. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.45pm.	

Signature:

Chair

Date: 5th August 2026