WITHIEL PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD IN

THE WITHIEL VILLAGE HALL ON WEDNESDAY 2ND SEPTEMBER 2026 AT 6.30PM

Present	Cllr. Ms. W. Symons (Vice-Chair)	Mrs. J. Burdon (Parish Clerk)	Cllr. R. Wilson
	Cllr. D. Cotton	3 Reps – Biochar Project	Cllr. Ms. A. Hoyle
			2 Members of Public

Minute	AGENDA ITEMS	Action
152/26	**Public Forum (Including Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor if received and update from Tom Previte on the Biochar Project:-** Tom Previte reported that he had circulated a report to all Councillors regarding the biochar project. He is the Director/Founder of Restord. He circulated some sample bags of biochar; it is a form of wood. It can be put into soil and will help with soil quality and water storage. They are planning to build a shed on a green waste site off the A30. They will take green waste and turn it into biochar, which means they can also produce energy and electricity. They have spent the last two years building up the business. He is keen today to get Councillors' thoughts on the project as they are currently putting together a planning application, including an environmental permit. Councillor D. Cotton thought it was a brilliant project; the only thing that concerns him is the chimney. Tom Previte advised the chimney will be 15m in height. Councillor R. Wilson asked if biochar is going to be solely for fields. Tom Previte advised that Biochar does not only work in agriculture but also in water. Councillor R. Wilson also has concerns with the chimney and its visual impact, which needs scrutiny. No second chimney is envisaged. Councillor R. Wilson advised that he would like to know more and discuss the technical information further. Councillor Mrs. W. Symons asked why Withiel and why not expand at Liskeard? Tom Previte advised that the farm he is on is not fit for purpose; there is no space to build a shed, no infrastructure, and it is a small farm. They are aiming for 900 tonnes a year coming out of the plant. They are hoping to put in a planning application within the next few weeks. **Monthly Report from Cornwall Councillor:-** Apologies received from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters. Three members of the public left the meeting at 7.15pm.	
153/26	**Election of Chair and Vice-Chair and Declaration of Acceptance of Office:-** Councillor Mrs. W. Symons was nominated for Chair (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A Hoyle). She duly accepted and thanked the Parish Council. Councillor Mrs. W. Symons signed her Declaration of Acceptance of Office **Action:** Clerk to update records and website. In the meantime, the Clerk would follow up with CALC on whether any newly co-opted Councillors can become a Chair or Vice-Chair on joining or if they would need to be in place for a set period of time **Action:** Clerk. It was agreed to leave the Vice-Chair position in abeyance until more Councillors have been appointed **Action:** Clerk.	**Clerk** **Clerk** **Clerk**

154/26	**Update on Vacancy of Parish Councillors:-** Clerk reported the advertisement already put up from Cornwall Council expires on the 7th September 2026, and if no request for an election is called, the Parish Council can advertise to fill by co-option. Resolved Clerk arranges for an advertisement to go up if no election is called and leave it open with no date (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in Favour **Action:** Clerk.	**Clerk**
155/26	**Apologies:-** Cornwall Councillor C. Batters.	
156/26	**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.	
157/26	**Confirmation of Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 5th August 2026:-** Resolved to approve the Minutes of the Monthly Meeting held on the 5th August 2026 as circulated, which were confirmed as a true and accurate record and duly signed by the Chair (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor D. Cotton) All in Favour	
158/26	**Matters Arising from the Monthly Meeting held on the 5th August 2026:-** **Page 1 Min.60/26 Ownership of opposite side of new footpath:-** Cornwall Councillor C. Batters is still waiting for a response **Action:** Keep Pending. **Page 2 Min. 137/26 Fly-tipping of a mattress:-** Clerk reported a response had been received advising Cornwall Council has been unable to remove the reported fly-tip. This is either because it could not be located or because the location was privately owned land that they are not responsible for. Chair reported the mattress has since been removed. **Page 2 Min.138/26 Concerns over Duke of Edinburgh Students:-** Clerk read a response seeking further information which she had sent to Mr. E. Piper and Mr. J. Hancock, no response received to date with relevant information **Action:** Clerk to email again and forward their contact emails to the Duke of Edinburgh office to also follow up directly. **Page 2 Mi.138/26 Footpath at Lanjew washed out:-** Clerk reported she is waiting for an update from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters **Action:** Keep Pending. Councillor R. Wilson would send further information on to Cornwall Councillor C. Batters and requested any maps **Action:** Clerk to forward relevant maps and list of footpaths/bridleways to Councillor R. Wilson.	**Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters** **Clerk** **Cwll. Cllr. C. Batters** **Clerk**
159/26	**Highway Issues in the Parish:-** None.	
160/26	**Footpath Issues in the Parish:-** Cornwall Council – Enhanced LMP Grants for 2026-2027 available for Parish Councils. Clerk reported that completed paperwork had now been sent to Cornwall Council for approval before confirmation is sent to Max Simpson, which will be actioned as soon as we hear **Action:** Clerk.	**Clerk**
161/26	**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:-** **Planning Application:-**	

<table>
<tr><td></td><td>PA26/05677 – M. Pumphrey – General Purpose farm building, Pleasant Streams, Ruthernbridge, Bodmin – Support (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor D. Cotton) All in Favour

<u>Planning Result:</u>

PA26/04754 – M. Pumphrey – General Purpose farm building, Pleasant Streams, Ruthernbridge, Bodmin – Withdrawn

Planning Correspondence:- Cornwall Council Planning - Planning Committee Reform and New Member and Local Council Protocols - Local Council engagement August 2026</td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
<tr><td>162/26</td><td>Neighbourhood Priorities Statement Update:- Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle reported she had been in contact with Cornwall Council and was informed this can be done by the middle of next year. She suggested attending any events in the Village Hall and presenting to the public this way. There will be a report in the News and Views every month, and they have established a Steering Group.

Clerk read an email from Ms. J. Shearer withdrawing her offer to assist with the Neighbourhood Priority Statement.</td><td></td></tr>
<tr><td>163/26</td><td>Monthly Accounts for September 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 September 2026 as circulated on schedule, including agreement with the bank reconciliation and budget monitoring as reported (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in favour.
<table>
<tr><td>Salaries and Expenses</td><td>£367.31</td><td>September 2026</td></tr>
<tr><td>HMRC – Income Tax</td><td>£84.40</td><td>September 2026</td></tr>
<tr><td>Lanivet Sport & Recreation Trust</td><td>£186.00</td><td>Transport Service</td></tr>
<tr><td>Receipt:- HSBC – Gross Interest</td><td>£27.33</td><td>August 2026</td></tr>
</table></td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
<tr><td>164/26</td><td>Annual Report of Accounts for year ending 31st March 2026 from External Auditors, BDO LLP:- Clerk reported she was still waiting for final paperwork and would include on the next agenda, however, the notice of Conclusion and other notices as relevant would be included on the Website and Noticeboard as per regulations once received if prior to the next meeting Action: Clerk.</td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
<tr><td>165/26</td><td>Voltaise Funding Applications Received: Application received from Jenny Hoskin from the Withiel Bell Tower for a new set of six bell ropes. Resolved to fund to the sum of £1,625.00 (it was noted that there was matched funding in kind by bell ringers ringing bells and charging members of the public using the facility) (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle) All in Favour Action: Clerk.</td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
<tr><td>166/26</td><td>CPRE Membership:- Clerk reported on response from CALC, who advised that most Parish Council grant policies do not grant to charities or organisations on a recurring basis, the Council must therefore follow the grant policy to ensure the Council decision to spend is in line with Council policy and procedure.
Resolved to keep on the agenda and Councillor R. Wilson to follow up as to what other Parish Councils have done as he understands some have signed up (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor Ms. S. Hoyle) All in Favour Action: Clerk.</td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
<tr><td>166/26</td><td>Waste Bin in Withiel Update and costings for emptying:- Clerk reported we are still waiting for an update from Cornwall Councillor C. Batters. Agreed to include on the next agenda for an update Action: Clerk.</td><td>Clerk</td></tr>
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167/26	**Community Emergency Plan:-** Resolved to leave the Community Emergency Plan in abeyance and perhaps reconsider in the future when the Parish Council is back to full capacity **Action:** Chair to arrange Defibrillator Training.	**Chair**
168/26	**Camel Valley Community Area Partnership (Including Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions):-** Councillor R. Wilson reported on the status of the funding panel. Allocations are currently stopped as there are no funds. There will be a quarterly meeting this month on the 20th September 2026. **Template from Cornwall Council for current projects, issues and/or questions:-** None.	
169/26	**Parish Councillor Training Requirements:-** None.	
170/26	**Correspondence – Clerk listed correspondence and actions required:-** 1. NALC – Various correspondence 2. Rural Services Network - Weekly Newsletters 3. CALC – Various Correspondence 4. Cornwall Council – Hosepipe Ban 5. Cornwall Council - Town & Parish Council Newsletter: 14th August 2026 6. Great Western Railway - Rail travel update - amber weather warning 7. Cornwall Council - Help protect water supplies 8. NHS Cornwall & Isles of Scilly - Cornwall together: August 2026 9. South West Sweepers - Road sweeping services 10. Great Western Railway - Service update - Class 175 trains	
171/26	**Update from Clerk:-** Parish Clerk wished to tender her resignation and read a letter. Councillors thanked the Clerk for all her hard work. Resolved that the Clerk arranges to advertise accordingly and, in due course, interviews would be arranged (Proposed: Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle; Seconded: Councillor R. Wilson) All in Favour **Action:** Clerk.	**Clerk**
172/26	**Any Urgent Matters the Chair considers relevant for this meeting**:- Chair reported on Withiel Playing Field Association; we have a suggestion of Councillor Ms. A. Hoyle being the Parish Council representative temporarily until May 2027 (Proposed: Councillor R. Wilson; Seconded: Councillor D. Cotton) All in Favour **Action:** Clerk to inform the Withiel Playing Field Association.	**Clerk**
173/26	**Date of next Meeting:-** Next meeting to be held on Wednesday, 7th October 2026 at 6.30pm in the Withiel Village Hall. There being no further business to discuss, the meeting closed at 7.50pm.	

Signature: ……
Chair

Date: 7th October 2026