

**MINUTES OF THE ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY, 28TH MARCH 2017 AT 7:15PM IN GOLANT VILLAGE HALL, GOLANT**

**Present:** Councillors R Anderson (Chairman), A Van den Broek, D Pugh-Jones, S Ratchford and J Luddington.

Cornwall Councillor D Hughes

Sue Blaxley (Parish Clerk)

12 members of the public.

The Chairman opened the meeting at 7:15pm.

**Public Participation**

Alistair Barr introduced four young rowers who won the west of England championships and who will represent the west of England at the national championships. He apologised for asking the parish council for further funds, acknowledging that they made a generous donation in June 2016. The Welfare Officer from Castle Dore Rowing Club explained that the money given by the parish council in June 2016 was greatly appreciated and had been used to purchase a cox box and to put some funds towards new blades. She said the club are now seeking to purchase a new boat and are undertaking fund raising events to raise the money. She explained that their current boat is twenty years old and that a new boat could make the difference in terms of them achieving a podium finish. Councillor D Pugh-Jones asked what area the rowers come from. Alistair said the rowers come from Golant, Fowey, Par, Liskeard and Wadebridge. Graham Estlick asked if the rowers pay a membership fee. Alistair said that they do and the rate varies for junior and senior members.

Graham Estlick asked if Councillor S Ratchford will be standing for parish council in May 2017 given that he lives twenty miles away. Councillor S Ratchford said that he will not be standing.

David Johns spoke in respect of a pre-application proposal to build an activity centre for Encounter Cornwall which will be used for year-round residential and non-residential use. He explained that the building would use the footprint of an existing redundant barn and the proposal would bring new visitors to Golant as well as providing additional employment. He said that parking on the site would be limited to five vehicles and that there will be no heavy construction traffic. He said the design of the building, being constructed of wood, wool and straw, will blend in with its surroundings. He said he hopes that the venture will complement, not compete with, existing providers of accommodation in the parish. He said that he hopes to obtain EU funding for the proposal but is currently undertaking as wide a pre-application consultation as possible in order

to identify potential issues before proceeding to a full planning application. Councillor A Van den Broek asked if there will be conditions attached to the EU funding. David Johns said that he was unsure as to the conditions that will be attached to the funding but he said that any funding is paid retrospectively. Graham Estlick asked what guarantees will be given that the building will not be changed into permanent residential accommodation at a later date. It was agreed that there are no such guarantees. Cornwall Councillor David Hughes commented that the process David Johns is following is a very good example of how the planning process can be made most effective in engaging the public.

### **1. Apologies**

Apologies for absence were received and accepted from PC Lloyd Paynter.

### **2. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

The minutes of the meeting held on 28<sup>th</sup> February 2017, having previously been circulated, were agreed as an accurate record.

### **3. Declaration of interest in items on the agenda**

Councillor A Van den Broek declared a prejudicial interest in item 19 on the agenda.

### **4. Planning**

#### **To consider the presentation given by Encounter Cornwall regarding a proposed outdoor activity centre and accommodation**

Councillor S Ratchford commented that the existing building on the site is an existing redundant building and that the proposal will bring benefits to the village. He said that provided there are no traffic issues, he would support the proposal in principle. Councillor A Van den Broek said that he would like to see the plans for the outdoor activities but he would support the proposal in principle. Councillor J Luddington said that she would support the proposal in principle provided the traffic is minimized. The Chairman said that it will be quite a challenge to gain the approval of the Cornwall AONB Planning Officer given the site's location. It was proposed by Councillor D Pugh Jones and seconded by Councillor S Ratchford that the parish council would support the proposal in principle. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

#### **To receive and consider the following planning application:**

**PA17/01973 – Construction of two detached dwellings, regrading land, upgrading site access, landscaping and ecological enhancement scheme, installation of private package treatment plant (foul) and sustainable urban drainage scheme (surface water) at Tenneys Cottage, Golant**

The Chairman commented that the site has a long and complicated planning history but there is an existing permission on the site for one very large dwelling. He said this proposal is to construct two dwellings on the site which will have a combined floor area less than the one approved dwelling. He said that one resident has expressed concerns about the concept of a septic tank in this location. Councillor J Luddington commented that there is no difference between one very large house compared to two smaller houses. Councillor S Ratchford said the proposal is for a lesser footprint than that approved so he cannot see a problem with this application. Councillor A Van den Broek said there could be an issue with a septic tank on the site as the site is on rock which will drain freely. It was proposed by Councillor R Anderson and seconded by Councillor A Van den Broek that the parish council supports this application. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

**5. Matters Arising from the previous meeting**

**To receive and consider reports on the action points from the previous meeting**

Prepare Car Parking Order (SB/RA)

The Chairman said he had contacted Cornwall Council regarding this matter and that the matter is ongoing.

Ask GHL to clear weeds and moss from car park (SB)

The Clerk said that this matter has been actioned.

Purchase swing seat and netball hoop (AVB)

Councillor A Van den Broek said he had purchased the swing seat and he will fit it in due course. He said that he could purchase a basketball hoop with a board behind the hoop for £576 including VAT. It was proposed by Councillor A Van den Broek and seconded by Councillor D Pugh Jones that Councillor A Van den Broek be authorized to purchase this basketball hoop. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

**To receive and consider reports on any other matters arising from the previous meeting**

None

## **6. To receive the Chairman's Communications**

The Chairman reported that he had received an invitation to a community economic development consultation event which he had attended. He said that the meeting related to concerns expressed regarding the need for economic development in Lostwithiel, St Blazey and Par.

He also reported that the river cleanup was undertaken at the weekend and thirty-five bags of rubbish and many other bits of rubbish were collected from the foreshore and river. He said that Clean Cornwall has asked Biffa Waste Management Services to remove the resultant bags which they will do, free of charge.

## **7. To answer any questions from Councillors, previously notified to the Clerk**

None.

## **8. To receive a report from the Clerk**

The Clerk reminded councilors that the closing date for submitting nominations for parish and town council elections is 4<sup>th</sup> April 2017.

## **9. To receive reports from -**

### **a) Police**

There was no report.

### **b) Cornwall Councillor**

Cornwall Councillor David Hughes reported as follows: "In the eight years since I was first elected to Cornwall Council, continuing swinging cuts in Central Government funding and increasing pressures on limited resources have had a major impact on the responsibilities of Parish Councils. They have been forced to accept devolution of services considered "essential" by the local community but for which Cornwall Council has no statutory responsibility, such as public toilets, libraries or weed clearing. At the same time the voice of the parish has become more important in planning matters, both in responding to specific applications and in developing Neighbourhood Plans, which enable them to "shape" development in their community within the County Local Plan. Golant has been fortunate to have an active, hard-working and harmonious Parish Council, which has responded in a very positive way to these changes. Unfortunately, for several reasons, key members of the Parish Council have had to step down in recent times. This is putting an increasing work-load on remaining members. As we approach election time I would urge all residents to seriously consider putting

themselves forward to join the Parish Council. In a small community such as this it is not realistic to assume that “someone” will step in. Your parish needs YOU. The role of a Cornwall Councillor is becoming more complex and, with the forthcoming changes in boundaries and governance, will become more so. On the one hand the Councillor is responsible, through work on Policy and other Committees and in Full Council, for shaping the strategies and policies to enable the council to provide the best possible level of services under increasing pressure of lack of resources, financial and human, and increasing demand, especially for social services. Inevitably this involves making difficult choices as we have to recognise that not all of our aspirations are achievable in the present economic climate. It is often necessary to remind people not to “shoot the messenger”. Many of the unpleasant decisions which we must take are the result not of County policy but of decisions made by far-off bureaucrats, working in urban environments, who have no understanding of the implications of their edicts for dispersed communities in large rural areas such as Cornwall. Whilst we are all aware of some of the work done (or not done) by the Council, such as filling in potholes or emptying the bins, most of what they do to keep Cornwall running smoothly goes on “below the surface” due to the hard work of dedicated officers. For example, we take it for granted when getting into a taxi, that the driver is a “fit and proper person” but do not recognize that the Council has a team of experienced officers vetting all potential applicants and checking on existing drivers and that, if they have any doubts, that driver comes before a specially trained panel (of which I am a member) them in depth. On the other hand, the devolution of responsibilities to parishes, particularly when coupled to the reduced staffing levels at County level, puts an increased burden on the Cornwall Councillor to act as a support and go-between between parish and county. If the proposed boundary changes go ahead, I would expect the present Area Network Groups to take on a more structured role and that the Cornwall Councillors will have a key role in coordinating their activities. Economic restraints in other government bodies and public services have often had the effect of making them more inaccessible to ordinary people and “computerisation” has also tended to make the bureaucracy less flexible and more difficult to comprehend. In these circumstances, the public increasingly turn to their Councillor for guidance and support, somehow thinking that they have better knowledge of the system or “magic” powers to beat the system. Whilst not, technically, part of the job-description, it is difficult to ignore such requests, particularly since the requests often come from the more vulnerable members of society. Surprisingly, one can, sometimes, help. This may be through experience, because one can express the problem in a different way or just because the agency in question is concerned that the councillor is in a position to call in adverse publicity if they do not respond.

Two weeks ago I was part of the Cornwall Council Team opposing the WainHomes appeal against refusal of their application to build 189 houses on the land between the park-homes estate at the top of the Mount and Kingdom Hall, Biscovey. If approved, this would have a major impact on the landscape looking west from Castledore, significantly reducing the sense of separation from the

conurbation of St Austell. We also contended that it carried a significant risk of worsening the flooding problems at the bottom of Par Lane. It is too soon to know the outcome but it will be an important test of the policies of the recently adopted Local Plan. From a Golant point of view, it will be an important test of what represents “rounding-off” and “infill”. I am cautiously optimistic, especially since WainHomes made no application for costs, possibly indicating their lack of confidence”.

Cornwall Councillor D Hughes concluded by saying that there are some serious economic regeneration schemes in the pipeline for the Lostwithiel, Par and St Blazey areas and funding is being sought for them.

**10. To authorise the signing of orders for payment, including -**

South West Water (Water for toilets) - £31.08

Mrs S Blaxley (February 21<sup>st</sup> – March 21<sup>st</sup> 2017 salary/ expenses) - £327.45

Cornwall Council (Rent for car park) - £166.67

Cormac Solutions (Toilet cleaning February and March 2017) - £323.64

Michael O’Leary (Laptop setup and configure software) - £70.00

It was proposed by Councillor D Pugh Jones and seconded by Councillor S Ratchford that all the above orders be authorised for payment. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

**11. To receive correspondence from :**

- a) Cornwall County Council

None.

- b) Others

None.

**12. Finance Report**

**To receive a current financial statement of the accounts**

The Clerk reported that, this month, no income has been received and the accounts balance at £19,236.28. The Chairman signed the cash book.

**13. Golant Car Park and Toilets**

**To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the toilets and car park**

The Chairman commented that the white lines in the car park need re painting. It was noted that there are assorted options for re defining the white lines including asking contractors to re paint the lines, using stick on white lines and the undertaking of the painting by parishioners. It was proposed by Councillor R Anderson and seconded by Councillor J Luddington that Councillors A Van den Broek and D Pugh Jones purchase the paint and seek the assistance of parishioners to paint the white lines. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried.

The Chairman said that he will be meeting with the Community Network Link Officer and the Car Parking Officer from Cornwall Council to progress the Parking Order for Golant Halt car park. He said that the asset transfer will not take place until the 2017/18 tranche. It was agreed that, in terms of the public consultation period for the CPO, which involves consultation on charges and periods for charging, the parish council will adhere to the guidelines set out by Cornwall Council. The Chairman said that all Councillors should start seeking the views of parishioners on this matter. He said that councilors should consult widely and use their discretion. He said that consultation will take place via a range of means including the Pill newsletter, Facebook, Maurie mail and the noticeboard. Councillor D Pugh Jones said she would put a suggestion box in the pub.

The Chairman said that he had received a complaint from the Sawmills that guests had received a Parking Enforcement Notice on 1<sup>st</sup> March. He said that he had replied saying that the parish council had not taken the decision to use AS Parking lightly and that if the correct amount of money is paid to park and the tickets are displayed, parking enforcement notices will not be issued. He said that it is not expensive to park and there is free access to two slipways. It was agreed that the Chairman would display a notice on the car parking machine informing users that they need to purchase tickets to the value of their stay as well as a notice outside the toilets saying that they are funded by proceeds from the car park.

#### **14. Village Green**

##### **To consider the erection of an avian information sign on the village green**

Councillor D Pugh Jones said that Encounter Cornwall will provide an avian information sign subject to the parish council's agreement on its siting. It was proposed by Councillor J Luddington and seconded by Councillor S Ratchford that thanks be expressed to Encounter Cornwall for the proposed sign and that it should be sited by the village street sign. However, the parish council wants to approve the design of the sign prior to its erection. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried

##### **To receive and consider any other matters arising relating to the village green**

It was noted that the inspection rota is now operational and councillors are completing the necessary form and sending it to the Clerk. Councillor A Van den Broek said that the see saw needs a new plank. It was proposed by Councillor A Van den Broek and seconded by Councillor J Luddington that Councillor A Van den Broek be authorized to purchase a plank and fit it to the see saw. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried. Councillor D Pugh Jones said the grass needs cutting and is particularly long around the edges. It was agreed that the Clerk would ask GHG to cut the grass as soon as possible.

## **15. Neighbourhood Plan**

### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to the neighbourhood plan**

The Chairman said that CLP is available to purchase at £10/copy and that he has included a link to the online version in the forthcoming Golant Pill Parish Newsletter article .

## **16. Highways**

### **To consider the erection of new signs in Golant**

Councillor D Pugh-Jones said that within two hours of advertising for parishioners to design some visuals for some new signs, she had received a response from David Parry who has produced a rough sketch of a sign. It was noted that the new sign would be erected in the Torfrey area. The Chairman said that the consent of the landowner would need to be obtained as well as informing the highways department at Cornwall Council. It was agreed that the size, design and materials would need to be agreed. It was proposed by Councillor R Anderson and seconded by Councillor D Pugh Jones that the parish council allocates £1,000 for materials for the sign and that Councillor D Pugh Jones be authorised on behalf of the parish council to progress this matter with David Parry. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried

### **To receive and consider any other matters arising relating to highways in the parish**

None

## **17. Footpaths and Benches**

### **To receive and consider matters arising relating to footpaths and benches**

It was noted that the The Saints Way and Downs Paths will need cutting and a fallen tree removed but this action can be carried over to the April meeting.



## **18. Community Emergency Plan**

**To receive and consider any matters arising relating to the community emergency plan**

None

Councillor A Van den Broek, having previously declared an interest, left the meeting during discussion of the following item.

## **19. Castle Dore Rowing Club**

**To receive and consider a request for a donation from Castle Dore Rowing Club**

The Chairman reminded councilors that the parish council gave Castle Dore rowing club £800 in June 2016. He commented that a lot of the car park revenue comes from canoeists, rowers and boat owners. Councillor S Ratchford said that every encouragement should be given to clubs such as this. Councillor D Pugh Jones said that the rowing club brings young people into the village. Councillor J Luddington said this would be an excellent use of funds. The Chairman said that the parish council can fund sporting activities in the parish. Some discussion took place regarding the amount of money to give to the rowing club. It was proposed by Councillor J Luddington and seconded by Councillor D Pugh Jones that the parish council donates £800 to Castle Dore rowing club. All Councillors voted in favour of this proposal. The proposal was therefore carried

Councillor A Van den Broek returned to the meeting.

## **20. Co-option of Member to Parish Council**

**To receive and consider applications for co-option onto the Parish Council**

None

## **22. Date of next meeting**

**To confirm the date and venue of the next meeting on Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017**

The date of the next meeting was confirmed as Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> April 2017 in Golant Village Hall commencing at 7:15pm.

There was no further business and the meeting was closed at 8:50pm.

**ST SAMPSON PARISH COUNCIL MEETING**

**28TH MARCH 2017**

**ACTION POINTS**

<b><u>Minute Number</u></b>	<b><u>Action</u></b>	<b><u>By Whom</u></b>
5	Fit swing seat	AVB
5	Purchase basketball hoop	AVB
13	Paint white lines in car park	AVB/DPJ
13	Put notice in car park informing users to purchase tickets to the value of their stay	RA
13	Put notice in toilets saying they are funded by proceeds from the car park	RA
14	Purchase plank for see saw and fit to see saw	AVB
14	Ask GHL to cut grass	SB