

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Annual Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday May 21, 2009 following the Annual Parish Meeting in The Vestry, Constantine.

Present: Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman) Cllr R.Just
 Cllr A.H.Bolt Cllr R.J.Williams
 Cllr J.E.G.Boote
 Cllr C.Gray Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCCLr N.Hatton, Mrs Cooper (Cornwall Head of Localism), Mr Kent and Mr Lambert.

In the temporary absence of the Chairman, Cllr Boote assumed the Chair and welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that

- if planning permission is granted for a local needs dwelling on land at the rear of Andersland, Brill, the dwelling will be occupied by a young family which has every intention of remaining in the area
- negotiations to purchase the Wheal Vyvyan site are under way with Carrick Housing Ltd
- the intention is to build twelve affordable dwellings for rent
- outline planning permission for twelve units is extant
- there is an identified need in the area for twenty-two affordable dwellings
- a developer with land in Gweek (where the identified need is for six units of affordable housing) is seeking permission for thirteen units
- the lack of litter bins in the village is a cause of concern and it was agreed to make this an agenda item for a future meeting.

The Chairman arrived in the room: Cllr Boote relinquished the chair which was assumed by the Chairman.

The Chairman welcomed Mrs Mary Cooper, who is Cornwall Council's Head of Localism, to the meeting.

Thanking the Chairman for his invitation to speak to members, Mrs Cooper introduced herself to those present and described her career route to her present position as Cornwall's Head of Localism.

Mrs Cooper stated that Localism sums up what Cornwall is all about. The difference between each of its many communities makes Cornwall a special place, a place where one size decidedly does not fit all. Localism is a new way of working for service deliverers and one that all officers at Cornwall Council must learn to embrace. The aim is for local communities to influence Cornwall Council's decision-making and so make individual communities better places to live, work and visit – where residents collectively and even individually will be able to make a difference.

To further this aim, Cornwall intends to engage with Town and Parish Councils and the voluntary and community sector using the Community Networks. There are already plans in place for local communities through their Parish Councils to deliver services previously delivered by remote officers and their departments. These services include street cleansing, highways weed control and grass cutting, cemetery maintenance and others which are better (and possibly more cheaply) delivered at a local level. To help with these and other changes, Cornwall has appointed dedicated Town and Parish Council officers within the Localism Team and additionally has agreed to second some officer support to the Cornwall Association of Local Councils. It is intended that the officers in the Localism Team will support community development, Councillors, partners and local organisations.

The Community Networks, which, it is hoped, will hold their first formal meetings in late September, are designed to solve local problems and hold central services to account and will be the main way in which

Cornwall Council will connect with local communities. Cllr Hatton expressed his concern that, on the Falmouth and Penryn Community Network, there is a danger that the combined representatives of Falmouth will be able to out-vote representatives from the rural community.

In answer to questions, Mrs Cooper confirmed that

- the construction of the Community Networks has yet to be agreed
- Community Networks will be chaired by a County Councillor
- some decision-making will be deferred to the Community Networks
- decisions relating to expenditure originating from the rate-payer in Cornwall will be decided by elected representatives

Speaking of Constantine Parish Council's disenchantment with recent planning decisions, Cllr Williams suggested that planning might be run along the lines of a magistrates' court with the Parish Council (advised and guided by an officer) deciding minor applications but required to forward major applications on to the Planning Committee perhaps with a recommendation. Whilst not embracing this suggestion, Mrs Cooper confirmed that Cornwall's newly appointed Head of Planning and Regeneration, Mr Phil Mason, is determined to see more planning applications decided in accordance with Town and Parish Councils' observations. He is particularly keen to see local Councils have a greater involvement in the pre-planning stage so that when an application goes forward at least some of the detail has been agreed. Members were in full agreement that, at present, individual salaried officers with little knowledge of the area are making decisions which cause resentment amongst elected members and local residents alike. The feeling of the Council was that the elected body should make the decision and that the officer should use planning law to implement that decision.

Other matters of concern raised were

- the existing dismal inefficiency of the Planning Enforcement department
- officers' general malaise when dealing with matters raised by members of the public
- the impossibility of contacting officers, in particular those with responsibility for Young People.

Concluding, Mrs Cooper said that she made no promises but hoped for a significant change within the year.

The Chairman thanked Mrs Cooper for coming and for her patience and understanding of Councillors' concerns. In turn Mrs Cooper thanked the Council for inviting her to speak, apologised for not being able to stay and left the room.

1 ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN

Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Gray seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Paul Carter be elected to the Chair of Constantine Parish Council for the year 2009 – 2010.

2 CHAIRMAN'S DECLARATION OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

Cllr Carter read aloud, signed and dated the statutory Declaration of Acceptance of the Office of Chairman of Constantine Parish Council for the year 2009 – 2010 in the presence of the Clerk and the Council.

CCllr Hatton offered the Chairman his congratulations on his re-appointment and wished the Parish Council well in the future. Apologising for leaving early, he said that he had two further Annual Parish Meetings to attend that evening. The Chairman thanked CCllr Hatton for his interest in and support for the Parish of Constantine during his term of office. CCllr Hatton left the room.

3 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllr Cavanagh (illness), Cllr Cummins (illness), Cllr Nicholls (business), Cllr Reynolds (prior engagement) and Cllr Wiseman (on holiday). Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all in favour to accept these apologies. PC Cook and PCSO Huddleston also sent their apologies.

4 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

There were no declarations of gifts (received as a result of being a member of the Council) of a value greater than £25

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Just seconded, Cllr Bolt being absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the meeting held on Thursday April 16, 2009 are a true record.

6 MATTERS ARISING AND NOT COVERED ELSEWHERE ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Boote again reported that inconsiderate parking at the top of Well Lane poses significant problems for motorists turning on to Fore Street. It was also noted that drivers are not adhering to the 20mph speed limit along Fore Street.

7 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S COMMENTS

There was no report: CCCLr Hatton had left earlier.

8 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PCSO Huddleston reported that since the last meeting, there have been six crimes: the theft of an outboard motor and oars, burglary to the Vestry, theft from an insecure shed, criminal damage to the Bowling Green, an assault and a caution for wasting police time.

He further reported that a small number of Stage 1 Anti-Social Behaviour processes have been commenced.

Councillors noted that it is essential to inform the Police of all matters relating to any nuisance or crime.

9 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Election of vice-chairman

Cllr Just proposed and it was agreed that discussion of this matter should be deferred to the next meeting.

Standing Orders

Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Boote seconded all others in favour that Constantine Parish Council should re-adopt Standing Orders as revised in April 2006

Financial Regulations

Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all others in favour that Constantine Parish Council should re-adopt Financial Regulations as revised in April 2006

Election of Councillors to posts of responsibility and committees

Cllr Just proposed and it was agreed that discussion of this matter should be deferred to the next meeting.

Internal Auditor

Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all others in favour that Mr Peter Richards (formerly Kerrier District Council's Chief Auditor) should be re-appointed as Constantine Parish Council's Internal Auditor.

CPRE subscription

Members considered an invitation from the Campaign to Protect Rural England to renew membership in the minimum sum of £29.00. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, all others in favour that membership should be renewed in the sum of £29.00

The Vestry

Following the recent break-in to the Vestry Members considered ways of preventing unauthorised entry. It was agreed that, because the Vestry is a Listed Building, the Clerk should take advice from the Planning Authority and report back to the next meeting.

10 PARISH MATTERS

Recreation Ground

Wheelchair ramp – it was noted that Silverhill Construction has completed this work.

Car park

Correspondence

Stratton and Holborow legal agreement for the extension of the car-park on to land owned by the Glebe Committee. In brief, the fee for this work will be £100 and the rent will be £350 per annum for the car park in its entirety with a review on September 29, 2010 and thereafter every three years.

Following discussion Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Boote seconded all others in favour that, in order to create more off-road parking within the village, Constantine Parish Council should accept the terms of the lease proposed by the Glebe Committee.

Land on which the bench is sited next to 2, Fore Street

The Clerk reported that, having written to Coastline about this matter, he had received a reply stating that, if the Parish Council were to submit an unconditional offer in excess of £5,500 before May 13, the matter could be taken further. This suggested that Coastline would welcome any subsequent bidding-war and, having spoken to the Chairman, he had not replied. The Clerk was asked to write to Coastline Housing expressing Constantine Parish Council's dismay at the loss of this small but important area of amenity land.

11 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

PA09/00494/F Mr A Hume – Erection of an extension to dwelling – Tucoyse Cottage, Tucoyse Lane, Higher Brill. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all in favour to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors note that they have been offered no opportunity to make observations either on the restoration of the original building or on the two-storey extension. In respect of this application they note that the proposed extension requires the removal of a Cornish hedge. Other than that they make no observations."

PA09/00537/TPO Mr M R Thomas – Felling of one Larch tree – Treetops, Port Navas. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Just seconded all in favour to return this application marked "*Constantine Parish Councillors support this application with the proviso that, once the tree has been felled, the applicant is required to plant a native tree within 5metres of the existing larch.*"

PA09/00556/F Mr & Mrs W Lambert – Erection of a local needs dwelling, formation of an access track and parking area and installation of a septic tank – land rear of Andersland, Brill. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Boote seconded all in favour to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors support this application with the proviso that, should planning permission be granted, a legal arrangement is drawn up requiring this dwelling to be reserved for local needs housing in perpetuity."

PA09/00595/F Mr A Birchall – Erection of a glass link extension to dwelling – Trecobben, Trecombe.

Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Boote seconded all in favour to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors support this application."

PA09/00600/F Mr & Mrs B Butland – Erection of a conservatory extension to dwelling – 49 Fore Street, Constantine. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Williams seconded all in favour to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors support this application."

PA09/00603/F Mr H.Mcleod – Conversion of barns to form three dwellings – Trevaney Farm, High Cross. Cllr Just proposed and it was resolved to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors support this application with the recommendation that one of the three dwellings is reserved for Local Needs Affordable Housing."

PA09/00607/F Rawlingsend Ltd – Erection of three dwellings, two with integrated garages and one detached garage – Nans Avallon, Brillwater Road, Constantine. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Boote seconded all in favour to return this application marked "Constantine Parish Councillors consider this application to be for a gross over-development of a water-logged site known to have year-round drainage problems not least because of a spring which rises within the curtilage of Nans Avallon. They believe that the addition of the many hard surfaces relating to this development will exacerbate the problem of water-logging. They believe the proposed dwellings are of an inappropriate design which is not in keeping with that of neighbouring existing properties. They consider the use of glazing to be excessive and believe that at certain times of the day it will have an undesirable impact on neighbours. They note that the proposed verandahs are set at such a height that it will lead to a loss of privacy for neighbouring properties. Access to the proposed development is along a public bridleway and is restricted. There are already problems in the immediate area relating to access for service and emergency vehicles. For these reasons they require that this application should be referred to the Planning Committee for decision together with a request that permission for development be refused."

Decisions

PA09/00119/F Mr J Spooner – Conditional Permission for Development (rebuilding and extending existing quay wall including repointing) – Bosryn, Port Navas – *noted*

PA09/00228/F Ms D.Livingston – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of extensions to dwelling) – Lower Penbothidno, Constantine – *noted*

PA09/00260/F Mr & Mrs G Hall – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a double domestic garage) – Trenarth Cottage, Constantine – *noted*

PA09/00272/F Mr D Robertson – Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a wind turbine) – Retallack, Constantine – *noted*

PA09/00343/F Mr C Brewer – Conditional Permission for Development (formation of decking area) – Portmerryn, Trewince Lane, Port Navas – *noted*

Correspondence

CC PA09/00336/F (erection of a two-storey extension to dwelling and erection of an extension to adjacent cottages at Nancenoy Farm House) application withdrawn – *noted*

12 REPORT OF CLERK AND CORRESPONDENCE

Boundary Committee notification that the final recommendations will be published by the end of September – *noted*

CC Falmouth to Helston Key Quality Corridor Infrastructure Improvements consultation – *noted*

Equality and Human Rights Commission Public Sector Equality Duties – *noted*

Truro Hospital Radio acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

Mr Gregory's daughter acknowledgement of letter of condolence – *noted*

CC Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Shoreline Management Plan Review stakeholders' events – *noted*

Constantine Enterprises Company notification of the Eleventh Annual General Meeting – *noted*

CC Notice of election – European and Unitary – *noted*

Ms Julia Goldworthy MP acknowledgement of letter and request for further information – *noted*

Coastline Housing land next to 2 Fore Street, Constantine – *noted*

CC Recycling credits contribution for the year to March 31, 2009 £494.40 – *noted*

Veolia confirmation of price change from £16.57 to £19.88 (an increase of £86.06 per annum) – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

CC Guide to Cornwall Council services – *noted*

CPRE Cornwall newsletter – *noted*

Out There programme of events for young people – *noted*

CC Town and Parish Council newsletter number 2 – *noted*

CC contact for Register of Members' interests – *noted*

Fields in Trust Public Liability insurance for fields – *noted*

Fields in Trust notice of AGM Trustees Report and Accounts – *noted*

Heritage Kernow open meeting in Camborne on June 22 – *noted*

13 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members reviewed rates of pay for employees of the Parish Council other than the Clerk. Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, Cllr Williams against, all others in favour that Mr Jorey's rate of pay should be increased to £280 per calendar month (£3,360 per annum) with effect from April 1, 2009. It was noted that Mrs Jennings' pay will be increased in October in line with the increase in the minimum wage.

The following accounts were presented for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Tony Mogford Associates Ltd	£ 120.75	£ 105.00	£ 15.75
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 57.66		
Mr G.Jorey	£ 261.43		
EDF Energy (Church Square)	£ 42.05	£ 40.05	£ 2.00
South West Water (public conveniences)	£ 53.93		
Gweek Garage	£ 25.40	£ 22.09	£ 3.31
Di-Mar Garden Machinery	£ 108.10	£ 94.00	£ 14.10
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	£ 52.62	£ 45.76	£ 6.86
Mr R.Peacey (fencing around bowling green)	£ 379.50	£ 330.00	£ 49.50
Mr V.Beckerleg (The Vestry)	£ 29.00		
Mr D.Garrish (new light)	£ 50.50		
Constantine Stores	£ 29.70	£ 25.83	£ 3.87
Silverhill Construction Services	£2,850.00		

Colin Chapman	
Salary (April)	£ 329.29
telephone	£ 8.70
office expenses	£ 49.00
travelling	£ 46.85
use of home (December)	£ 25.00
total	£ 458.84

Proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Williams, all others in favour that the above fourteen accounts be paid.

The following receipts were noted

Constantine Social Club	£ 1,137.50
Keith Penrose (Mrs Mitchell)	£ 190.00
Cornwall Council (grant for youth work)	£ 730.00
Pendle Funeral Services (Mrs Instan)	£ 216.00
Constantine Bowling Club	£ 102.97
J. Westacott & Son (Mrs Watson)	£ 432.00
Cornwall Council (recycling credit)	£ 494.40
Keith Penrose (Mr Gay)	£ 190.00
Rev'd D.J. Stevens (Mr Barnes)	£ 121.00
HM Revenue and Customs (incentive)	£ 100.00

14 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Just reported that

- he is experiencing considerable problems contacting those officers who have responsibility for young people at County level
- there is a weekly meeting for young people from the village in the Tolmen Centre. The present attendance is between five and six
- the radio station appears to be making good progress
- he hopes that the application for grant funding will have been sent off before the next meeting of the Parish Council
- one of the adult volunteers, at her own expense, has already received the requisite training
- the Tolmen Centre is happy to allow the use their Vestry – certainly for the immediate future
- there appears to be a determination within the village to take the project forward.

Speaking on behalf of all Councillors present, Cllr Gray offered Cllr Just the Parish Council's thanks for all that he has done in the last six months or so for the young people of the village.

15 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Concerns were expressed about the use of herbicide on public areas in the village, but the reasons for its use (to allow passers-by the opportunity to avoid broken glass and dog faeces) are understood.

16 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday June 18, 2009 at 7:00pm in The Vestry, Constantine

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:47pm

Signed.....

Dated.....