

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, June 18, 2009 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

Present:	Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman)	Cllr C.Gray
	Cllr J.E.G.Boote	Cllr M.J.Reynolds
	Cllr K.Cavanagh	Cllr R.J.Williams
	Cllr D.Cummins	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Hatton, PC Cook, PCSO Huddleston, Mrs Forster (Director of Development at Coastline), Mr Agnew, Mr Curtis and Mr White (all of whom were present to represent the views of Transition Constantine), Mr & Mrs Dengler, Mr Mynett and Mr Vingoe.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

The Chairman not being present, Cllr Gray proposed and it was agreed that Cllr Boote should assume the Chair.

Cllr Boote welcomed members and visitors alike to the June meeting of the Parish Council.

Mr and Mrs Dengler asked why the Parish Council is against the sale by Coastline of the land adjacent to their home, number 2 Fore Street. The Clerk explained that this small piece of amenity land had been designated as such by Kerrier District Council when the Penbothidno estate had been built. Responsibility for it had passed first to Kerrier Homes Trust and subsequently to Coastline, but it remains an amenity area for the enjoyment of people resident on the estate and, more widely, resident in Constantine. The proposed change of use to a privately-owned garden sets a precedent which the Parish Council cannot support. Considerable discussion followed during the course of which it was noted that there is an area of land behind the garages on the Penbothidno Estate over which Coastline does claim ownership.

The Chairman entered the room. Cllr Boote relinquished the Chair, which was assumed by the Chairman.

Welcoming Mrs Forster to the meeting, the Chairman invited her to explain the reasoning behind Coastline's decision to sell the amenity land adjacent to 2 Fore Street.

Mrs Forster introduced herself by explaining her background. She explained that, as a result of the Right to Buy scheme, the service charge for the maintenance of amenity land on estates previously owned in their entirety by Housing Associations has fallen on increasingly fewer tenants. Coastline is negotiating a number of sales of neglected amenity areas such as the one in Constantine. Such areas clearly have a capital value which, when realised, releases tenants (whom Mrs Forster described as the poorest members of the community) from charges relating to maintenance. Further (and distressingly for tenants), these areas are frequently the subject of anti-social behaviour.

It was further noted that

- the provision of a 'green lung' no matter how small, was once considered to be desirable
- Coastline has neglected this piece of land (and others similar) for many years
- the feeding of birds on this piece of land is unacceptable
- although Coastline is aware of the Parish Council's interest in the land, no approach had been made for a joint working partnership over the matter of maintenance
- no decision has been made concerning the future use of the money raised through the sale
- people affected by anti-social behaviour should immediately inform the police

Mrs Forster thanked members for listening and said that she can be contacted directly at the Coastline offices in Camborne. The Chairman thanked her for attending.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bolt (holiday), Cllr Nicholls (business), Cllr Just (holiday) and Cllr Wiseman (holiday) sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Cavanagh proposed and it was agreed to accept their apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in Item 7 Parish Matters – Transition Constantine.

of gifts (received as a result of being a member of the Council) of a value greater than £25

There were no declarations of gifts of a value greater than £25.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Carter proposed and it was agreed that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 21, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as being accurate.

Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Williams seconded, (Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Cummins and Cllr Reynolds, being absent from the last meeting, abstained), all others in favour that, with the addition of the hand-written amendments, the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday May 21, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA

Cllr Boote reported that he will be meeting Mr Bidgood from Cornwall Highways on Tuesday to discuss problems relating to inconsiderate and potentially dangerous parking at the southern end of Well Lane.

5 COUNTY COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

On behalf of members, the Chairman congratulated CCllr Hatton on his election to Cornwall's Council

CCllr Hatton stated that

- during the course of the next month or so, a number of roads in the parish will be closed to through traffic to allow Western Power Distribution to erect new and replacement electricity poles
- a number of recent planning decisions made by Officers using delegated powers have caused intense local irritation. He expressed his frustration that the ethics of democracy (which, he believed, should work in tandem with planning law) are frequently ignored and that planning officer are exceeding their delegated powers
- consideration is being given to a proposal that planning service delivery might be expanded to six areas rather than the present three
- Cornwall Council's first full meeting takes place next Tuesday and that as there is no overall control it is his hope that the three political groups (Conservative, Independent and Liberal Democrat) will work together for the greater good
- the whole question of Cornwall's waste incinerator is to be re-examined. Nevertheless, waste is a problem which will not go away: Europe insists that Central Government requires local authorities to deal more efficiently with it and accordingly Central Government will fine those authorities who do not comply
- the West Cornwall Local Action Group has been awarded £1.8 million.

It was noted that

- the Polwheveral road was repaired yesterday under the normal maintenance programme
- the road down to Merthen is in very poor condition
- the actual cost of setting up the new authority is, as yet, unknown
- the Community Networks may prove to be more powerful than individual parishes.

6 POLICE REPORT

PC Cook reported that, since May 16, seven crimes have been reported namely, thefts from three cars and from an insecure van, drink-driving, criminal damage at the Recreation Ground and a burglary at the school. PC Cook reminded Councillors and residents alike to be security conscious when leaving their cars and to make sure that no items are left in view. There were eight calls relating to anti-social behaviour (under-age drinking, smashing bottles, noise and throwing stones), as a result of which two arrests have been made and three anti-social behaviour warning notices have been issued. A Policing Plan has also been enacted which

will see a greater police presence in the village, particularly in the evenings and at weekends. PC Cook insisted that anti-social behaviour will not be tolerated and that all incidences of it will be dealt with robustly.

In respect of anti-social behaviour, PC Cook asked for help from the community and, in particular, a report of precisely 'who did what'.

7 PARISH MATTERS

As a member of Transition Constantine, Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in Item 7 Parish Matters – Transition Constantine.

Transition Constantine

Cllr Carter proposed and it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow members of the public to speak.

Members received a written report from Transition Constantine which details the committee's achievements to date and their aspirations for the future. These aspirations include identification both of a site for a wind farm and of a public building capable of modification thereby creating a reduction in its use of fossil fuels.

Mr Curtis outlined the history of the Transition movement and spoke of the three threats to the future of the planet and mankind

- oil: the use of oil by mankind occupies a tiny slot in the time-frame of the earth. It is a finite resource which is currently being used at a phenomenal rate and we are near the peak of its use. The current interest in renewable sources of energy is simply because oil will not last for ever
- global warming: the amount of carbon being released into the atmosphere will result in an increase of between 2°C and 8°C in South East England. This has resulted in French viticulturalists buying land in the south-east for the expansion of the Champagne industry
- world population: the root cause of the two problems outlined above is the rise in world population. It is forecasted that in our life-time alone world population will treble.

Mr Agnew spoke of the need for communities to grow sufficient food to feed themselves. With the rise in the price of oil (determined by its increasing scarcity) supplying supermarkets in Cornwall will become progressively more expensive and we must look at how we are to feed ourselves. In Cornwall alone there are plans for an additional 60,000 homes to be built: this will create an on-going demand both for food (hence a need for the expansion of the allotment scheme) and other essentials. We all need to be aware of what is going to happen and to embrace a cultural change in order that we may leave the world fit for our children and grand-children.

Mr White spoke of the need to reduce waste in particular by re-cycling what we no longer require. He spoke of 'green' burials (rather than the wasteful use of fossil fuel to cremate bodies) where, for example, a nut tree will mark a grave.

Members noted that possibly Gweder Myras might give greater coverage to the aims and aspirations of Transition Constantine, although Mr Mynett stated that an article on 'green' burials had elicited not a single response. Mr Curtis stated that he hoped before long to have a page on the village website which would outline the aims, ambitions and intentions of the group.

The Chairman thanked the three members of Transition Constantine for their presentation.

Cllr Carter proposed and it was agreed to resume Standing Orders.

Litter bins in the village

Members considered the adequacy of the provision of litter bins in Constantine. It was agreed that Cllr Boote together with Cllr Cavanagh and Cllr Gray will research the matter and report back to the next meeting.

Public Convenience

Members considered a quotation from Mr Brian Jorey for the replacement of the windows in the public convenience. It was agreed that uPVC windows would require less maintenance than wooden and for that reason it was agreed to thank Mr Jorey for his quotation but that Cllr Cummins should seek a quotation for the installation of uPVC windows in the public convenience.

Young People

Cllr Just being absent from the meeting there was no report.

Constantine's public wells

Cllr Williams reported that he has now received a list (which amounts to ninety-nine pages) of the listed buildings within the parish of Constantine. He has also contacted Hockerill Engraving concerning the supply

of stainless steel information plaques. Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all in favour to allocate £100 towards the cost of two plaques. It was also agreed that the wording for the plaques should be discussed further at the next meeting and prior to placing the order.

Car-park

Councillors noted both that the post and rail fencing has been erected in order to delineate the extent of the car park extension and that the process for extending the lease of the car-park is under way. Discussion followed concerning the final surface and it was agreed to defer a decision to a later date.

8 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Election of vice-chairman

Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Cavanagh seconded, all others in favour that Cllr Boote be elected to the position of Vice-Chairman of Constantine Parish Council for the year 2009 – 2010.

Election of Councillors to posts of responsibility and committees

It was agreed that the following Councillors will undertake the following duties in the coming year

- a) Bank signatories – Cllr Boote, Cllr Carter, Cllr Nicholls,
- b) Planning – Cllr Cummins, Cllr Gray, Cllr Just, Cllr Wiseman
- a) Emergencies – Cllr Bolt, Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Cummins, Cllr Gray (a meeting of this sub-group will be held in the autumn)
- b) Finance – Cllr Reynolds, Cllr Williams, Cllr Wiseman
- e) Burial Ground – Cllr Bolt, Cllr Wiseman
- f) Footpaths Co-ordinator – Cllr Williams
- g) Housing – Cllr Boote, Cllr Wiseman
- h) Recreation Ground Users Group – Cllr Bolt, Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Gray
- i) Port Navas Village Hall representative – Cllr Boote

The Vestry

The Clerk reported that it is the considered opinion of Andrew Richards, Cornwall's Senior Building Conservation Officer, that it is likely that Listed Building Consent will be necessary to replace the Vestry door and that full planning permission would be necessary only if there is a radical change in design. He further advised that, if there are any archive photos or illustrations showing the original door, it might be worth considering commissioning a replica. It was agreed that Cllr Cummins should draw up a specification for the replacement door to be considered at the next meeting

The Recreation Ground

Members considered granting vehicular access across the Recreation Ground to the Social Club. Following discussion (which noted an off-road requirement for emergency access to the Social Club) Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all in favour that a key to the gate nearest the Social Club should be kept behind the bar. Cllr Cavanagh agreed that vehicular access through the gate would be for exceptional reasons only (which he estimated at some five or six times annually).

9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

PA09/00684/F Mr G.Williams – Erection of a two-storey extension to dwelling and erection of an extension to adjacent cottages – Nancenoy Farm House, Constantine. Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Williams seconded all others in favour to return this application marked *Although they have reservations about the inclusion of dormer windows (which are not in keeping with the style of the existing building) Constantine Parish Councillors support the application with the proviso that every effort is made to harmonise the extensions with the existing buildings.*

PA09/00805/OHL Western Power Distribution – Erection of a new service pole – Little Shearwater, Port Navas. Cllr Carter proposed and it was agreed to return this application marked *No observations.*

Decisions

PA09/00348/F Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a dwelling, domestic garage and formation of a parking area) – adjacent to Little Orchard, Bridge – *noted*

PA09/00455/F Conditional Permission for Development (erection of a log cabin for use as ancillary accommodation) – Long Barn, Tresahor Veor – *noted*

Correspondence

CC access to West Sub-Area Planning Committee Agendas – *noted*

10 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

CRCC Parish involvement in the development of the new AONB management plan – *noted*

CALC Planning and Local Development Orders – *noted*

War Memorials Trust Bulletin and description of its grants scheme – *noted*

CPRE Fieldwork magazine – *noted*

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

CC internet access to Committee Agendas – *noted*

Julia Goldsworthy MP land next to Fore Street – *noted*

CC temporary road closure Ponjeravah to Inow Terrace June 23 – June 26 – *noted*

Constantine School request for permission to use the Recreation Ground on Friday July 10, 2009 during the evening – *Cllr Carter proposed and it was agreed that, as the Management Trustee, Germoe Parish Council should agree to this request*

Audit Commission notice of conclusion of audit – *noted*

Glebe Committee notification that a draft lease will be produced as soon as possible and a request for the name of the Parish Council's solicitor – *it was agreed that a simple extension of the lease for the car-park does not merit the expense of employing a solicitor*

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at June 18, 2009. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members noted that the Audit Commission has concluded the annual audit noting that *The Council has answered section 2 box 7 with "N/A". As the appropriate action has been taken to address the matter raised by external audit last year, this should have been answered "Yes"*.

As a member of Transition Constantine, Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in the following matter. He remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or the voting.

Members considered a request from Transition Constantine for a grant towards costs relating to public meetings. It was proposed by Cllr Cummins, seconded by Cllr Cavanagh, all others in favour that the sum of £200 be forwarded to Transition Constantine under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The following accounts were presented for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Veolia (ES) Ltd (December)	£ 45.24	£ 39.34	£ 5.90
Veolia (ES) Ltd (May)	£ 52.85	£ 45.96	£ 6.89
Mr G.Jorey	£ 271.54		
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 45.84		
South West Water (cemetery)	£ 10.81		
PJ & B Olds (rubbish from Recreation Ground)	£ 92.00	£ 80.00	£ 12.00
Gweek Garage	£ 60.00	£ 52.17	£ 7.83
HM Revenue & Customs	£ 295.20		
RTS Garden Services (cemetery)	£ 1,069.50	£ 930.00	£139.50
Fal Fencing	£ 1,127.00		
W.B.Bowden and Sons	£ 102.55	£ 89.17	£ 13.38
Colin Chapman			
Salary (May)	£ 329.09		
telephone	£ 7.49		
office expenses	£ 33.37		
travelling	£ 32.71		
use of home	£ 25.00		
	total	£ 427.66	

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

Members noted the following receipts

D.J.Stevens (Mr Rendle)	£ 77.00
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CC Grant for disabled access	£ 1,700.00
Western Power Distribution (wayleave)	£ 35.38
Penryn & Falmouth F.D. (Mr Roach)	£ 190.00
Keith Penrose (Mr Shipman)	£ 190.00
Dignity (Mrs Biggs)	£ 190.00

12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from committees or representatives

13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

It was noted that

- the grass around the cross at High Cross needs cutting: Cllr Gray agreed to pursue the matter
- the path between Bowling Green and Penbothidno is overgrown: Cllr Cavanagh agreed to pursue the matter.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday July 23, 2009 at 7:00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:47pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....