

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, December 17, 2009 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

Present:	Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman)	Cllr E.Nicholls
	Cllr J.E.G.Boote	Cllr M.J.Reynolds
	Cllr A.H.Bolt	Cllr N.Wiseman
	Cllr C.Gray	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Cornwall Councillor Hatton, PC Cook Mr Dawson and Mr Small.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that

- the original purpose of the proposed new dwelling at Reens was for occupancy by the then property owner's daughter. Problems of access from the privately owned roadway may arise
- the proposed dwellings at Nans Avallon seem to be on an even bigger scale than those proposed in the last application (which was withdrawn). The Environment Agency has stated that, because it is on a flood plain, Nans Avallon is not a suitable site for development. The owner of the property has reportedly been told to reinstate the culvert which was destroyed on his orders
- the water hydrant marker near the bus stop has been recently broken
- one of the stays supporting the electricity pole near the bus stop is broken
- parking at the top of Well Lane continues to present visibility problems for drivers turning out on to Fore Street
- although the road sweeper has done an excellent job, it has not gone to the far end of Well Lane.

In the matter of the extension to the car-park, Mr Dawson stated that

- a recent article published in the Gweder Myras suggests that the Parish Council had gone about the process of creating this car-parking area without regard either to legal requirements or to building directives
- the plan suggests that the Parish Council intends felling trees in a Conservation Area and consequently he has made a complaint to Cornwall's Planning Enforcement Department about the matter
- if, as seems likely, vehicles will be parked under 'veteran' trees their weight will damage the roots which will lead to crown dieback and pose a consequent danger to residents
- a better plan than the one proposed would be for a single line of parking adjacent to the road.

In an attempt to reassure Mr Dawson, the Chairman stated that it had never been the intention of the Parish Council to fell any trees other than those condemned by the County Tree Officer. The Clerk reminded Mr Dawson that he had been sent copies of documents pertinent to the development, one of which had been a letter from the County Tree Officer drawing attention to the hazard posed by two trees.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the December meeting.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Cavanagh (otherwise engaged), Cllr Cummins (transport problems), Cllr Just (on holiday) and Cllr Williams (prior engagement) sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Gray proposed and it was agreed to accept these apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Carter declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 8 PA09/01460/F.

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 Wiseman proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, (Cllr Boote being absent from the last meeting, abstained), all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 19, 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 Wiseman offered his thanks for help freely and willingly given with the Christmas trees: in particular to Mr Russell Nicholls for the loan of his vehicle, to residents of Port Navas and Constantine and to fellow Councillors.

5 POLICE REPORT

PC Cook reported that, since November 15, three crimes (a theft of heating oil, criminal damage to a motor vehicle and an attempt to hot-wire a car) have been reported to the Police together with a further three calls in relation to anti-social behaviour on the Penbothidno estate.

CCllr Hatton reported that PCSO Huddlestone had not only helped with traffic control on Monday evening but had joined in with the carol singing – true Community Policing!

Having wished those present a happy Christmas, PC Cook left the meeting.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CCllr Hatton reported that

- the water butt on the path at Wheal Vyvyan has been removed
- that part of the Community Grants scheme which he controls has been oversubscribed. There is every likelihood that the Parish Council will receive applications for help with funding from organisations seeking to show community support for their project
- discussion concerning financial responsibility for the school run from the village to Mullion remains deadlocked: Cornwall Council will not change its stance. With the help of Charlotte Chadwick, the Community Network Manager for Helston and the Lizard Peninsula, parents have formed a group to try to move the matter forward
- a workshop with the emphasis on developments which ignore the conditional aspects of planning consent and designed for Senior Planning Enforcement Officers will take place early in the New Year
- grant-funding for the twelve affordable homes at Wheal Vyvyan has been approved and work must start on site before the end of January 2010 or the grant will be lost. Ownership of the so-called 'ransom' strip will be transferred without charge from Cornwall to Carrick Housing Association
- the Housing Survey identified a need for 18 affordable homes in the Parish: the construction of these twelve homes together with individual permissions for affordable development largely meets this need
- street lights remain on because the new wireless technology is not working: this does not, however, result in an extra charge on ratepayers because the cost of the unmetered supply of electricity is fixed
- he has asked for the salt bin at Ponjeravah to be re-filled and for the one outside the Tolmen Centre to be reinstated. Although there are questions of responsibility, the highway at Brill has been repaired.

CCllr Hatton agreed to pursue the matter of water bubbling up through the tarmac on the highway on the Brillwater Road.

CCllr Hatton left the meeting, having wished those present a happy Christmas.

7 PARISH MATTERS

The extension to the car-park

In the absence of detailed advice from the County Tree Officer, members agreed to defer further decision concerning the extent and manner of surfacing the extension to the car-park to the meeting in January.

Members noted that a complaint had been made to Cornwall Planning Enforcement Department concerning the proposed felling of a tree in a Conservation Area: the Clerk advised that this matter has been resolved.

Letters from Mr and Mrs Baker and from Mr Dawson were read and noted by Councillors.

Litter bins in the village

Following on from last month's visit from Andy Mead (Cornwall Council's Environment Operations Manager West Division) Members noted that a number of litter bins in Constantine are in a very poor condition. In the knowledge that Cornwall Council cannot afford to replace them, Cllr Nicholls proposed Cllr Wiseman seconded all in favour that a maximum sum of £300 should be spent on the purchase of three litter bins. The Clerk was asked to liaise with Andy Mead about these bins.

The Recreation Ground

In the matter of the boundary fence, the Clerk reported that Mr Peacey has quoted £620 to replace the eight posts which are rotten. Members noted that, to enable access to carry out this work, the wire mesh needs to be cut, the posts replaced and the wire mesh then stretched and re-stitched – hence the possibly unexpectedly high cost of the quotation. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all in favour to accept Mr Peacey's quotation in the sum of £620 for the replacement of eight posts on the Recreation Ground boundary fence.

Members considered the purchase of a new mower for use on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported that Di-Mar Garden Machinery has forwarded a quotation for a new Husqvarna YTH 200 twin and has offered to take the old machine in part-exchange. Following discussion, the Clerk was asked to obtain a quotation (which includes an offer for the old machine) for a new Husqvarna YTH 200 twin from Celtic Engineering. A decision on the matter will be made in January.

The Bus Shelter

Members considered the state of repair of the bus shelter. Following discussion, it was agreed that, although as a result of vandalism the bus shelter looks unsightly, it serves its purpose.

Young People

In the absence of Cllr Just there was no report on young people and the Youth Club.

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

PA09/01460/F Mr J Richards – Erection of an agricultural machinery store – Ponjeravah Cottage, Constantine. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Councillors note that there is no agricultural holding number attached to Ponjeravah Cottage (the garden and grounds of which comprise a total land area of 5.32 acres) and no supporting recommendation from the County Land Agent. They therefore request that planning permission for the proposed agricultural machinery store be refused. If however the Planning Officer is minded to support the application they would ask that a legally binding undertaking which restricts the use of this store to agricultural machinery (catalogued as such) is required.*

PA09/01483/F Mr M & Mrs S Dickinson – Change of use from holiday let to permanent residential accommodation – The Old Smithy, Jobs Water. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council queries the potential for any permanent residential use which this very small dwelling can sustain and therefore cannot support the application.*

As an occasional employer of the applicant, Cllr Carter declared a personal interest in the following application. He remained in the room, retained the Chair, but took no part in either the discussion or the voting.

PA09/01496/F Mr R Badcock – Temporary stationing of a mobile home and installation of a septic tank – Little Trevaney, High Cross. Cllr Reynolds proposed, Cllr Boote seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council strongly supports this application.*

PA09/01548/FE Mrs J Harris – Extension of time for the erection of dwelling (of decision notice number PA06/02023/O) dated 17 January 2007 – The Reens, Brillwater. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *In the light of climate change and local concerns about flooding in this area Constantine Parish Council can no longer support this application.*

PA09/01552/F Rawlingsend Ltd – Erection of 3 dwellings – Nans Avallon, Brillwater Road, Constantine. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *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 flooding downstream. They believe the proposed dwellings are of an inappropriate design which is not in keeping with that of neighbouring existing properties. They note that the proposed dwellings are of 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 and it is the Parish Council's belief that a fire engine will be unable to access this development. 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.

PA09/01562/F Mr M Miller – Extensions to dwelling – Sunbeam Villa, Seworgan. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

Correspondence

Mr P.A.Wippell re PA09/01460/F copy of letter of objection addressed to Cornwall Planning – *noted*

9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

CC extra street cleaning facilities to cover special events in the parish – *noted*

CC proposed street naming and numbering policy – *noted*

CRASAC acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

Cornwall Blind Association acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

CC Mary Cooper Head of Localism announcement of retirement from the Council – *noted*

CPRE Fieldwork Newsletter – *noted*

Audit Commission appointment of external auditor – *noted*

Di-Mar Garden Machinery Christmas card – *noted*

Inter-Link Cornwall newsletter – *noted*

Boundary Committee Electoral review of Cornwall: final recommendations – *noted*

Southern Electric Contracting Christmas card – *noted*

CC road closure Nancenoy to Lower Goongilling (January 25-30 January 0930 – 1630) – *noted*

CC Consultation on Parking Order – *noted*

CC Town and Parish Council newsletter (November) – *noted*

Tony Mogford play area inspection (issues with the Hags multi-play) – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct magazine – *noted*

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Boote all in favour that the Precept for the year 2010/2011 be set at £28,000. It was noted that this represents a weekly charge to residents of 72.81p on a Band D house (and a year-on-year increase of £6.57). Members noted that the cost of vandalism during the last twelve months has exceeded £2,000 – a cost which is borne directly by rate-payers resident in the parish.

Members considered the Clerk's salary. Following discussion, Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all in favour to set the Clerk's salary at point 26 (which is currently set at an hourly rate of £11.549) with effect from April 1, 2010. Additionally, it was agreed to make the Clerk's salary a matter for discussion at the informal meeting before the Annual Precept is set.

Members considered a request from the Helford River Children's Sailing Trust for financial help towards the Trust's work. It was proposed by Cllr Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Boote, all others in favour that the sum of £50 be forwarded to the Helford River Children's Sailing Trust under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members considered a request from Tanya's Courage Trust for help with funding their work of supporting young people in Cornwall aged 16 – 25 with cancer. Following discussion it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council cannot accede to this request.

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at December 17, 2009. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

The following accounts were presented for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Mr G.Jorey	£ 264.80		
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 46.40		
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 299.80		
South West Water (public convenience)	£ 99.57		
South West Water (cemetery)	£ 30.82		
Gweek Garage	£ 20.00	£ 17.39	£ 2.61
Mr Gribble (Youth work November)	£ 100.00		
RTS Garden Services (cemetery)	£ 526.12	£ 457.50	£ 68.62
C.M.Coade (Christmas trees)	£ 175.50		
E.Watts and Sons (Christmas trees)	£ 189.00	£ 164.35	£ 24.65
Veolia (ES) Ltd (November)	£ 52.62	£ 45.76	£ 6.86
Veolia (ES) Ltd (Duty of Care admin)	£ 34.50	£ 30.00	£ 4.50
Mr B.Gribble (Youth work December)	£ 75.00		
Mr K.Pinch (public convenience)	£ 30.00		
Colin Chapman			
Salary (November)	£ 332.41		
telephone	£ 14.80		
office expenses	£ 40.95		
travelling	£ 26.52		
shackles	£ 5.26		
use of home	£ 25.00		
	total	£ 444.94	

Proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Bolt, all others in favour that the above fifteen accounts be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

Barclays Bank plc (Interest)	£ 3.01
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11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

12 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Carter thanked all those who have recently worked so hard to make the village look so attractive. He added that Constantine looks very festive and that the tree in the church is especially eye-catching.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday January 21, 2010 at 7:00pm in The Vestry.

Wishing everybody present a very happy Christmas, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:49pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....