

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, January 21, 2010 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 K.Cavanagh	Cllr R.J.Williams
Cllr D.Cummins	
Cllr C.Gray	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Cornwall Councillor Hatton, Mrs Clare Salmon (Carrick Housing Development Officer) and Mr Slater.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors and in particular Mrs Clare Salmon (Carrick Housing Development Officer) to the January meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Concerns were expressed about

- the apparent wastage of electricity (and the cost both in financial terms and to the planet) of keeping public lighting turned on full throughout the hours of darkness. It was suggested that the lights might be dimmed or even turned off in the early hours of the morning, although it was recognised that this might give rise to alarm amongst property owners. It was noted that the cost of electricity powering public lighting is fixed regardless of how many kilowatts are used. The Clerk was asked to write to County expressing members' and residents' concerns about this matter
- the glass doors of the public notice-board, which are impossible to open. The Clerk agreed to contact Mr Jorey once again about this issue
- Transition Constantine has been afforded the opportunity to site an electric eco-car in the village and is seeking a suitable place to garage and re-charge it. It was agreed to make this an agenda item at the next meeting.

CCllr Hatton said that he is considering alternating between attending meetings of Mawnan Parish Council and Constantine Parish Council (both of which are held on the same night of the month). When he does not attend, his intention is to send a written report. He introduced Mrs Clare Salmon who is the Carrick Housing Development Officer. Carrick Housing is a wholly owned subsidiary of Cornwall Council: it is the County's Registered Social Landlord with responsibility for developing Exception Sites.

Speaking of the proposed development at Wheal Vyvyan and in answer to questions, Mrs Salmon said that

- some eighteen months ago, Miss Julia Goldsworthy MP had asked Carrick Housing to look at the Wheal Vyvyan scheme
- difficulties had arisen because of separate ownership of the two parcels of land: that is, the land with existing planning permission and the 'ransom' access strip
- Cornwall Council has given right of access to Carrick Housing over the 'ransom strip', but retains ownership of it
- Carrick Housing has commissioned Midas Homes to develop twelve affordable homes on this site. Once completed, these dwellings will become the property of Carrick Housing
- contracts still have to be signed, but it is hoped this final hurdle will be cleared within two weeks
- work should start before the end of February and it is anticipated that the contract will be completed within eleven months

- a considerable central government grant towards the project, backed up further with financial help from Cornwall Council has meant that the timetable has been considerably shorter than is normal
- the dwellings will be built to ‘Sustainable Homes Level 3’ a level beyond that which is required
- the fact that this is an ‘exception site’ means that a planning condition has been imposed in perpetuity on the dwellings. This requires them to be rented firstly to people resident in the parish and then to people resident in neighbouring parishes and so on: a cascading tier of supplying need.

Members expressed concerns about possible future development on adjoining land, particularly now that access is easy. Mrs Salmon said that Cornwall’s ownership of the ‘ransom strip’ means that there will be a financial cost to any future private developer wishing to have access over the strip, but that she understands that each and every application is judged on its merits and noted that the land adjoining the Wheal Vyvyan site lies outside the village development boundary.

On behalf of members, the Chairman thanked Mrs Salmon for coming and observed that, at last, provision of this much-needed affordable housing in the village is within sight.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Just (family reasons), PC Cook and PCSO Huddleston sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Nicholls proposed Cllr Wiseman seconded all in favour to accept these apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Cavanagh declared a personal and prejudicial interest in Agenda Item 9 09/00499/SEC73 and 09/00270/WAS.

Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in Agenda Item 11, the request for financial help from Constantine Women’s Institute.

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 Gray seconded, (Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Cummins and Cllr Williams being absent from the last meeting, abstained), all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday December 17, 2009 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

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

There were no matters arising.

5 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Cook reported that, since December 17, 2009 six crimes (all of criminal damage) have been reported to the Police together with a number of calls in relation to anti-social behaviour during the recent cold snap.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR’S REPORT

Cllr Hatton reported that

- the Unitary Authority’s requirement for those in need to re-register on the housing list had resulted in a drop of 12,000 applicants from the combined lists of the six District Councils
- Polwheveral Road will be closed at the end of January to allow BT to connect their wires to the new posts
- Cornwall Council has created designated areas covering the Recreation Ground, the Cemetery and the Car Park where a Police Officer may ask someone who is drinking to desist. Members noted that this has been done at the request of Constantine Parish Council.

In answer to a question about the apparently favourable terms under which Newquay Airport is presently operating, Cllr Hatton said that this is a complex area and that he was not in a position to give a definitive answer. He did, however, undertake to look into the matter further.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Members agreed that, unless there are pressing reasons for change, the dates for the meetings in 2010/2011 will be as follows

February 18, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
March 18, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
April 15, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
May 20, 2010	Annual Parish Meeting
May 20, 2010	Annual Meeting
June 17, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
July 15, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
September 16, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
October 21, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
November 18, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
December 16, 2010	Ordinary Meeting
January 20, 2011	Ordinary Meeting
February 17, 2011	Ordinary Meeting

Public Question Time will precede all meetings which are due to begin at 7:00pm

8 PARISH MATTERS

The extension to the car-park

Following receipt of detailed advice from the County Tree Officer, there was prolonged debate about the creation of a dedicated parking area and the nature of its surface. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Cavanagh seconded all in favour that, with the proviso that further options should be considered in the interim period, any decisions concerning the extension to the car-park should be deferred for a period of six months.

Apologising, Cllr Cummins left the meeting.

Provision of salt/grit bins throughout the parish

In the light of the recent bad weather, members considered the provision of salt/grit bins in the parish. It was noted that within the last year bins have been removed from a number of locations and that the complete absence of road-clearing or gritting on minor roads in particular had resulted in residents being marooned in their communities for nearly a week. Members also noted that, for some while, the village itself had been inaccessible for the relief of medical emergencies other than by the Air Ambulance – which only flies during daylight hours.

CCllr Hatton stated that he had made a request before Christmas for the bins at the Tolmen Centre and at Ponjerevah to be reinstated and for the Highways Authority to look at the provision of bins at other strategic sites in the parish. It had not helped matters that the original bins had been vandalised nor that, in the recent spell of bad weather, salt designed for the highway had been appropriated by individuals for use on their own properties. Nevertheless, he has agreed to use some of his Community Grant funding to pay for extra bins for the parish and Cornwall Highways has undertaken to keep them full of salt.

Members agreed that the Parish Council has a certain responsibility for the well-being of residents and decided to resurrect the Emergency Committee (which, in the past, collated details of local people available to help at difficult times) at the earliest opportunity. Further, Councillors were broadly in agreement with the sentiment expressed that, during the recent emergency, able-bodied members of the community should have made every effort to clear the snow from the footpaths outside their homes.

The Clerk was asked to write to Cornwall Council requesting that, during future spells of snowy or freezing weather, higher priority be given to gritting the road through the village.

The Recreation Ground

Members considered the purchase of a replacement mower for use on the Recreation Ground. The Clerk reported receipt of two quotations for a new Husqvarna YTH 200 twin (both of which had included an allowance for the old machine): one from Di-Mar Garden Machinery and the other from Celtic Engineering. Following discussion, Councillor Wiseman proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all in favour to accept the quotation from Di-Mar Garden Machinery in the sum of £2,004.00

The historic fingerpost near the Primary School

Members considered the repair of the historic fingerpost near the school which had been broken on New Year's Eve by someone who had deemed it unnecessary either to report the accident or to pay for the

damage. The Clerk reported that he had made every attempt to contact Chris Biddick of Cornwall Highways about the matter, but to no avail. The Chairman reported that he had spoken to a welder who was confident that he could repair the sign *in situ*. Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Reynolds seconded all in favour that, if it is possible to weld it on site, the fingerpost should be repaired at the Parish Council's expense.

Young People

No report on the work of the Youth Club had been received. Members asked that in future, if a representative is unable to attend in person, a written report be furnished for their information.

9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

PA09/01537/F Mr B Bowden – Installation of a 6kw wind turbine – Chegwidden Farm, Constantine. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Councillors support this application with the proviso that should planning permission be granted a condition be imposed requiring that in the event that the turbine ceases to generate electricity it and any associated structures are dismantled and removed from the site. They would further observe that the Planning Authority should be mindful of the cumulative effect on the landscape of these turbines.*

PA09/01617/F Mr & Mrs R Kerswell – Erection of a replacement dwelling (amended design) – Oak View, Ponjeravah. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Gray seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Councillors support this application with the proviso that a condition is imposed requiring the use of non-reflective glass on the gable of the east elevation.*

As a cousin of the applicant, Cllr Cavanagh declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following two applications and was not present while they were discussed

09/00270/WAS L L Winn & Son Ltd – application for the continued operation and extensions of the Waste Transfer/Recycling site – Herniss Farm, Longdowns. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *The sole observation that Constantine Parish Councillors would like to make on this application is that should planning permission be granted a legally binding condition is imposed requiring the link between footpath 52 in the parish of Constantine and footpath 29 in the parish of Stithians is reinstated.*

09/00499/SEC73 L L Winn & Son Ltd – application to vary/delete certain conditions on planning permission (Decision Notice K51) – Herniss Farm, Longdowns. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Gray seconded and it was agreed that that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Councillors have no observations.*

Correspondence

CC agenda for West sub-area planning committee meeting January 19, 2010 – *noted*

CC re outline planning permission for the construction of a dwelling at Reens

10 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that, as requested, he had tried to contact Andy Mead about the purchase of suitable replacement litter bins but that he had so far been unsuccessful.

Correspondence

SITA Falmouth Household Waste Re-cycling centre at Carveth Farm (update) – *noted*

Mrs Stoffel Christmas card and donation towards the maintenance of the churchyard – *members noted that the Clerk has written to thank Mrs Stoffel*

CC Town and Parish Council Newsletter December – *noted*

Mr G.Roberts re the broken historic fingerpost near the primary school – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct newsletter – *noted*

Port Navas Village Hall programme of events – *noted*

Constantine Cottage Garden Society request to use the Recreation Ground from July 15-18 – *Constantine Parish Council, acting as the Management Trustee of the Alice Hext Charity, agreed to this request*

Helford River Children's Sailing Trust acknowledgement of and thanks for donation – *noted*

Mrs Bennett (Secretary Constantine WI) damage sustained to the hall in Bowling Green Road – *noted*

CALC The County Bulletin – *noted*

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered a request from Adam Sibley of Liskeard for help with funding the cost of a series of films dealing with issues affecting young people. Following discussion, it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council cannot accede to this request.

As the husband of a member of the Women's Institute, Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in the following request for financial help. He remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or the voting.

Members considered a request from Constantine WI for help with funding the cost of repair to the WI Hall following recent vandalism. Following discussion, Cllr Williams proposed Cllr Wiseman seconded all in favour to forward the sum of £100 to Constantine Women's Institute under the terms of S137 of the LGA 1972.

Members considered a request from St Constantine Parish Church Council for help with funding essential works to the Lych Gate path. Cllr Wiseman proposed Cllr Cavanagh seconded all in favour to forward the sum of £100 to Constantine Parochial Church Council under the terms of S137 of the LGA 1972.

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at January 21, 2010. 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	£ 58.00		
Constantine Stores (sundries)	£ 37.50	£ 32.61	£ 4.89
Church Hall (November and December)	£ 66.00		
Gweek Garage	£ 27.24	£ 23.69	£ 3.55
EDF Energy (public lighting)	£ 282.29	£ 268.85	£ 13.44
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	£ 75.72	£ 65.84	£ 9.88
Colin Chapman			
Salary (December)	£ 332.61		
telephone	£ 17.92		
office expenses	£ 47.82		
travelling	£ 20.33		
use of home	£ 25.00		
	total	£ 443.68	

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

Members noted the following receipts

Mrs M.P.Stoffel (gift)	£ 50.00
Rev'd Stevens (memorial Mrs Bowden)	£ 101.00
Constantine Football Club	£ 50.00
Constantine Social Club	£ 568.75

12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Boote asked that the minutes should record the village's debt of gratitude to the shop-keepers and inn-keepers of the parish who did such a sterling job during the recent spell of bad weather by keeping their doors open and ensuring a supply of everyday essentials. Members heartily endorsed these comments.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday February 18, 2010 at 7:00pm in The Vestry.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9:17pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....