

LANREATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting:

18th October 2022 commencing 19.30

Present:

Mr Peter Seaman – Chairman, Mr David Heard – Vice Chairman, Mrs Eileen Lee, Mr John Williams, Mr John Gundry. Ms Sue Cave, Mr Peter Bartram, Mrs Rebecca Warren (Clerk).

Two members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Apologies:

None received

2. Members of the Public are invited to address the Council:

PCSO Steve Cocks submitted the following report to the meeting:

“From 01/09/22 – 30/09/22 I am pleased to report that there were no crimes however there has been a spate of vehicle and shed thefts in the Looe area so please remain vigilant and report any suspicious activity straightaway.

Numerous patrols have been conducted around the Parish and all was found to be in order.”

An email had been received by the Clerk from Mrs Sheila Lemon:

“About the absence of the village newsletter. When meeting people dog walking etc the one topic that comes up repeatedly is the lack of community spirit without the newsletter keeping everyone in touch with the latest news, events etc.

In order to make the position more attractive could there be a small salary to cover expenses and time. I know that Marion tried to make it self-funding but this was a struggle.”

With regard to this letter Chairman commented that it is a question of who will do the newsletter; a group did come together but lacked cohesion to move the project forward. The community perhaps should be canvased via the Facebook page. Production of a newsletter is best done by a team but it is not something that the Parish Council could take on, although there may be scope for a small financial donation which could be considered by the council if a group presents a plan.

Mr Peter Hooper addressed the meeting regarding the consultation on proposed changes to Ocean Housing’s shared ownership homes, and the possible impact on the ongoing outstanding adoption of the road/footpath/provision of street lighting at Rally Close. There is apparently an outstanding issue regarding drainage that is an added complication. Mr Hooper asked if Lanreath Parish Council were aware of any other properties connected to the drainage meant for Rally Close – to which the response was, no. He referred to a number of emails passing between Chris Davies at Cornwall

Council and Richard Pugh in which repeated assurances were given by Cornwall Council that the road at Rally Close would be adopted, and footpaths and street lighting provided. Car parking area would remain in the ownership of Ocean Housing and a small service charge applied to the shared ownership properties. Mr Hooper expressed disappointment that County Cllr Martin was not present to respond to the concerns of the residents of Rally Close about the failure to adopt the road so far, and the possible further complication if Ocean Housing pass on their liability to a third party. Mr Hooper asked if it would be unreasonable to expect answers to these concerns by the date of the next Lanreath Parish Council meeting. Chairman asked if the emails he had referred to could please be passed on to the Parish Council (Clerk provided her and Chairman's email addresses) and this will be a matter that the Chairman will pursue with County Cllr Martin.

3. Disclosure of Interests:

As a resident of Rally Close, Cllr Williams declared an interest in the Ocean Housing consultation to be discussed under Correspondence.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting 24th September 2022:

Cllr Williams proposed that the minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Heard and agreed. The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. County Councillor's Report:

None.

6. Matters arising:

- Lanreath Parish Councillors on the Cornwall Council Website

The Clerk will send reminders to Cllrs Tamblyn, and Pugh to return the forms sent to them on 8th July

- Play Area Repairs

These were completed yesterday and the invoice received today. Clerk has sent a request to Furzedown Turbine Fund for payment.

- EDF Smart Meter

This was fitted on 4th October and is sending meter readings (previously supplied to the Clerk by Cllr Gundry) direct to EDF.

- Lost Dogs – County Cllr Martin

The Chair had sent a follow-up email to Cllr Martin on 15th August but no reply has yet been received.

- Downsizing Incentives – County Cllr Martin

Cllr Martin had sent an email to Cornwall Housing on 20th July with a number of queries on Downsizing Incentives but no reply has been received to date.

- Shared Prosperity Fund

Chairman outlined the Government's plan for local funding (see web site ciosgoodgrowth.com for further information). There are four Growth Opportunity funds. Dates for applications (first one was prior to this meeting) ; 2nd December 2022; 3rd March 2023; Review point (final): 4th August 2023. May be of interest to community groups in Lanreath.

- Publication of meeting minutes in "Parish News for Lanteglos, Lanreath, Lansallos, Pelynt & Talland"

Chairman reported to the meeting that this is published once every two months, currently thirty copies go to the shop and Post Office, and thirty to the Church - but more could be provided. The Editor advised that a half a page (it does not have to be exactly that) would normally cost £220/year and is happy to help to facilitate inclusion of Lanreath Parish Council information, as long as it covers printing costs of £100/year.

With the demise of Lanreath Lifestyle this would provide a limited platform for publicising a synopsis of the draft Lanreath Parish Council Minutes – but there would be an information 'lag' as not all meetings could be covered, due to the publication dates.

Cllr Gundry showed the meeting a copy of the publication and it became clear that even a half page would not be sufficient to publish the draft minutes in full, and they would have to be summarized – which the Clerk agreed to provide. As to cost, after some discussion Chairman proposed that edited draft minutes should be submitted for publication for the next year and an offer to cover costs of £160 annually – which would be incorporated in the Budget for the coming year. Cllr Bartram seconded. Approved. Clerk is to contact the Editor with this decision and edited draft minutes for the next issue, with a link to the Parish Web Site for the full minutes.

- PA22/07695

Consultees comments submitted by Chairman online

- Lanreath Village Hall

Nothing to report

- Testing of electric socket at Millennium Building

Max Facey kindly inspected the cable at the base of Millennium Green flag pole and advised that it is a mineral insulated type and is suitable for the application. There is no specific requirement for electrical testing in this scenario but it is advisable to complete an Electrical Installation Condition Report periodically. He could provide this for £125 including VAT. There are still some funds remaining in unplanned maintenance. Cllr Bartram tasked with seeking a second estimate for these works and to report to next meeting.

- Public footpath signage

Chairman's apologies, he is yet to walk the path, but will do so.

- Dog waste bin at entrance to Village Hall

It had been reported that Biffa had taken to tying a spare bin bag to the support post, to be used when the bin was full rather than, apparently, increasing the frequency of emptying. Chairman has taken this up with Cornwall Council and hopefully the frequency of emptying should now be increased.

- Empty property at No. 1 Pine Villas

There has been no response from Cornwall Housing, and this has been empty since November 2021. Chairman will endeavour to contact County Cllr Martin and ascertain who at Cornwall Council has responsibility for this matter to try and find out when the property will be occupied.

- Carlyon Close Play Area

PCSO Steve Cocks has written to residents requesting that no ball games be played at the top of the Close, following reports of balls being kicked at vehicles and causing damage. There is an option to post a 'No Ball Game' advisory notice on the play / community green space at the northern end of the Close rather than go through the lengthy legal process to create a byelaw – which requires approval by The Secretary of State. Chairman tasked with seeking cost details for suitable signage.

- Benches on Millennium Green

Chairman will attend to power washing these once the hosepipe ban is lifted, unless someone in the community is prepared to clean them with a bucket and a scrubbing brush.

7. Correspondence:

All correspondence received via email unless otherwise indicated; all circulated by the Clerk to Councillors.

Cornwall Council Correspondence

- Weekly planning lists
- CALC updates during the period of national mourning – various dates
- Supplementary agenda to the agenda for Strategic Planning Committee meeting 15th September – 14th September
- Expressions of Interest Community Network Panel Highways Scheme - 20th September
- Agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee meeting 3rd October – 21st September
- Change of date for meeting 13th October Strategic Planning Committee – 26th September
- Forest for Cornwall Newsletter – 30th September
- Liskeard & Looe Community Network Panel Meeting 5th September minutes – 29th September
- Potential Devolution Deal for Cornwall – 30th September

Chairman reported to the meeting that Cornwall Council have stated that the "Leader of the Council, along with Cornwall's MPs, have requested the that the Government allow Cornwall Council to secure an ambitious Level 3 devolution deal

without any governance changes being required. Therefore, no further steps in developing a proposed deal will be taken until such time as clarification is provided by the Government". However, the BBC reported on 7th October that this had not gone ahead and that the Council Leader (County Cllr Linda Taylor) confirmed the council was told it needed a directly-elected mayor to secure the highest level of devolution. A six to eight week public consultation period is proposed but a referendum has been ruled out due to cost.

Chairman suggested that it is for individual councillors to decide whether to join the online petition for a referendum regarding an elected Mayor – petition closes 30th October.

- Minutes for East Sub-Area Planning Committee meeting 3rd October – 6th October

Other Correspondence

- Possible loss of Cornwall Fire Control – request for support for campaign – 20th September
- The Rural Bulletin – 21st and 27th September and 4th October
- Potential application for drought permit order in the Restormel area catchment – 26th September.

Vice Chairman had attended an online presentation re: SWW proposed application to increase their temporary Fowey River abstraction so as to restore water levels at Colliford Lake Reservoir. Levels there are currently 20% and should be 60%-70%. Assurances were given regarding monitoring fish numbers. Vice Chairman raised concerns about this situation being a regular occurrence unless water infrastructure is maintained and improved – and assurances were given regarding substantial investment. The formal submission of the application for abstraction was made on 13th October. Paper copies of the drought permit application documents are available for public inspection for seven days from 13 October and are also available online at <https://www.southwestwater.co.uk/services/save-water/hosepipeban/restormel-drought-permit/>

- Volunteer Cornwall – 27th September
- Top 15 Cornish Buildings at risk – 24th September
- Consultation on proposed changes to Ocean Housing's shared ownership homes – 4th October.

Chairman reported that the Clerk had received and circulated to the Councillors copies of notices sent to residents of Rally Close from Ocean Housing indicating that they are preparing to divest themselves of their part in the shared ownership properties, and to transfer their interest to another registered proprietor. The concern is that this could cause further issues for residents requiring confirmation of the adoption of the estate road. Chairman will engage County Cllr Martin in this matter as a matter of urgency as the consultation period ends 4th November. In addition checks will be made that all residents received the notices that were copied to the Clerk. Cllr Gundry proposed that the Chairman proceed to contact County Cllr Martin and seek some assurance for the residents. Cllr Lee seconded. All agreed – Cllr Williams not voting.

8. Planning – two applications for consideration:

PA22/08102 Conversion of existing disused, lawful building into a dwellinghouse at South Park Farm, Road from Tremabe Lane to Polpover, Herodsfoot (consultees comments to be submitted 19th October).

After careful consideration of the planning history of the site, perusal of the planning application and documents in support, and Councillors discussing their local knowledge of the site use in the recent past, it was proposed by Chairman, and seconded by Cllr Williams that comments should be submitted online as follows:

“On the basis that the building has not been in use as authorised by planning approval PA12/11507 (decision dated 3rd May 2013) for fruit/vegetable preparation at any time in the last ten years, Lanreath Parish Council cannot support this application.”

Approved by a majority. Clerk to submit.

PA22/08141 Removal of condition 9 (The occupation of the converted barn as a dwelling shall not take place until the proposed extension (denoted as office on the approved plans) is built and used for Class B1 use only) of planning application 05/01806/FUL at Trequers Barn, Bocaddon (consultees comments to be submitted by 19th October).

After consideration of the planning history of the site, and perusing photographs of the current use of the office area, it was unanimously approved that Lanreath Parish Council support the application. Clerk to submit comments online.

9. South West Water – help for customers in water poverty (email 13th July):

Chairman will upload a link to the Parish website, and Cllr Gundry will link to Facebook – Clerk to forward details to them.

10. Code of Conduct:

Cllr Gundry had prepared extended notes on a May 2021 briefing from Cornwall Council Officers and also an amended Code of Conduct with explanatory notes which everyone at the meeting had had the opportunity to consider fully. The meeting considered how to populate the square brackets for training periods in para 2.16. It was proposed by the Cllr Gundry, seconded by Cllr Bartram and agreed that the amended Code be adopted and the periods of 6 months and 2 years be inserted in the square brackets at clause 2.16. All agreed. This document will be posted on the Parish web site by the Chairman. Councillors will advise Clerk when they have completed training and she will keep a record.

11. Climate Change

Cllr Cave reported to the meeting regarding her previous indication that she would seek to measure the sustainability of her business via the free service offered by Exeter University, however the process required her to engage in an intensive six hour survey, which she deemed inappropriate to the size of her business.

She reported as to the Carbon Neutral Cornwall Newsletter which contains details of how to participate in the consultation for our region regarding the Government's net zero by 2050 plans. The deadline for participation is 27th October. Details can be found on the Cornwall Council web site – Climate Emergency Carbon Neutral Cornwall 2030.

There is the opportunity to try an electric vehicle at Royal Cornwall Showground 28th and 29th October – free event, register online via E-motion.

12. Lanreath Parish Council Budget Sub Committee formation:

Chairman reported that he, Vice Chair, and Clerk met online for consultation on 2023/24 Budget on 13th October. The principal challenge is determining likely inflation figure for this period. It is hoped that the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) report and Bank of England's MPC Monetary Policy Report will be available ahead of the Lanreath Parish Council November meeting to provide guidance. Due to the generosity of The Furzedown Community Fund some budget line items will remain unspent. This with the balance of unspent contingencies means that reserves at the end of the current financial year will be in the region of £4,717. Using a 6% inflation figure this would allow the Precept to remain unchanged for 2023/24 at £13,900, while providing some latitude to incrementally build the General Reserve from the current £1,000 to £3,200 (general guidance for smaller councils suggests that an amount equivalent to one year's precept would be a sensible figure for a General Reserve in addition to specific contingencies). JIC have published proposed pay and allowance increases for local council employees for 2022/23 it is proposed that this is used as budget basis for the Clerk's remuneration and expenses in due course when the Budget is considered at the November meeting.

13. Equality for all:

Mr Chris Goninan's letter 8th September refers, in which he proposes that Government should be made aware of the struggle of some in rural communities having no access to and/or lacking the necessary skills to use digital technology. He requests feedback from Lanreath Parish Council. Chairman suggested that we cannot be sure how much this affects our community, and how would that be ascertained. Cllr Gundry offered to research and identify organisations that could assist at village level.

14. Finances:

Payments approved 24th September and paid since last meeting:

Dunn & Dusted	£90
Clerk's salary September	£334.60
Lanreath Village Hall	£25
Inter account transfers	£1,300

Outstanding payments due before the next meeting, for approval:

Dunn & Dusted – grass cutting	£180
D.Northcott	£108
Clerk's October salary, expenses, tax	£345
Village Hall hire	£25
D. Hilton – PAYE work (October)	£10
SWW – due early November, Clerk's estimate	£66
HSD online Toilet supplies (Paid By Chairman)	£68.38 (inc VAT)
Direct 365 Toilet supplies (Paid by Chairman)	£60.94 (inc VAT)
Total	£863.32

Cllr Bartram proposed that these payments be approved, seconded by Vice Chairman – all agreed.

Payments approved but not yet made: EDF £150, Clerk's training £144, D. Hilton £20, VAT on Play Area repairs £308.

Bank Balances as at 6th October:

Deposit A/C 07083384	£7,652.64
Current A/C 00105609	£939.26

Bank reconciliation for end September and bank statements – circulated to all Councillors

Inter A/C transfer approval for £550 required. Cllr Cave proposed that the inter account transfer be approved, seconded by Cllr Lee – all agreed.

Clerk has placed order with Royal British Legion for a wreath in readiness for Remembrance Day in November at a cost of £20, as approved at the September meeting.

Dunn & Dusted have yet to submit an invoice for footpath works for which Clerk can claim reimbursement under the Local Maintenance Plan from Cornwall Council. Chairman will walk the footpath and check what works are required so that Clerk can contact Dunn & Dusted.

15. Parish Problems:

Chairman has received reports on the following:-

-Non-collection of some recycling items from Rally Close and Windwards Close – householders affected should report online to Cornwall Council – apparently the contractor maintains CCTV footage of collections.

- Irregular height of the hedge on Millennium Green after the recent trimming– partly due to the mixed hedge, consisting of laurel, hawthorn, brambles etc. Proposed that Ant Dunn be asked to provide a quote for thinning some of the heavier branches in the hedge in the early Spring – mainly laurel - so that new growth is easier to maintain neatly.

Chairman has observed that some rust is weeping through the steelwork on the Millennium Building – somewhat disappointing after the work carried out – if treated with rust stabiliser and overpainted at this stage it may well be sufficient. Chairman will attend to this.

16. Any other business:

None.

17. Public Participation:

No members of the public were present, having left the meeting earlier.

18. Date and time of next meeting:

Tuesday 15th November 2022 at 7.30pm.
The Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

The meeting closed at 21:57.