

LANREATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting

20th June 2023 commencing 19.30

Present

Cllr Peter Seaman – Chairman, Cllr Peter Bartram, Cllr Sue Cave, Cllr John Gundry, Cllr Eileen Lee, Cllr John Williams, Mrs Rebecca Warren - Clerk

No members of the public.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr David Heard, Cllr Julie Tamblyn, Cllr Daniel Pugh

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

An emailed report received from PCSO Cocks was read out by the Clerk:

“Please accept my apologies for my nonattendance at this months’ Parish Council meeting.

From 01/05/23 – 31/05/23 there were 2 crimes both thefts, 1 of which has been detected and is being dealt with by way of Community Resolution.

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

If there are any questions or matters arising for my attention then please contact me in the usual manner.”

Cllr Cave informed the meeting that she had spoken to the residents who had reported the damage to their property on the road to Stonerush Lakes that appeared to have been caused by an out of control/speeding vehicle. They had reported this to the Police as long ago as 8th May via an online form, and as yet had not received any acknowledgement. Clerk was tasked with emailing PCSO Cocks to express the concern of the Lanreath Parish Council about the delay in response from Devon and Cornwall Police.

Chairman proposed that he make contact with the manager of the Stonerush site to suggest that lodge users be warned of the dangers and take particular care on the narrow country lane with blind bends, although no accusation is being made that it was a lodge user that caused the damage to the parishioners’ property.

Cllr Cave seconded, agreed unanimously. Cllr Gundry will provide details of the site manager to the Chairman.

3. Disclosure of Interests

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 16th May 2023

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

5. County Councillor's Report

None in the absence of Cty Cllr Martin. Cllr Cave expressed her disappointment that the Cty Cllr was absent as she had a question for him regarding an article in an issue of the Rural Bulletin which referred to Government grants of £775,000 being available to local authorities for anti-fly-tipping work. Clerk tasked with making enquiries of the Cty Cllr/ Cornwall Council in this regard.

6. Matters arising

- Downsizing Incentives – review of the response to the Freedom of Information Act request

Clerk had circulated the response received from Cornwall Council dated 24th May which stated that no payments had been made to tenants, nor was there any policy to make payments.

- Empty Property at No. 1 Pine Villas

Clerk had circulated the response from the Casework Assist enquiry dated 23rd May which advised that the property is still undergoing repair, but it is tenanted. The tenants had been living elsewhere whilst the repair work was being undertaken.

- Rust on steelwork Millennium Building

Chairman reported that he had wire brushed, stabilised, and painted the affected area.

- Public footpath signage and repair

Chairman reported that all the signs have now been replaced, and all that remains is to repair a stile, between the Glebe and Court Barton fields, which he will attend to.

- Coronation commemorative mugs – disposal of remaining

Chairman reported that there may still be some mugs to be collected from the shop, but there will be a few left. Meeting resolved, after some discussion, that the remaining mugs be raffled off and proceeds go to the Village Hall roof repair fund. Cllr Williams volunteered to liaise with the Village Shop to set up the raffle, £1 per strip of tickets, with the draw taking place at the July Lanreath Parish Council meeting. One mug to be kept for historical interest purposes and retained by the Village Hall. Cllr Williams tasked with proceeding with the raffle, and to advise the Chairman of the Village Hall committee.

- Community Garden access

Chairman had circulated the email response from the owner of the Community Garden, who was clearly most upset about the possibility of an application to register it as a Community Asset. There had been no response from her regarding the access issue, as possibly she was awaiting the councillors' decision regarding

registration – to be discussed later at this meeting. There was some discussion regarding how the registration procedure would affect the landowner, and whether it may prompt a decision to market the land. Cllr Williams expressed his concern that the Parish Council should be wary of spending possibly hundreds of pounds on the access to land not owned by the community. He further advised that the gates at the bottom of the site appear to be rotting in parts, and replacing with new gates could cost hundreds of pounds.

Cllr Bartram enquired as to who owned the land at Carlyon Close that Lanreath Parish Council pay for grass cutting – Clerk tasked with checking through the documents in her possession for further information. Cllr Gundry suggested that a Land Registry search could be paid for – at minimal cost – if the parish records do not assist.

- Unauthorised building in the parish

Chairman had received an acknowledgement and report number from Planning Enforcement, but currently cases are taking up to 16 weeks to be dealt with. In the meantime the unauthorised works appear to be continuing. Councillors discussed their frustration with the failings in the system of enforcement making it a ‘toothless’ process.

- Post Box at the Village Shop

Vice-Chairman has ascertained that a replacement has been approved by the Post Office, but is yet to be put on site. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

- Inaugural Looe, Liskeard, and Cornwall gateway CAP meeting 6th June

Chairman thanked Vice-Chairman for being the Lanreath Parish Council representative on the CAP, and for circulating the minutes of the meeting on 6th June to all councillors. It was very much initial organisational process with some discussion as to priorities going forward. Vice-Chairman volunteered to participate on the Funding Panel Working Group to ensure that small parishes are represented.

- Introduction of waste food bins

Clerk informed the meeting that according to the Cornwall Council ‘Town and Parish Councils Bulletin’ weekly food waste collections and fortnightly rubbish and recycling collections would be introduced by the end of this year. The new collections are to be rolled out in five stages, area by area. Food waste containers, and a wheelie bin or protective sack will be supplied to each household in advance, and each household will be contacted directly with more information before they are introduced to their area.

- AGAR

Clerk confirmed that the AGAR form had been emailed to the external auditor, and acknowledged. In compliance with the requirement for the exercise of public rights of inspection the financial disclosure documentation had been uploaded to the Parish Website, and hard copies were at the Village Shop for anyone in the community to examine.

- Incident on the road to Stonerush Lakes

Councillors had considered this earlier in the meeting.

- Give Way sign at Punchbowl Inn Junction

The Chairman has received a response from CORMAC:

“Looking at the Streetview image, the junction seems more than clear enough from the layout, so I suspect the problem is not a failure to recognise there’s a give way requirement here, but just a failure always to adhere to it, or a tendency to assume not much is coming and look to keep going.

The Road Safety Team do not believe the addition of a give way triangle will make a difference here.”

- ‘Catastrophic Event’ recovery plan proposals

Clerk reported that she is still working on this and will provide a report prior to the July meeting.

- Councillor Vacancy

Cllr Gundry suggested that the proposed draft Vacancy Notice be amended to ensure that the link to the application form, and eligibility criteria documents on the Parish Website were direct. Clerk tasked with amending accordingly. Dates for applications, and decision, approved.

7. Correspondence

All correspondence received via email unless otherwise indicated; all circulated by the Clerk, or the Chairman, to councillors.

Cornwall Council

- Weekly planning lists
- Agenda for Strategic Planning Committee 18th May – 9th May
- Supplement: Committee Update to the agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 15th May – 12th May
- Supplementary agenda to the agenda for Strategic Planning Committee 18th May – 17th May
- Minutes for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 15th May – 19th May
- Liskeard & Looe and Cornwall Gateway Community Area Partnership – 24th May
- Cornwall Council Parking – 2023 Off-Street Parking Order – 25th May
- Inaugural Liskeard & Looe and Cornwall Gateway Community Area Partnership Meeting 6th June – 26th May
- Town and Parish Council Newsletter 2nd June – 2nd June
- Agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 12th June – 31st May

- Agenda for Strategic Planning Committee 15th June – 5th June
- Town and Parish Council Bulletin: Armed Forces Day National Event Cornwall – 5th June
- Supplement: Committee Updates to the agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 12th June – 9th June
- Local Council Planning Training 2023 – Planning induction refresher 11th July – 8th June
Chairman recommended this free training event to the meeting, it has a useful agenda.

Other Correspondence

(Any correspondence of community interest has been uploaded to the Parish Website/linked to Facebook by Chairman and Cllr Gundry)

- The Rural Bulletins – 3, 10, 16, 23, 31 Ma and 6 June
- NALC Chief Executive’s Bulletins – 12, 18, 25 May and 8 June
- NALC Events – 16, 23, 30 May
- NALC newsletter – 8, 10, 17, 24, 31 May and 7 June
- Motorbike Road Safety ‘Call for Ideas’ – 10th May
- Clean Cornwall Newsletter Issue 4 – 18th May
- Invitation to the Coronation Service of Commemoration – 14th April
- Parish Web & Host Cornwall – 18th May
- SLCC News Bulletin – 23rd May
- Enquiry regarding the damaged flagpole on the village green – 1st June

Chairman reported that there appear to be only two companies that supply/repair flagpoles. He intends to carry out a closer inspection of the damage to the top of the flagpole and will report in due course.

- Letter from The Chestnut Appeal – 6th June

Councillors agreed that charitable donations are outside the scope of the Parish Council’s current budget.

- Commissioners and Chief Constables for Devon and Cornwall Police and Dorset Police decision to separate Alliance Firearms and Explosives Licensing Unit – 6th June
- Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner survey to explore how crime is affecting rural communities – 5th June
- Ocean Housing Group Annual Partner Survey 2023 – 9th June

8. Tamar Toll Action Group request for support

The Chairman expressed his personal view, that abolishing the tolls completely would result in the costs of maintaining both crossings having to be borne by Council Tax payers in Plymouth and Cornwall. There is perhaps an argument for National Highways to adopt the Tamar Bridge, as it carries the A38 which would relieve some of the burden, but councillors expressed doubt that National Highways would accept the responsibility. After some discussion regarding discounting for Tamar Tag holders, and the lack of statistical evidence supporting the Toll Action Group's assertions regarding the toll charges causing visitor number decline, the Chairman proposed that Lanreath Parish Council would not support the Group. Cllr Gundry seconded, and it was unanimously resolved.

9. Devon and Cornwall Police and Crime Commissioner Road Safety Seminar – 17th July

Chairman reported that this free event is available for anyone to attend, and may be of interest to the councillors.

10. Assets of Community Value in Lanreath – Community Garden/ Football Pitch, Community Ownership Fund

Chairman gave a detailed report of his findings regarding the Community Ownership Fund, part of the Government's Levelling Up programme – for which there is a 25 page 'Self-Test' form to check eligibility for possible applicants. The £150m fund is only available to charitable organisations, and so Lanreath Parish Council is ineligible in any event. Councillors discussed the merits of possible registration of Community Assets, and considered on balance that the process could have a negative impact – as had already proved to be the case with the concerns raised by the Community Garden owner. Chairman proposed that Lanreath Parish Council resolve not to register assets of community value, Cllr Williams seconded, all agreed. Clerk tasked with writing to the Community Garden landowner to inform her of the decision.

11. Asset Inspection Regime

Cllr Williams volunteered to undertake a fortnightly inspection of the Community Garden, Millennium Green and Building, and the Village Play equipment, and report any concerns. Chairman thanked Cllr Williams.

12. Village Hall report – Youth Group initiative

Vice-Chairman had provided his report as Village Hall representative to the Chairman:

- Funding for the new roof is progressing well with £32,500 in grants agreed and others in prospect
- Finances looking healthy
- Chairman of the Village Hall Management Committee (Bernie Douglas) is seeking a surveyor for the roof work required
- Village Hall open day 2pm – 4pm on Sunday 25th June, Big Breakfast event the same day in the morning
- Utilities costs are to be examined (including water and drainage)

- There was much discussion about making greater community use of the hall and its amenities – youth group, board games, gym, toddler equipment for the playground
- Next meeting 7pm 19.7.23.'

Chairman reported to the meeting regarding his correspondence with Bernie Douglas who is looking to Lanreath Parish Council to set up a community meeting to commence the process of establishing a youth activity group, or similar, in time for the summer school holidays, this year. Chairman is unavailable until after 18th July, which is too late to have anything in place before the summer holidays. It has also been suggested that the Parish Council is best positioned to manage enhanced DBS checks for volunteer youth activity supervisors, as an individual cannot apply for a DBS check themselves. In certain circumstances the fee for DBS checks for volunteers may be waived subject to certain conditions. Sandra Pipe has advised the Chairman that currently DBS checks are taking upwards of 7 weeks to complete.

Chairman's personal view: this is best managed through a separate registered charitable entity with its own constitution, policies and procedures. The Safeguarding Policy of Lanreath Parish Council does not meet the requirements for working with children and the Parish Council does not have a nominated Designated Safeguarding Lead.

It may be that the Vice-Chairman would be prepared to call and chair an initial community meeting to thrash out options and objectives and to identify volunteers prepared to supervise youth activity groups – or this will have to wait until after 18th July when the Chairman is available.

Councillors considered the appropriateness of the Parish Council being the 'lead' organisation and on balance, and in the light of the lack of relevant safeguarding policies, agreed unanimously with the Chairman's proposal (seconded by Cllr Cave) that the Vice-Chairman would be asked if he would call a community meeting to consider the formation of a separate constituted youth organisation group. Chairman tasked with emailing the Vice-Chairman and Bernie Douglas accordingly.

13. Climate Change and report on NALC webinar 24th May 'Fighting Climate Change with Local Council Action'

The Chairman had attended this event and provided a detailed report on screen for the meeting. He took the councillors through his notes regarding action taken by Swanage Town Council, and the much smaller Draughton Parish Council in rural Yorkshire. The Chairman informed the meeting that there was a link to a video of the webinar that he could provide a link to for those councillors interested.

Cllr Cave reported that she had contacted nine parish councils to endeavour to find out what initiatives there were locally for Climate Change. A very helpful and informative response had come from John Hesketh, Clerk to Menheniot Parish Council. There was a separate working group called Menheniot Green made up of councillors and community members specifically dealing with climate change and their community. That group had created four policies against which to measure its programme of various activities. They seemed a well organised and proactive group. Cllr Cave was tasked with thanking Mr Hesketh, and informing him that Lanreath Parish Council may be in further contact to garner more ideas.

A response had also been received from the Clerk to Lanteglos-by-Fowey Parish Council. Their community had set up a seed exchange in the old telephone box at Whitecross, which it may be possible for Lanreath parishioners to use. Cllr Cave will thank the Clerk for her response and enquire if Lanreath parishioners may use the seed exchange.

South Hill Parish Council have an organisation called SHARE (South Hill Association for Renewable Energy) a community climate change action group which was set up some years ago, and has a website detailing some of their initiatives such as clothes swap, and receipt of a grant from M & S for the installation of an energy storage battery at their Village Hall.

It was on the SHARE website that Cllr Cave found a link to CEP (Community Energy Plus) and details of their 'Simple Guide on Saving Energy and Money' providing tips and advice for Cornwall residents concerned with increased energy costs. Cllr Cave gave the Chairman an email containing full details of the website link and contact telephone number for concerned local residents, which can be uploaded to the Parish website and Cllr Gundry can thereafter promulgate via Facebook.

Cllr Cave reported that what seems to stand out in any initiative is that committed local individuals take the lead – not necessarily councillors – and that community groups separate from the Council take initiatives out to their communities. Lanreath needs community engagement to tackle Climate Change and to this end Cllr Cave will carry out further research and report to the next meeting, by which time she hopes to have heard more from other parish councils. In the interim Chairman will consider possibility of a separate web page on the Parish Website dedicated to Climate Change. Matter to be considered further at the next meeting.

14. Finances

The Clerk having circulated the bank statements, bank reconciliation, year to date figures, and details of expenditure due in the next month, Chairman noted that the EDF account was in credit, due to Government help with energy costs, then briefly took the meeting through the year to date figures; so far expenditure was slightly under budget.

Cllr Bartram proposed that the Clerk's expenditure figures and request for an inter-account transfer be approved, seconded by Cllr Lee, and agreed unanimously.

15. Parish Problems

Cllr Williams reported that Marion Facey had informed him that the verge near the Village Hall has been cleared, by a person, or persons unknown. Councillors considered that perhaps it had been an altruistic act.

Chairman advised the meeting that he had received complaints from a couple of Rally Close residents regarding noise levels late in the evening from live bands performing at the Spring Topsy Fest at the Topsy Cow. The event had closed well before the 23.00 watershed required by the Live Music Act 2012, but he had made Dan and Kate at the Topsy Cow aware of the complaints. They had responded very positively, stating that they were sorry that the noise had disturbed anyone, and they would consider consultation with residents of Rally Close before any future event. They made it clear that they wish to continue to foster good relations within the community.

16. Any Other Business

Cllr Cave asked if Vice-Chairman had heard anything further about the oak saplings offered to the Village Hall by Dave Moore of the Gardening Group. Cllr Cave confirmed that she had asked Dave Moore to contact Sarah Johns, (Village Hall Management Committee Secretary) in this regard.

Cllr Cave then informed the meeting that in an issue of the Rural Bulletin there was mention of an end to charges for disposal of DIY waste at local refuse sites. Clerk tasked with investigating whether Cornwall Council refuse sites have taken this up.

Cllr Bartram noted that the Village Shop Manager, and Post Mistress, Mrs Siobhan Rawlins is leaving the village in September, and will be greatly missed. He felt, and councillors agreed, that it would be appropriate to mark her leaving in some way, after so many years of her being fully committed and actively engaged in the community. To be investigated further by Cllr Cave and considered at the July meeting.

17. Public Participation

None

18. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 18th July 2023 at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended at 9.20pm