

LANREATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting

17th October 2023 commencing 19.30

Present

Cllr Sue Cave, Cllr John Gundry, Cllr David Heard – Vice-Chairman, Cllr Eileen Lee, Cllr Peter Seaman – Chairman, Cllr Stephanie Vickery, Cllr John Williams, Mrs Rebecca Warren - Clerk

One member of the public in attendance.

The Chairman opened the meeting and welcomed Cllr Vickery to her first meeting as a councillor.

1. Apologies

Cllr Julie Tamblyn, Cllr Peter Bartram

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

PCSO Cocks addressed the meeting stating that there had been no reported crimes in the parish between 1st and 30th September 2023. He urged parishioners to remain vigilant and report anything suspicious to the Police via 101 or 999. If there are vehicles involved get registration details to assist in the Police investigation. He told the meeting that when something looks wrong, then generally it is worth reporting, particularly vehicles down country lanes late at night.

As for anti-social behaviour, this too should be reported to the Police, to be dealt with by them. This has worked successfully in local parishes where PCSO Cocks reported that he had personally spoken to alleged offenders about the complained-of behaviour. Early intervention by the Police is facilitated by reports from the public.

He confirmed that he will attend the site meeting regarding the incident on the road to Stonerush Lakes, once a date has been agreed. Clerk to advise him in due course.

Regarding an apparently abandoned vehicle in the parish he confirmed that he had reported this to Cornwall Council and would continue to chase up.

Councillors asked questions about rural thefts in Cornwall and possible security methods. PCSO Cocks urged Councillors to sign up via the Devon and Cornwall Police website to the Devon and Cornwall Alert for information about their own area. <https://alerts.dc.police.uk>

3. Disclosure of Interests

None.

4. To approve the minutes of the meeting held on the 19th September 2023

Chairman proposed that the wording regarding the applications received for the then vacant Parish Councillor position be amended to read:

“The Chairman then proposed that, regarding the application from another candidate that had been received late, with the candidate’s permission it be held over to be considered for the newly vacant position following the resignation today of Dan Pugh.”

Only the co-opted candidate’s name should have been stated in Part 1 of the meeting and recorded in the draft minute. The naming of another applicant in the original draft minutes was an error for which the Chairman apologised on behalf of Lanreath Parish Council.

Motion was seconded by Vice-chairman and unanimously approved.

5. County Councillor’s Report

None in the absence of Cty Cllr Martin. The meeting noted that Cty Cllr Martin has only attended the January meeting of Lanreath Parish Council in 2023, which was generally agreed to be disappointing. Chairman proposed that the Clerk be tasked with following up her February email to Cty Cllr Martin (requesting a written report from him when unable to attend) and emphasise that his continued absence is a cause of concern to Lanreath Councillors, and whilst his heavy workload may make it difficult for him to attend meetings, a written report in his absence would be useful. Seconded by Cllr Gundry, and agreed. Clerk so tasked

6. Matters arising

- Community Garden – access and condition of gates

Clerk reported that there was still no reply from new owner ref: access.

Having inspected the gates at the Community Garden, Chairman confirmed Cllr Williams’ observation that they were indeed in a poor state, and for the safety of users of the garden – in particular children – they needed to be secured. He suggested that rather than renew the gates, which would be expensive, a post and rail fence panel be secured inside the garden to the gate posts, which appear to be sound, in such a way as to allow its removal, if required, for access. This would ensure that the gates would not be a hazard to children using the garden. As the fence section will be removable, he suggested that the owner need not be contacted for permission. Chairman will attend to the repair and estimated the cost of materials at approximately £80-£90.

Cllr Lee proposed that the Chairman proceed as he suggested, Cllr Williams seconded, and unanimously agreed.

Chairman confirmed that he has installed the “No dog fouling” sign at the Community Garden.

- Unauthorised building in the parish – enforcement process

Chairman reported that the adjacent landowner has confirmed that as of 2nd October the process is still at ‘stage 4’ of the investigation. Cllr Cave was aware that enforcement had been in the area of the building works and so it seemed that the investigation was proceeding. To be reviewed further at the next meeting

- Post Box at the Village Shop

Chairman reported that this is still ongoing but Paul Meatyard had informed him that there is at least some support from the Post Office's sub-contractor for returning the post box to its original position – but they need to engage with the relevant Post Office contact. To be reviewed at the next meeting.

- Incident on the road to Stonerush Lakes

Clerk reported that she has again emailed Will Glassup of Corserv Ltd to ask for his available dates and is awaiting a response – she will continue to chase.

- Flag pole repair – Village Green

Chairman reported that the works have been completed.

- Archive documents from Richard Pugh

Chairman reported that he has received these and is currently in the process of sorting them out. Some are for the Lanreath Parish Council (LPC) archive and some for passing to Lanreath Community Association. There are also some documents that will possibly need to be destroyed – Chairman will report further once he has completed sorting through everything.

- PA23/06456

Clerk submitted consultee comments online 21 September.

- Contents of loft of Village Hall

Chairman reported that he had retrieved three large containers of LPC archive material – which he will go through and divide into three sections for Councillors to consider dealing with as follows:

- i) to be retained with LPC archive e.g., correspondence regarding the registration of the Village Green,
- ii) documents of historical interest – e.g., large maps of proposed electoral boundary changes dating back to 1958 – to offer to County Archive – if they do not already have them
- iii) for destruction e.g., copies of old Caradon Council meeting minutes and old LPC accounts.

He will report further to the next meeting.

- Policies and Procedures

Chairman has uploaded amended versions to the parish website.

- Light for the Village Shop path

Chairman will make enquiries in this regard and report to the next meeting.

- Mess from nesting swallows at the Millennium Building

Chairman reported that he has discussed with Paul Meatyard, who pointed out that the installation of a large OSB sheet across the rafters may inhibit swallows from nesting as they like to 'swoop' into their nests. Paul has offered to fit smaller barriers to catch prospective nest droppings ahead of the next nesting season.

- New driveway installed at a rural property in the parish

The Chairman took the meeting through the relevant provisions regarding Class F Permitted Development, and Cornwall Council's "altered access' check list. After a brief discussion the meeting agreed that LPC does not need to take any action regarding this driveway installation.

- Letter to Cty Cllr Martin re: Planning Enforcement Delays

Clerk tasked with this in the absence of Cllr Bartram.

- The Parish News

Clerk submitted summary of July (as amended) and August draft minutes on 14 September.

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
- CAP Community Capacity Fund application consultations, notification of meeting date, and Tamar Crossings toll consultation – 13 September, 3, 5 October
- CAP Action Notes from meeting on 5/9/23 – 19 September
- Clean Cornwall Newsletter Issue 6 – 13 September
- Public Consultation – Licensing Act Policy Review – 13 September
- New food waste, recycling and rubbish collections – 14 September – Chairman reported that the details and timetable have been uploaded to LPC Parish Notice Board webpage
- Have your say on Cornwall Council's draft budget – 20 September
- Cornwall Council Planning News for Local Councils and Agents privacy notice – 26 September
- Polling District and Polling Places Review – Cornwall Council – 2023 – 2 October – Chairman asked if the Councillors are satisfied with the proposal to retain the Village Hall as the local Polling District Polling Station. In which case the Clerk can respond to the consultation accordingly – perhaps also advising that the alternative location listed i.e., the village school, is now a private residence. Cllr Cave proposed that the Clerk be so tasked, Cllr Williams seconded, unanimously agreed.

Other

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

- The Rural Bulletins – 12, 19, 26 September, 3 October
- Rural Funding Digest August 2023 – 2 August
- CALC invitation to AGM on 24th October - 12 September
- Email complaint from a previous applicant for a PC vacancy – 2 October
- CALC AGM Agenda pack – 3 October
- CALC Training Bulletin – 13 September
- Polperro school email enquiry about village bus hire – 13 September (Chairman responded)
- 2023 Police and Crime Commissioner's Community Grant Scheme – 18 September
- Electrical Safety Fund Opening – 2023 – 26 September
- Member of the public email enquiry about Ladybirds – 27 September (Chairman responded)
- Dignity at Work Policy Carn Brea Parish Council – 29 September
- CALC News Round-up – 28 September
- Invite to Challenge Poverty Week Event - 28 September
- Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner, press releases for Op Ragwort, and Op Scorpion – 29 September
- Cornwall Community Land Trust, Housing Crisis free conference 18th October – 5 October
- Town and Parish Council Newsletter – 5 October

8. Notice of Councillor Vacancy expires 16th October

Clerk confirmed that the Notice expired yesterday and that a Cornwall Council Senior Electoral Officer had emailed today to confirm that there had been no requests from parishioners for an election. LPC can now proceed to co-option and in compliance with Standing Orders a Notice of Vacancy must be published online and posted on the Village Shop notice board for four weeks. One application has been held over so that together with any others that may be received could be considered at the November meeting.

Chairman proposed that the vacancy be advertised, and Cllr Lee seconded – all agreed. Clerk tasked with preparing the Notice of Vacancy and publishing on the parish website, and posting on the Village Shop notice board.

9. Zero Hour Request for Support Climate and Ecology Bill – 5 October email refers.

Chairman informed the meeting that this refers to a Private Members Bill presented by Caroline Lucas, the Green Party MP, seeking to require the United Kingdom to achieve

climate and nature targets; to give the Secretary of State a duty to implement a strategy to achieve those targets; to establish a Climate and Nature Assembly to advise the Secretary of State in creating that strategy; to give duties to the Committee on Climate Change and the Joint Nature Conservation Committee regarding the strategy and targets; and for connected purposes.

The Bill is due for a second reading on 24th November and is currently backed by 168 cross-bench MPs (out of a total of 650). The MP for South East Cornwall, Sheryl Murray, is not one of them.

Chairman expressed his own view that Councillors must have read the Bill before any meaningful discussion could take place as to whether to promote it to the local community, MPs and media, as Zero Hour is requesting. Cllrs Vickery and Gundry had read parts of the Bill and both expressed reservations about the proposals contained therein.

Chairman will circulate the Bill to all Councillors and the matter of what, if any, response to give to Zero Hour will be considered at the November meeting.

10. Lanreath Parish Council authorised bank signatories and additional card and card reader authorisation

Clerk reported that Cllr Cave has made her application to be the authorised to carry out online banking transactions, and the printed forms require signature once the bank mandate has been changed. Clerk is in the position to proceed with this once she has further information from the two new signatories, which she will collect in the next day or two and will then complete the online mandate change. If any forms require signature, she will ensure that these are delivered to the relevant Councillors before the November meeting.

11. D Day 80 – 6 June 2024 – email from CALC 22 September

Chairman asked if anyone at the meeting had given consideration to this day of celebration. Cllr Vickery confirmed that she would put herself forward to assist in organising something for the village, and to liaise with community groups in the parish and report back to LPC at future meetings. There followed a general discussion as to what types of events could be staged, and the lack of a suitable high point in the village for a beacon.

On answering a councillor's enquiry as to possible cost to the parish council Cllr Vickery stated that she hoped that any celebrations could be funded without a contribution from LPC. Chairman and Vice-chairman both considered that perhaps there should be a contingency for this in the Budget to be discussed at November's meeting.

Chairman advised that he is likely to be away on 6th June 2024.

12. Asset Inspection Report

Cllr Williams reported as follows:

"I have since our last meeting inspected the Play Area, Village Garden, Millennium Green, and Carlyon Close, and my findings are as follows:

Play Area – Play equipment in good condition, however fencing between the basketball area and the play area has one broken slat and a couple of loose slats. Grass and weeds in the play area have been strimmed.

Village Garden – All ok, grass has recently been cut.

Millennium Green – Grass has recently been cut, however the hedge adjoining Rowan Lodge needs cutting. The flag pole has been fixed. By our Chairman, thank you Mr Chairman.

Carlyon Close – Grass has recently been cut.”

In addition to this report Chairman reported that there is a leaking piece of guttering on the Millennium Building which he will attend to. He will also repair/replace the broken and loose slats in the play area fence.

13. Village Hall Report

The Vice-chairman reported that he was not aware of there having been a meeting since September, but he had been approached by the Village Hall Chairman for some informal advice regarding the removal and storage of the solar panels from the Village Hall roof pending roof repairs being completed. Cllr Vickery was able to inform the meeting that the scaffolding for works to commence will go up between 30th October and 4th December. Vice-chairman confirmed that the Village Hall Chairman was confident that the roof works would be completed within that time frame.

There was some discussion as to the possible danger of the Village Hall having to pay a penalty to the solar energy company if the panels were disconnected for an extended period and whether they could insure against that risk.

14. Community Area Partnership (CAP) Report

Vice-chairman confirmed that the minutes of the September South East Cornwall CAP meeting, which he had been unable to attend, had now been circulated. He continues to receive and circulate funding applications, and thanked all Councillors for considering these, and for providing feedback when they felt appropriate.

15. Climate Change and report on Clean Air for Cornwall: engagement workshop

Cllr Cave gave her report as follows:

“Last meeting I gave details of the LAEP – Local Area Energy Plan – meeting organised by Cornwall Council I attended online. It really was a session for Cornwall Council (CC) to set out its stall and its aspirations.

Yesterday I attended the initial meeting of the South East Cornwall Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Network which had devolved from South East Cornwall CAP. It was decided that the title was a bit off-putting so has been changed to SE Cornwall Climate Change and Nature Recovery Group.

A lady called Jo from CC’s Carbon Neutral Team attended to give us an update on the Council’s progress. She was asked when data would finally be processed and the Local Area Energy Plan formulated and consultation replaced by actual engagement with communities. She said that it was still currently work in progress, but announcements would be made sometime after Easter. Meanwhile they were undertaking other initiatives such as work on the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Energy Plan Spatial Strategy which will run for three months. I did say that the public meanwhile was being bombarded with contradictory messages coming out of the media as to what sort of energy route was cost effective, viable, and ‘friendly’. I have the example of floating offshore turbines being challenged by fishermen as potentially ruining their livelihood, and electric cars meaning greater insurance costs as their heavier frames caused more

damage in accidents. Jo agreed that evidence-based information needed to be separated from mis information and CC should ultimately play a role in this. I said meanwhile people could be getting more and more confused and browned off.

The members of the Group (not all attended) then introduced themselves and said whom they represented – Town and Parish Councillors as well as County Councillors (including our County Councillor). Each member outlined what had been happening in their area. There was quite a wealth of experience and once GDPR has been sorted out, we agreed that email exchanged between members might help with ideas and ironing out of problems in our own communities. I supported the idea of inviting organisations such as set up by a particular Parish Council to come along and give us a talk on how they achieved what they have – even ones from outside the SE area.

The meetings are to be quarterly and the next one will probably be in January. In the interim there will be an email flow between members.

Finally, I heard from Tim Jones, the CEO of Community Energy Plus (CEP), yesterday. I had mentioned that we were setting up a dedicated page on our website and he said that we could use any of the material on the CEP's website by PDF download or by issuing links. There are a number of advice guides listed on the homepage but I have yet to scroll through them."

There followed some discussion as to how best to create links from the LPC website to that of CEP and the additional information in guides. Cllr Cave proposed that suitable links be set up. Chairman seconded, all agreed, and Cllr Cave and Chairman tasked with putting this in place.

16. Replacement bench near Lanreath Church

There has been a request for consideration of a replacement bench – the current bench is damaged and is not an LPC asset. Chairman proposed that the interested parties be encouraged to apply to Furzedown Community fund. If not successful Councillors could then consider a possible donation for a replacement bench from Budget line item 'One-off community project donations' at the end of financial year if sufficient funds remain available. Perhaps a new bench could be dedicated to the commemoration of the 80th anniversary of D-Day as it is located close to War Memorial.

Vice-chairman seconded this proposal and all agreed.

17. Finances

The Clerk had circulated the September bank statements, bank reconciliations, and year-to-date figures, and details of expenditure due before the next meeting. Chairman shared on screen with the meeting the year-to-date figures, which showed that overall expenditure remained slightly under budget.

Clerk confirmed that the payment for toilet supplies was below the estimate, and had been paid since the year-to-date figures had been prepared.

Clerk confirmed that she will shortly be applying to HMRC for a VAT refund, and full details will be sent to Cllr Cave for approval.

Vice-chairman proposed that the Clerk's request for payments and inter-account transfer be approved. Seconded by Cllr Lee and unanimously approved.

18. Parish Problems

None

19. Any Other Business

Chairman, Vice-chairman, and Clerk/RFO are due to meet ahead of the November meeting to draft a proposed 2024/25 budget for consideration by LPC. If any other Councillors wish to be involved then they should advise this meeting.

Code of Conduct training – Clerk has made enquiries of Cornwall Council as to availability of free online training. Chairman mentioned that there may be NALC Code of Conduct training for a fee, but Cllr Gundry reminded the meeting that he had provided a detailed report regarding the free Code of Conduct training available via You Tube, and Clerk is able to circulate this to all Councillors.

20. Public Participation

None

21. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 21st November at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended at 9.03 pm