

LANREATH PARISH COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date of Meeting

19th September 2023 commencing 19.30

Present

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

No members of the public in attendance.

The Chairman welcomed everyone to the Meeting.

1. Apologies

Cllr Julie Tamblyn. Chairman reported that Cllr Daniel Pugh has tendered his resignation by email today.

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 month’s Parish Council meeting. As you are aware I attend when shifts allow.

From 01/07/23 – 31/08/23 there were 3 crimes in the Public Domain inc. 1 Criminal damage & 2 burglaries which occurred at isolated rural properties. Once again please remain vigilant and report any suspicious incidents or vehicles straightaway via 999.

I am still waiting to hear from Cornwall Highways regarding a meeting at Bocaddon.

I am aware that members of the Public attended the last meeting and were disappointed with my absence. As I have explained I attend when shifts allow and try to attend once a quarter if possible. If any member of the Community wants to speak to either myself or any member of the Looe Neighbourhood Team they are welcome to contact us via 101, Devon and Cornwall Police website or email either 30211@dc.police.uk or CIOSNBMLLST@devonandcornwall.pnn.police.uk

Mr. David Ratcliffe is the Sector Inspector, Sgt. Gary Smith is the Neighbourhood Team Leader & PC Ben Woodhead is the Neighbourhood Beat Manager. We are always available to meet and discuss any issues that might arise.

I do not report on any incidents in the Parish, only crimes, and can confirm that I correctly reported 1 farm burglary within this Parish for June although there were 7 in the Looe area which covers 11 Parishes in total. I only report crimes in the Public Domain excluding domestic crimes, sexual offences etc.

No reports of Antisocial Behaviour have been reported recently and there certainly hasn’t been a high number of incidents. The last report being in early May when the youths involved were spoken to with parents and were dealt with by way of Community Resolution.

Any antisocial behaviour can be reported to either the Police or Cornwall Council via the websites or calling 101. Other partner agencies inc. housing can also take action. It is important to report so targeted patrols can be conducted and action can be taken. Again, we have received no reports of any anti-social gatherings in any property in the village.

Any speeding vehicles should again be reported. I need date, time, vehicle details and a witness statement and then a Section 59 Warning can be issued and if speeding continues the vehicle can be seized. But we need reports.

As the Chairman said there is a Looe Community Speedwatch group and new volunteer members are most welcome to join. Again, if you contact me, I'll give you all the information.

I would like to reiterate that members of the Community need to report their concerns be it ASB, Speeding or any other issues. We are contactable via the above means at all times and will get back as soon as possible.

I have asked the Chairman to collect the names and contact details for any members of the Public who attend and wish to speak to me.

Please remember Lanreath Parish is a safe area to live and is regularly patrolled by the Looe NHT.

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

3. Disclosure of Interests

None. Cllr Gundry informed the meeting that as he is intending to move away from the Parish, the October meeting may be his last. He will keep the Councillors informed.

4. To approve the minutes of the meetings held on the 18th July and 8th August 2023

Vice-Chairman proposed that the 18th July and 8th August minutes be accepted. This was seconded by Cllr Bartram and agreed. The Chairman signed the minutes.

5. County Councillor's Report

None in the absence of Cty Cllr Martin.

6. Matters arising

- Parishioners' complaints

The draft minutes of the July meeting had been amended as minuted in the extraordinary meeting on 8th August. Clerk had received no response to her email to the initial complainant, attaching the Lanreath Parish Council Code of Practice for Handling Complaints. There were none of the complainants in attendance at this meeting. No specific details of previously complained of anti-social behaviour (ASB) had been received by the Clerk or Chairman since the July meeting. From PCSO Cocks' report it was also apparent that no ASB reports had been received from parishioners by the local police since May 2023. Chairman advised residents that as per PCSO Cocks' report, all ASB should be reported to the police in the first instance.

- Public footpath signage and repair

Chairman reported that the signage replacement and stile repairs had been completed.

- Community Garden access

Clerk has emailed the owner to again advise her that Lanreath Parish Council would not be proceeding with an application to register the Community Garden as a Community Asset, having had an email from her referring to this. Currently awaiting her response as to the access. Clerk will keep this under review and report to the next meeting.

- Unauthorised building in the parish – enforcement progress

Chairman sent a query to Planning Enforcement in July. Advised that report ref: EN23/00589 was at stage 4 (investigation) as at 24th July. Nothing heard since.

Councillors reported that there had been enforcement officers visiting the parish some weeks ago. Neighbours of the land where unauthorised works were being carried out had reported that there continued to be a lot of activity.

Cllr Bartram confirmed that his letter to Cty Cllr Martin regarding Lanreath Parish Council concerns about delays in enforcement would be sent out.

- Post Box at the Village Shop

Chairman reported that the Post Office propose to re-site the posting box that was near the Village Shop to the verge of the Church layby (subject to approval by Highways). The Village Shop would prefer it to be reinstated to the original position and the Chairman understood that Paul Meatyard would be liaising with the Post Office in this regard.

- Incident on the road to Stonerush Lakes

Chairman reported that the site meeting between PCSO Cocks, Vice-Chairman and Cllr Cave, Cty Cllr Martin, local residents, and Conserve (Highways) to consider the installation of additional signage on the lane had been agreed by all – save Cty Cllr Martin – but delayed due to Will Glassup being on Paternity Leave. Clerk reported that the meeting should hopefully take place in October.

- Flagpole repair – Village Green

Chairman has ascertained that a replacement finial top is required, at a cost of £28.50 (plus delivery) from Flagpole Express. In order to carry out the repair safely, he can hire a scaffold tower for two days at a cost of £78 plus VAT plus delivery/collection. Cost of delivery/collection could be zero if there is a person in the village with access to a flatbed truck – Cllr Williams offered to make enquiries. Chairman proposed that the repairs and scaffold hire be authorised, Cllr Cave seconded, agreed unanimously. Chairman will organise once Cllr Williams has reported back to him.

- Archive documents from Richard Pugh

Richard Pugh has offered to hand these over once he has sorted through them. Chairman will chase.

- Cllr Cave CAP Climate Change & Ecological Emergency Network representative

Clerk confirmed that she has provided Cllr Cave's details to South East Cornwall CAP

- PA23/05781 and 05782
Clerk has submitted consultee comments

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 agenda items, and other correspondence – 20, 21, 31 July, 2, 8, 15, 18, 19, 25, 30 August, 1, 4, 8 September
- Homechoice Review - 31 July
- Minutes for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 10 July – 18 July
- Agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 7 August – 27 July
- Planning News for Local Councils and Agents July 2023 – 27 July
- Agenda for Strategic Planning Committee 10 August – 28 July
- Supplement: Committee Updates to the agenda for Strategic Planning Committee 10 August – 9 August
- Town and Parish Council Newsletters – 11 August, 8 September
- CORMAC – name change – 15 August
- Cornwall Council's Standards Committee – 15 August
- Minutes East Sub-Area Planning Committee 7 August – 14 August
- Shared Prosperity Fund Events – 15 August
- Agenda East Sub-Area Planning Committee 4 September – 24 August
- Supplement: Committee Updates to the agenda for East Sub-Area Planning Committee 4 September – 1 September
- Tolls Press release – 7 September
- Forest for Cornwall Autumn Newsletter 2023 – 7 September
- Affordable Housing Newsletter September 2023 – 7 September

Other

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

- The Rural Bulletins – 25 July, 1, 8, 15, 22, 30 August, 5 September
- Rural Funding Digest August 2023 – 2 August
- Lerryn School – 22 July
- Statement from Police and Crime Commissioner Devon and Cornwall (OPCC)– suspension of Chief Constable – 26 July
- Link to watch Seminar on road safety – 26 July
- Motorcycle behaviour change campaign – 27 July
- Cornwall AONB newsletter – 2 August
- CALC Executive Board vacancies – 8 August
- CALC information request – Playgrounds – 7 August
- Request for Information new parishioner – 10 August (Chairman responded)
- Housing Casework (Chairman and Cty Cllr Martin) – 17 August
- Addressing conflict between employees and members – CALC training course 14 November – 22 August
- CALC Training – planning, water stakeholder, and more – 22, 23, August, 9 September
- You Are Here – SproutSpoken – event advertisement – 24 August
- NALC seeks views on Model Financial Regulations update – 7 September
- Invitation to online Town and Parish Council Budget Update briefing 12 October – 7 September
- 200th Community Speedwatch Group OPCC – 1 September
- Survey aims to help shape how police care for crime victims OPCC – 30 August

8. Councillor Vacancy applications

Cllr Williams proposed that the meeting move to Part 2, Cllr Lee seconded, all agreed.

Meeting recommenced upon conclusion of the discussion held under Part 2.

Chairman proposed that Stephanie Vickery be thanked for her application and invited to come to the next meeting and take up the vacant councillor position by way of co-option. Vice-Chairman seconded, unanimously agreed.

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, once the vacancy had been duly notified to Cornwall Council, and advertised. Cllr Cave seconded and unanimously agreed.

Clerk tasked with writing to both applicants accordingly, and obtaining Notice of Vacancy from Cornwall Council.

9. Lanreath Parish Council authorised bank signatories

Cllr Lee confirmed that she wished to withdraw as a signatory on the Lanreath Parish Council bank accounts. Chairman thanked her, and Dan Pugh, for being signatories. Vice-Chairman offered to be a replacement, and Chairman stated that he also was willing to be a signatory. Proposed by Cllr Williams that Vice-Chairman and Chairman replace Cllr Lee and Dan Pugh – duly seconded, and unanimously agreed. Clerk tasked with obtaining the appropriate bank mandate forms for signature.

Clerk reported that she has obtained an additional card reader from the bank for online banking, and awaits a second card and PIN. She will report further to the next meeting.

10. Lanreath Parish Council Business Continuity Plan

Chairman deferred his report to later in the meeting, when agenda item 16 is considered.

11. Duty of Care – South West Hygiene annual waste transfer note

Chairman proposed and Cllr Cave seconded, that Clerk be authorised to sign on behalf of Lanreath Parish Council. Unanimously agreed. Clerk tasked with signing and retaining the document

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 – all equipment appears to be in good order.

Village Garden – grass has been cut and garden is quite tidy.

Millennium Green – all found to be in good order. The new bracket has been fixed to the guttering. Thank you to our Chairman for this.

Carlyon Close – I have been up to the Close a couple of times recently and the grass play area is very tidy.”

In addition to his report Cllr Williams advised the meeting that the end gate at the Community Garden is in a very poor state, and replacement would cost in the region of £800. In view of there being no contingency for this in the budget, Chairman will carry out an inspection and ascertain if a temporary fix would be sufficient.

Cllr Williams reported that he had observed that the WI bench had a crack in it, Chairman will report to WI Chair regarding this. He also reported a problem with droppings from the swallows nests in the Millennium building, Chairman stated that he had also observed this, and boards could be fixed into the roof space that would prevent droppings from the nests, whilst still permitting the birds access to the space. To be discussed further under Parish Problems, later in the meeting.

13. Village Hall Report

The Vice-Chairman was unable to attend the Village Hall Committee meeting on 6th September. Chairman took the meeting through the Village Hall Newsletter which had been circulated by email to all Councillors. Positive comments were made regarding the introduction of this method of communication with the community.

Regarding the contents of the loft at the Village Hall, Chairman will investigate further and contact the Village Hall Chairman. He will then report to the next Parish Council meeting.

14. Community Area Partnership (CAP) Report

Chairman reported that he had attended the CAP meeting on 5th September and in the absence of draft minutes, had prepared a report which he will circulate to all Councillors. He then took the meeting through the main parts of his report.

Regarding the increased operational costs of the Tamar crossings, the meeting generally felt that there should be greater lobbying by local MPs to get central Government to cover the increase, rather than passing that cost on to users.

Vice-Chairman said that an Action Points email had been sent out by CAP to all members, Clerk advised that she had yet to receive this but would circulate as soon as she did.

15. Climate Change

Cllr Cave confirmed that she was the Lanreath Parish Council representative on the CAP Climate Change and Ecological Emergency Network and an initial meeting was due to be arranged by the co-ordinator, Catherine Thompson.

Pending the set up of a dedicated Climate Change page on the parish website, Cllr Cave was holding off contacting the CEO of Community Energy Plus (CEP).

CEP had been mentioned very positively during an online event that Cllr Cave had attended, and was quoted as a 'go to' organisation for help with energy savings, grants for home insulation, etc.

Cllr Cave had found the online event interesting but felt that really it had just set out Cornwall Council's intentions. It was chaired by Cllr Martin Alvey, the portfolio holder for the environment and climate change at Cornwall Council.

Whilst there were interesting presentations, it was all aspirational, so far as Cllr Cave could ascertain.

The event was conducted on Facebook Live, and Cllr Cave was shocked by the large number of abusive, and offensive comments made by Facebook attendees. She will make the link available for the Councillors.

Cllr Cave will be attending the forthcoming CAP dedicated engagement session to shape the Local Area Energy Plan, and will report to Lanreath Parish Council at the next meeting.

Chairman confirmed that a new webpage dedicated to the environment had been added to the parish website under 'Community' – 'Environmental Protection and Nature Conservation', and in future meetings Councillors could decide how this should be populated.

16. Policies and Procedures

The meeting reviewed the proposed changes to Financial Regulations and Risk Assessment which had been circulated to all Councillors by the Chairman. The amendments were as a result of the decision at the July meeting to provide for business continuity in the event of the Clerk/RFO being unable to carry out her usual duties.

Chairman proposed that the amendments be approved, seconded by Vice-Chairman, and unanimously agreed. Chairman will upload amended documents to the parish website.

17. National Effort to Protect Neighbourhood Development Plans – email from Christopher Knight 17 August

This email had been circulated and was a request for support regarding a contentious planning appeals decision that appeared to disregard a Neighbourhood Plan in the Staffordshire area.

Chairman reported that it appeared that unfortunately the status of the relevant Neighbourhood Plan had fallen foul of the current requirements of Paragraph 14 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2021 which states:

'14. In situations where the presumption (at paragraph 11(d)) applies to applications involving the provision of housing, the adverse impact of allowing development that conflicts with the neighbourhood plan is likely to significantly and demonstrably outweigh the benefits, provided all the following apply

(a) the neighbourhood plan became part of the development plan 2 years or less before the date on which the decision is made;

(b) the neighbourhood plan contains policies and allocations to meet its identified housing requirement;

(c) the local planning authority has at least a 3-year supply of deliverable housing sites (against its 5-year housing supply requirement, including the appropriate buffer as set out in paragraph 74); and

(d) the local planning authority's housing delivery was at least 45% of that required 10 over the previous 3 years.'

In this instance the Neighbourhood Plan was older than 2 years. The status of the Local Council's 5-year housing land supply was also challenged in the Appeal Decision.

The Government is proposing amendments to the National Planning Policy Framework in the new Levelling up and Regeneration Bill that would lift the five-year Housing Land

Supply requirement where a Council has an up-to-date plan and the housing requirement is set out in strategic policies that are less than 5 years old. There is also a proposal to extend protection for Neighbourhood Plans from 2 years to 5 years.

The meeting then discussed the problems that may follow for Neighbourhood Plans in circumstances where the relevant local authority cannot show a five-year land supply for housing – a green light for some developers to seek, and obtain, planning permission to build on land that may otherwise have been refused. Cllr Gundry was able to offer some further insight following his tenure as a councillor on Malmesbury Town Council.

Regarding the Lanreath Neighbourhood Plan which is now five years old any revision would be a two-year process requiring public consultation. It could still fall foul of this same problem in the event that Cornwall Council has not got a current Local Plan.

It was generally felt by Councillors that the only recourse for the aggrieved Councillors in Staffordshire was Judicial Review, and that being the case, Chairman proposed that Lanreath Parish Council does not respond to the request for support, seconded by Cllr Gundry and unanimously agreed.

18. Town and Parish Council briefing: new rubbish recycling and food waste collection service – Teams event 30th August

Chairman briefly took the meeting through the main points of the planned roll out of fortnightly collections for recycling, household and garden waste, and weekly collection of food waste, by Cornwall Council. All the details have been uploaded to the parish website, and further information will be supplied to communities, and householders, by Cornwall Council as and when the Lanreath Parish area is due to become part of the new service. All the details have been uploaded to the Parish Notice Board web page.

Households will be provided with suitable containers for waste by Cornwall Council.

19. Finances

The Clerk had circulated the July and August bank statements, bank reconciliations, and year-to-date figures, and details of expenditure due before the next meeting. The precept payment of £6,950 had been received on 7th September. Chairman shared on screen with the meeting the year-to-date figures, which showed that overall expenditure was slightly under budget.

Clerk said that in addition to the figures supplied for expenditure during the coming month there would now be the cost of the flagpole repairs, which could be paid from the unscheduled maintenance contingency in the budget.

Cllr Bartram proposed and Cllr Lee seconded Clerk's outstanding payments, and inter account transfer request – unanimously agreed.

20. Planning PA23/06456: Provision of an earth lined slurry store (retrospective) New Hartswell, Herodsfoot. Consultee comments required by 20th September.

Chairman took the meeting through his notes, as follows:

“..... the slurry pit is to support dairy operations at New Hartswell Farm. There is retrospective planning permission for the farm buildings on site but not, specifically for a milking parlour.

However, it should be noted that Planning Permission is not required:

- for farming operations

- to use buildings already on your land for farming purposes
- to change the inside of a building, or make small alterations to the outside - for example, installing an alarm box.

The slurry pit is designed to provide 6 months' slurry and fouled water storage (including rain water) capacity for 180 dairy cows including the regulated requirement for a 750 mm design and operating freeboard. (4500m³ storage capacity).

The Planning Application includes an inspection report from the Environment Agency that concludes that:

'From inspection and the information submitted the new lagoon appears to be well thought out, well-constructed and in line with SSAFO requirements.'

The design meets the required codes in terms of impermeability and the minimum distances from water courses and boreholes.

The nearest residential properties are West Park Farm House located some 390m from the lagoon, Woodlay Holiday cottages – 545m and Herodshead - 595m."

Meeting discussed possible problems regarding odour, but as there is currently no legal requirement to cover slurry pits, this could not be raised in objection to the application. The Environment Agency had visited the site and provided a full report.

Generally agreed by the Councillors that in planning terms the application was unobjectionable, although concerns were expressed about the smell, and chemicals going into the pit along with wash off from the milking parlour.

Vice-Chairman proposed that the consultee comment should be submitted that Lanreath Parish Council does not object to the application. Cllr Williams seconded, unanimously agreed. Clerk tasked with submitting the comment online to Cornwall Council Planning Department.

21. Parish Problems

- Complaint from a parishioner regarding drug use in the village (Police have been notified)

This is a matter for the Police, but the meeting noted that it is against the law to use cannabis even in your own home. Complainant should continue to pursue this via the Police.

- Light for path to Village Shop

Cllr Bartram will make enquiries of an electrician with regard to rectifying this.

- Chairman reported that he had received a complaint on the afternoon of 15th September regarding heavy smoke caused by Punch Bowl Inn waste from the renovations being burnt in the Punch Bowl car park. Chairman investigated and a largish fire causing heavy yellowish smoke was underway. Chairman talked to the Punch Bowl Inn owner and explained that the fire was causing a nuisance to properties in the village. The owner advised that the smoke was caused by some green vegetation that he had just removed from the car park hedge and that no further material would be added to the fire and that he would remain on site until the fire had burnt down. He stated that he had been advised by

Cornwall Council that he was allowed to burn untreated wood and vegetation on an open bonfire. He also stated that this would be the last fire on this site as he was intending to clear all of the building waste from the car park next week.

On carrying out further research, Chairman found that the Environment Agency advises the burning of waste from a building or house renovation on a bonfire is illegal. Hopefully there should not be a repeat of this however the Environment Agency has a 24-hour national hotline to report the burning of business waste on 0800 80 70 60. Noted that a D7 exemption can be applied for from the Environment Agency for the burning of plant tissue and untreated wood waste from joinery or manufacturing in the open air but it is not clear whether this would apply in this instance.

Following on from the initial complaint, Chairman had then received reports that plasterboard was being burnt and or buried at the same site by the owner of the Punch Bowl Inn or at his direction.

Meeting discussed what role, if any, the Parish Council had regarding this, and a separate but related complaint received regarding removal of hedging from a property adjacent to the Punch Bowl car park. Lanreath Parish Council is concerned with civic matters, and as such the parishioners should report their concerns regarding disposal of waste/fires to the Environment Agency. As for the neighbour whose boundary may have been encroached upon, they should endeavour to resolve matters with the owner of the Punch Bowl Inn, or seek legal advice.

- Chairman reported that he had observed when fixing the guttering on the north side of the Millennium Building that there was a large quantity of debris and droppings from nesting swallows. He had cleaned this from the Millennium Building noticeboard and WI bench. Once the hosepipe ban has been lifted later this month, he will arrange to pressure wash the internal paving and the Millennium Green benches. To prevent recurrence of the problem he suggested that an 8 x 4 sheet of OSB could be obtained before the next nesting season to place above the rafters. This would prevent the mess but not obstruct the nesting birds. To be discussed at the next meeting.
- Chairman has been approached to see whether the Parish Council and/or a turbine fund would finance a replacement for the bench outside the Churchyard main entrance as the existing bench is in a poor state of repair – for consideration at the October meeting.
- Reported by Cllr Williams that there appeared to be a caravan parked on the allotment located just outside the village on the road from Bodinnick. He will keep this under observation from time to time.
- Dog fouling in the Community Garden – residents are reminded to pick up after their dogs and that children play in this area. Chairman has ordered an additional sign to be placed at the entrance to the garden
- Two Councillors informed the meeting that a new driveway had been put in at the back of the cottages on the Bocaddon road, and as a consequence a large section of hedge had been removed. Chairman will investigate further and ascertain what the legal requirements are and report to the next meeting.

22. Any Other Business

The meeting recorded that the new commemorative bench in memory of the late Gerald Facey is in place at the entrance to village, with congratulations to Marion and the Gardening Group on its installation and for improving the look of this part of the village.

Regarding the resignation received from Cllr Dan Pugh today, Lanreath Parish Council would like to thank Dan for his work as a councillor and sends best wishes to him and his family.

23. Public Participation

None

24. Date and time of next meeting

Tuesday 17th October 2023 at 7.30pm.

Meeting ended at 9.45pm