

ST EWE PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting

St Ewe Village Hall

Monday 9 March 2015

- Present:** Vice-chairman Cllr John Dickinson, Cllr Trevor Johns, Cllr Rueben Collins, Cllr Will Richards, Cllr Sam Roberts, Cllr Jenny May, Cllr Trevor Harman and Cllr Diane Clemes. Also present were Mrs Christine Wilson, Clerk to the Parish, ward member Cllr Malcolm Harris, who remained for the duration, and 3 members of the public.
- Absent:** Cllr Allan Brooks, Cllr Janet Lockyer
- Also present:** None
- Abbreviations:** Councillors' names – abbreviated with their initials. **CC** – Cornwall Council. **PC** – Parish Council. **VH** – Village Hall. *** consultee comments submitted by St Ewe for planning applications.
- Note on numbering:** The prefix will follow the Municipal Year which begins in May. January and March will carry the 14/ prefix. At the May 2015 meeting the first item on the Agenda will be 15/001.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm. The Vice-chairman assumed the Chair and welcomed all.

- 14/82 Apologies for absence. Apologies were received from Cllr Lockyer and Cllr Brooks.
- 14/83 Declaration of interests. None.
- 14/84 Public Session.

Mr Knight came as a courtesy to explain his plans to build a house for his family in Little Polgooth. The planning application is not yet submitted. The plot was identified and Cllr Harris has visited the site. The proposed development appears to be infill. Mr Knight would like the structure to be "in keeping" but there are many architectural styles in the area, so it is not obvious what this means. The council appreciates Mr Knight's visit, and it also explained that it can give no opinion until the actual plans are in front of the councillors. Mr Knight thanked the council and remained for the duration of the meeting.

Mr G Chaplin requested any further information the council might have on the CC proposed turbines. 8 sites were identified in September 2014 (minutes 14/41c), two of which are in St Ewe at Lanuah and Levalsa. However, no new correspondence has been received from Cornwall Council. The case officer has changed and Cllr Harris will send the new officer's name to the Clerk. The council will again request answers to its questions to CC about the application process for its wind turbines (minute 14/41c.iv).

Mrs G Harvey, representing the Polgooth & District Bridleway Association and also as Access Officer for the British Horse Society, explained the state of the bridleways in the parish. She first complimented the council and its contractor on the good job they do. She requested that the council consider budgeting extra funds to allow more cuts, or that it remind the landowners of their responsibility.

Mr Chaplin left the meeting.

- 14/85 The council agreed to move Footpaths to the top of the agenda. The most problematic paths were identified, particularly 418/13/1, 16/3 and 18/1, which can become overgrown quite quickly during the summer months. It was decided that Cllr Dickinson, as Lead for Footpaths, with the clerk and contractor, would discuss these areas before

the first cuts of the season. Ms Harvey said that she was willing to contribute to the discussion.

Ms Harvey left the meeting.

14/86 Meetings and matters arising.

- a) The minutes of the meeting held on 12 January 2015 were approved as a true and correct record and were signed by the Chair (proposed SR, 2nd WR).
- b) Ref: Minute 14/72. St Goran recently reported that no reply has been received from the National Trust regarding our mutual request to place boulders on the beach only during the summer holidays. The council requested the clerk keep them informed.
- c) The clerk received Cllr May's Register of Interest and will submit it as required to Cornwall Council.

14/87 Ward Member Malcolm Harris' report.

For the second time at planning, we refused the application for the badly judged siting for a housing estate at The Mount in Par. Once again it was written up for approval by the council, going against the wishes of the community.

This time, Imerys supported us with a very strong evidence based objection, which in my opinion should stand up to appeal. But once again, we have to ask why the council refuse to support us? Because their recommendation for approval makes it harder for us to make the right decision, and weakens our case should it be appealed. We only have to refer to what recently happened at Porthpean road. The more time I spend as a councillor, the more disillusioned I seem to become. But it also strengthens my resolve to fight on.

In an article in the Cornish Guardian on 18th February, a pro-active group called Cornwall For Change made a statement accusing Cornwall Council of 'incompetent governance', and stripping elected members (like me) of their 'democratic right to make decisions'. I'm afraid I have to agree with them on a number of levels. Major planning decisions are not made here in Cornwall. When as a committee, we feel we have made the correct decision, it is overturned at appeal – not here in Cornwall by people who understand our issues, but by far afield government officials who know very little about what makes our County so special. I still stand strongly against the Council's 'Plan For Cornwall' which is far too weak in its ambition for devolution. There is nothing in the plan regarding any more powers to Cornwall for planning. We will continue to be at the mercy of Westminster.

On a brighter note, the St Austell Town Framework Steering Group, of which I am a member, has now been issued with a draft of the St Austell Retail Study Site Allocations Document, with recommendations based on, amongst other things, 2 surveys. One, door-to-door, and one online. The door-to-door survey is the one that had to be given more weight because it is the only one that can be considered robust & unbiased, and because it was proven to me in a previous application how online surveys can be manipulated, especially where strong-willed pressure groups are involved. The draft proposes that we:

- Adhere to the NPPF 'Town Centre First' requirement (sequential test),
- Allocate as a site the Old Vicarage Place development in the town which would deliver the retail capacity required.
- Add a caveat that any out of town retail units (Trewiddle) could not be accommodated within the town centre.

Who would have thought- common sense and logic in the same sentence as Cornwall Council. Now there's a turn up for the books!

It has been suggested to me by the officer, that of the 2 turbines planned for this area, one is likely to be recommended for approval, and the other one recommended for refusal. Assuming our community is still strongly against both of them, we need to watch for the recommendations and act accordingly. I will do what I can to assist.

Finally, we have managed to 'unofficially' secure funding for the flood relief program at Polmassick. Hopefully I can confirm this sometime soon.

With other locals, I attended a photo shoot for the press recently at Trewoon P.O. after the installation of one of the local defibrillators, with the main fund-raiser – Mike Trabilcock, of who's cause I supported with a grant of £750 from my Community Chest Fund for 3 of them within the parish villages. My final £340-odd has been given to St Mewan School for an after school computing coding club, another worthy cause supported by volunteers, again including Mike Trabilcock who heads up IT at St Austell College.

All grant money has been allocated now, but just a reminder to you all that the new round of funding for local causes starts again in March, so please let me know if there is anything you would like me to support.

14/88 Planning

- a) Planning Decisions (a complete list in Clerk's Notes 09-03-15)
 - i) APPEAL IN PROGRESS. **PA14/03225** | Proposed conversion of barn to form a holiday dwelling with parking and turning area | The Barn Tucoyse Farm Tregony Truro Cornwall TR2 5SJ
 - ii) **PA14/10763** APPROVED. Mr Richard James Hewas Water Ltd Hewas Water St. Austell PL26 7JF Extension to Existing Commercial Units. Parish: St. Ewe
 - iii) ST MEWAN. **PA15/00207** Screening Opinion - EIA Required. Decision date: 02.02.2015. St Mewan Renewables Ltd Manor Farm Burngullow Lane High Street St Austell Cornwall Screening Opinion for proposed single 500kW wind turbine St. Mewan
 - iv) **PA15/01849** | Non-material amendment for extension to building 'B' north side including alterations to fenestration and ridge level in respect of decision notice PA11/06570 - conversion of redundant outbuilding to dwelling and residential annexe | Tregenna Farm London Apprentice St Austell Cornwall. [The applicants for PA11/06570 are Mr N Mitchell And Mrs G Tull. This is not the new 7 dwelling development at Tregenna.]
- b) Planning correspondence. None.
- c) Applications for Consultee Comments.
 - i) **PA15/01423** | Erection of a livestock building and general purpose building | Levalsa Farm Access To Levalsa London Apprentice St Austell PL26 7AW.

The council was informed that this property is actually in Pentewan Valley and the application was listed in St Ewe by mistake. Though the council could have contributed comments if it chose, after some consideration no proposal was made.

14/89 Website. The council discussed the information requested by the website designer. The clerk will write to request that she send a template for the pages with instructions about what needs to be filled in.

14/90 Highways.

- a) The council received a complaint about the trees cut back by Open Reach. It was felt that the work could be done more sympathetically. However, it is believed that Open Reach are following regulations which allow them to cut only up to a certain distance from the line. In this case the Parish Council appeals to the landowners to finish the job properly with a more sympathetic cutting pattern.
- b) TJ reported that the road alongside Cycle Path 419/1MUC/2 (Peruppa to the substation) has been the site of accidents and has become dangerous with uncut hedges. The clerk will write to Highways and request clarification for the cutting & maintenance regime along this stretch.

14/91 Finance

- a) The Budget Comparison and Cash Flow were handed out. Travel expenses have risen because of the clerk's attendance at CiLCA training and Society of Local Council Clerks meetings (25% of the cost). It was noted that the council must factor in this requirement in the next year. Luxulyan Parish Council has invoiced St Ewe for 25% of the costs of supplies (excluding VAT), clerk's training and travel from Jul'14 to Feb'15. Luxulyan will usually invoice every four months. It was noted at this last meeting of the financial year that receipts minus expenditure for the FY equals £324.70, even though the Budget exceeded receipts by £559. Reserves are still healthy and the website will be paid for from reserves earmarked for that purpose.
- b) Payments totalling £562.69 were authorised and cheques were signed (proposed WR, 2nd TJ) for Clerk's salary & expenses, £401.43; and Luxulyan Parish Council (25% of office supplies, travel and training), £161.26.

14/92 Correspondence and Invitations. (A complete list in Clerk's Notes 09-03-15)

- a) Consultation: draft Renewable Energy Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Cllr Brooks reported on this consultation, in particular Section 3.5 which stated that connection to an existing electricity grid would no longer

be a planning issue. The clerk will reply to the consultation stating the council's reservations about section 3.5.

- b) The Community Network Manager has been rebranded as the Community Link Officer. As far as we know the group structure will remain the same.
- c) The clerk will send a new document to all the councillors: *Focus Report: Local People and the Planning Process*, published by the Local Government Ombudsman.
- d) Cornwall Council has commissioned a feasibility study for the St Austell to A30 Strategic Link, as requested by the local Community Networks. An initial study will be finished this summer.
- e) St Ewe PC noted a letter from St Goran Parish to Cornwall Council which suggested that CC stop sending out so many consultations and use the savings for front line services.
- f) The council has received a number of emails from people representing Cornwall For Change (which began with the Chacewater letter). The clerk requested clarification from them concerning who they are and how their group is structured, but has received no reply.
- g) A letter was received from the Cornwall Rural Housing Association about the house for rent at Glebe Terrace. The clerk will request information by email in order to distribute it more easily.
- h) The council agreed that the clerk would unsubscribe to the email of Orlando Kimber & the Party for Cornwall, because it is political propaganda.
- i) A request was received from St Peter's Parochial Church Council for a grant of £200 toward the publication of Tower & Spire Magazine. The council will consider this at the usual time at the May Ordinary Meeting.

14/93 Business for the next meeting. No particular agenda items were requested for the next meeting.

14/94 Dates of the next meetings. An interim meeting to discuss planning may be arranged for 30th March, if required.

- a) St Austell and Mevagissey Community Network Meeting will be held on Tuesday 10th March at 7pm in the Council Chamber at the St Austell One Stop Shop. Cllr Roberts and the clerk will attend.

The municipal year begins in May and the council will hold two statutory meetings along with the ordinary meeting on **Monday, 11 May 2015**, starting at 7.00 pm at St Ewe Village Hall.

- b) *The Annual Parish Meeting*, 7.00 pm. Organisations within the parish and partner organisations outside the parish are invited to present a report about their activities. The clerk will contact the police to invite them.
- c) *The Annual Meeting of the Parish Council*, approximately 8.00 pm, at which the Chairman will be elected, committees appointed, and lead councillors selected; sometimes known as the AGM.
- d) *The Ordinary Meeting of the Parish Council*, at which the ordinary business of the Council will be addressed, follows directly after the Annual Meeting.

The meeting closed at 9.05 pm and the Chair thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 17 March 2015