

ST EWE PARISH COUNCIL

Chair of the Parish Council
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Clerk to the Parish Council
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DRAFT MINUTES

Parish Council Meeting
St Ewe Village Hall, 7.00 PM
Monday 14 September 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors: Will Richards (Chairman), John Dickinson (Vice-chairman), Trevor Johns, Rueben Collins, Sam Roberts, Trevor Harman, Allan Brooks, Janet Lockyer

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Christine Wilson, Clerk to the Parish. Ward Member, Cllr Malcolm Harris. 4 members of the public

ABSENT:

Councillors: Diane Clemes, Jenny May

Abbreviations:

Councillors' names – abbreviated with their initials. CC – Cornwall Council. PC – Parish Council. VH – Village Hall. CALC – Cornwall Association of Local Councils. *** indicates consultee comments for planning applications decided by the Parish Council; formal submission is delegated to the Clerk.

The meeting began at 7.00 pm and the Chairman welcomed all.

15/26 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllr May.

15/27 Public Session

It was agreed to allow the public to contribute during Item 15/30 below rather than during the Public Session.

15/28 Meetings and governance

A) Declarations of interest. None.

B) Requests for dispensation. None.

C) The minutes of the Meeting held on 13 July 2015 were approved and signed (proposed AB, 2nd JL).

D) Payments for £843.05 were authorised (proposed SR, 2nd TJ) as follows:

14 Sep 15	Jim Davies, footpaths	548	£	336.00
14 Sep 15	C Wilson, Clerk salary & expenses	549	£	507.05

E) Clerk's finance report including the circulated Budget Comparison and Cash Flow was noted.

F) The Correspondence Policy, as discussed at the last meeting was ratified and signed (proposed JD, 2nd SR).

15/29 Ward Member Malcolm Harris' gave his report:

TREWHIDDLE FARM. As I'm sure you're aware, at the last Strategic Planning Meeting, we approved higher Trewiddle Farm, with the removal of clause 8, which was the recommended conditions to protect the town centre. There were serious concerns here for me. The application completely failed on policy grounds, especially the sequential testing. And why do we employ the services of GVA at great expense to the taxpayer, and then completely disregard their professional opinion? Yet there was overwhelming support for this application from the public, albeit somewhat misinformed. I even did a door knock survey of my own within this parish, with a large majority in favour. I fully accept that I am here to

represent my parish, and tried to find a balance between public support and policy. I was also struggling to reconcile how the council went from a position of strong refusal to one of strong support, when fundamentally very little had changed. In fact the biggest change was that the council had taken advice from the developer that Old Vicarage Place is not deliverable. I did voice my concern again publicly about the process. I did, in the end vote in favour as the public and committee support was so overwhelming. I still feel that without clause 8 we are open to legal challenge and wouldn't be at all surprised if the decision was taken to Judicial Review by those in the town centre. In fact, that's one of the reasons I still voted for approval, knowing that there is, in my opinion, strong grounds for a J.R, but that ball is now firmly in their court. We will have to see.

FLOODING AT POLMASSICK. The serious flooding issues in Polmassick are heading to a very welcomed conclusion – the works have been passed and are due to start in October. This one has been quite a long fight, but there is now much relief, we're all just keeping our fingers crossed that there isn't any huge deluges between now and then. **WIND TURBINES.** The council-owned wind turbine in St Ewe has been withdrawn, overwhelming evidence against the council was collated by me and a number of residents, including a damning legal report funded by two people from the parish. So democracy does still flourish in certain quarters – albeit at a cost.

HOUSING. I am now heavily involved in a housing planning application coming forward in St Mewan Lane causing concerns with the residents, and after calling in a planning application for 6 houses on Ricketts Lane in Polgooth, and working hard with the residents, we managed to get a unanimous refusal from the committee. Once again this is proof that democracy is alive, and that it is sometimes worth the fight. Although I'm sure the applicant will probably appeal. Again we will have to wait and see.

15/30 Low Carbon Fund, Q&A session.

- Richard Bennett sent his apologies, but Sue Hawken (SH), LCF Panel member attended in his place.
- LCF distributes approx. £3,000 per year within the parishes of St Goran, St Ewe and St Michael with Caerhayes.
- JD had attended a meeting in St Goran concerning the Fund on 3rd September where suggestions for better communication and greater transparency were discussed.
- Notes from that meeting had been circulated to all councillors.
- Thus far the fund has been distributed only within St Goran Parish, perhaps because communication about the fund outside St Goran has not been adequate.
- Information about the funding will be made available through the local magazines of each Parish and the Parish Council minutes. The LCF will write to Parish Councils to let them know directly when the deadline for applications is. They will write to advise about the successful applicants.
- A new page on ST EWE Parish website will be created for information about the fund and a copy of the application form will be available on the St Ewe website. SH thought Des could create the page. The clerk will help if needed.
- **The deadline for applications for this year's allocation is 31st October.**
- All applications must show that there is community benefit and that the project contributes to lowering carbon emissions in some way.

ACTION: Des and Clerk

Two members of the public left the meeting.

15/31 Report on the Royal Visit to The Lost Gardens of Heligan

The Chairman and Clerk of the parish were invited on 20th July to meet Prince Charles and the Duchess of Cornwall as they arrived to visit the Lost Gardens which was celebrating its 25th anniversary. The Chairman and Clerk attended and the clerk will send a thank you to Heligan for their hospitality.

ACTION: Clerk

15/32 Meeting at St Goran about Low Carbon Fund grants was reported above, Item 15/30.

15/33 Police Matters

A) Consultation from the Home Office about Police Funding. It was agreed that the clerk will respond to the consultation in accordance with the recommendations of the National Rural Crime Network (NRCN) and its 'Rural Policing Matters' campaign, because, in NRCN's view, the statistics are unfairly skewed in favour of more funding for urban areas. Rural areas would be drastically cut.

B) The clerk reported that communities without a police presence are encouraged to donate a room, which is exclusive, permanent and secure for the police to use as a base.

ACTION: JL & WR will enquire with the Village Hall

15/34 Planning

A) Planning Decisions were <u>noted</u> (a complete list is in Clerk’s Notes and on the new website under Parish Council / Planning St Ewe Parish).
B) Planning correspondence.
<p>i. CC - Paperless Planning Survey. It was <u>agreed</u> that the clerk will <u>respond</u>, particularly to point out that paperless planning is not a time saver for small councils. The time it takes for a clerk to download all the necessary documents is significant in terms of cost and efficiency. The ‘Snapshot’ tool, which downloads planning documents easily onto a computer is a key ingredient to efficient paperless planning. The clerk will <u>make the ‘Snapshot Tool’ available</u> to all on the ‘Planning St Ewe Parish’ webpage.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk</p>
<p>ii. PA15/02159/PREAPP. Pre-application advice for use of premises as single dwelling, artist’s studio workshop and gallery - Oldthorns Little Polgooth St Austell Cornwall PL26 7DD. Case Officer: Simon Wagemakers.</p> <p>It is possible that in future Parish Councils will be allowed to participate in the Pre-application process. The clerk is unsure how this will work, but thinks it is a good idea in principle. The upcoming planning conference should shed some light on this topic.</p>
<p>iii. CC have organised three Planning Conferences again this year at £10 per delegate. It was <u>agreed</u> that JL and the Clerk will attend.</p> <p>ACTION: Clerk</p>
C) Applications for Consultee Comments.
<p>i. PA15/07827 Listed Building Consent for conversion of outbuilding, new glazed link replacing sub-standard utility, additional window openings and Internal alterations Trevithick Barton Access To Trevithick Farm Tregony Truro TR2 5SL. Case Officer: Sarah Dyke</p> <p>The following comment was agreed (proposed JL, 2nd AB).</p> <p>*** St Ewe Parish Council has noted the comments of the Historic Environment Planning (West). The Council finds it difficult to comment because of the historic nature of the buildings, and trusts that the case officer’s judgement would incorporate the recommendations of the relevant officers regarding the buildings’ listed status.</p>
<p>ii. PA15/07826 Trevithick Barton Access To Trevithick Farm Tregony Truro TR2 5SL. Conversion of Out-Building, new Glazed Link replacing Sub- Standard Utility, additional Window openings and Internal Alterations - Mr & Mrs Jeremy Day (Case Officer - Sarah Dyke)</p> <p>*** St Ewe Parish Council has noted the comments of the Historic Environment Planning (West) regarding the associated application PA15/07827. St Ewe finds it difficult to comment because of the historic nature of the buildings, and trusts that the case officer’s judgement would incorporate the recommendations of the relevant officers regarding the buildings’ listed status.</p>

15/35 Highways.

A) The clerk was requested to let Cormac know about three problem areas: 1) Sunny Corner, just off Drunken Bridge; 2) Kestle Road, at telegraph pole #10 there is a pothole at least 2’6” deep; 3) From Tucoyse to Polmassick there is water running down the hill and breaking up the road, making it worse every month.
ACTION: Clerk
B) Parking in St Ewe village. Complaints about cars parked in awkward positions were reported. It was pointed out that St Ewe is a ‘living village’ in which it is appropriate to park cars and that the police have commented that parked cars perform a ‘traffic calming’ function. No further discussion took place.
C) An online map of current and planned Roadworks is now available: roadworks.org . The clerk will put the link on the Highways page of the website.
ACTION: Clerk

15/36 Footpaths.

A) Report by Footpath Lead Councillor and clerk:
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- FP 4/1. The field is no longer under corn and the FP is accessible, as are all the stiles, though the stiles haven't been cut twice, as per the cutting schedule.
- The contractor attempted to reach the stiles four times and there was a standing crop which prevented access.
- The council agreed that it would be acceptable to have an alternative route signposted around the field whilst there is a standing crop; however, it would be the responsibility of the landowner to signpost it clearly. The clerk will ask for advice from the Countryside Access Officer.

ACTION: Clerk

- B) The problem areas at bridleways 13/1 (Lefasant) and 16/3 (from Lefasant to Levalsa). The current contractor for footpaths has quoted £100 for a 2nd cut of these areas, but there was no proposal to accept this quote. The clerk read out the Local Maintenance Partnership contract which did not make clear whether the landowner or the parish was responsible for public footpath and bridleway hedges. The clerk will consult with the Countryside Access Team to clarify who is responsible for public footpath and bridleway hedges.

ACTION: Clerk

- C) The clerk reported that the Definitive Map closes in 2026. If there are footpaths in the parish that are not yet on the definitive map, it is important to begin the process now so that enough evidence can be submitted before the deadline.

15/37 Correspondence and Invitations. (A complete list in Clerk's Notes 14-9-15)

- A) CC Consultation: Gambling Act 2005. No proposal was made about this consultation.

- B) CC Consultation: Street Trading Review. No proposal was made about this consultation.

- C) The Clerk reported the availability of a Transparency Fund (through CALC) which could reimburse smaller councils for the costs of compliance with the new Transparency Code. Application for the fund was delegated to the clerk.

ACTION: Clerk

15/38 Business for the next meeting.

- A) Adoption and repainting of the telephone kiosk in Kestle and St Ewe.

15/39 Date of the next meetings.

- A) Planning Conference, Royal Cornwall Showground, **Wed 28th October**, 4-8 pm. Attendees: JL and Clerk.

- B) The next ordinary meeting on **Monday, 9 November** 2015, starting at 7.00 pm, St Ewe Village Hall. If required, an interim meeting to discuss planning may be arranged.

The meeting closed at 9.10 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 10 October 2015