

ST EWE PARISH COUNCIL

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DRAFT MINUTES
Parish Council Meeting
St Ewe Village Hall, 7.00 PM
Monday 9 November 2015

PRESENT:

Councillors: Will Richards (Chairman), John Dickinson (Vice-chairman), Trevor Johns, Jenny May, Trevor Harman, Janet Lockyer, Allan Brooks, Diane Clemes

ALSO PRESENT:

Mrs Christine Wilson, Clerk to the Parish. 1 member of the public

ABSENT:

Councillors: Rueben Collins, Sam Roberts

Abbreviations:

Councillors' names – abbreviated with their initials. CC – Cornwall Council. PC – Parish Council. VH – Village Hall. LCF – Low Carbon Fund. LMP – Local Maintenance Partnership. 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 7.04 pm and the Chairman welcomed all.

15/40 Apologies

Apologies were received from Cllrs Roberts and Collins.

15/41 Public Session

Des Hawken reported on the new website's traffic and explained that the *Tourist Information* webpage had not been in place long enough for its effect to be noticed by the local businesses. Des recommended that the Council should not charge for the *Tourist Information* page during the upcoming fiscal year, in order for the businesses to first see some benefit from the advertising. It was agreed to bring Item 15/45(c) forward. (See decision at that item).

The member of the public left the room.

15/42 Meetings and governance

A) Declarations of interest. JD declared an interest as a neighbour for the planning application PA15/09191 at Item 15/49(d)i.

B) Requests for dispensation. None.

C) Matters arising from the previous minutes. The chairman ran through the action points from the previous minutes. The clerk has applied for a Transparency Fund grant of £845 to cover the costs of setting up the website and the ongoing updates for this fiscal year. We will probably know in a couple months whether the application is fully or partially successful.

- D) The minutes of the Meeting held on 14 Sept 2015 were approved as a true and correct record (proposed AB, 2nd JD).
- E) CC now requires basic DBS checks for all its members. St Ewe PC noted the pros and cons of requiring a DBS check for all parish council members. No proposal to require checks was made.

15/43 Ward Member Malcolm Harris' report

Cllr Harris did not send a report.

15/44 Footpaths.

- A) Update on the 'freezing' of the definitive map in 2026. The clerk apologised because the 'freezing' of the definitive map had been unwittingly exaggerated. The only changes to the definitive map that will be 'frozen' from 2026 will be those *based on historical evidence*. All other means of changing the definitive map concerning public rights of way will continue in effect.
- B) The PC had reviewed the correspondence from the North Cornwall Cluster Group to Cllr Adam Paynter, Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, and the Countryside Access Team. The Group is requesting a review of the Local Maintenance Partnership agreements for footpaths. Payments have not been raised since 2007. The PC agreed to support the Group's request for a review of the LMP payments and the clerk will write with a copy to our ward member (proposed JD, 2nd AB).
ACTION: Clerk
- C) After the clerk reported the problems at Bridleways 13/1 and 16/3 to the Cormac Countryside Team (Sept item 15/36b), they agreed to add these to the LMP cutting schedule which requires two cuts. [Since the meeting at which this was reported, Cormac has reneged on its offer of funding for two cuts because it had mistaken these paths for gold paths; they are silver paths which are only funded for one cut.] In any case, these bridleways will be inspected in early 2016 as part of a new 'overgrown bridleways campaign'.
- D) After the clerk requested permission to circumvent the field at FP 4/1 with clear signs whilst it was in crop, Cormac has sent advice that CC has instructed Cormac to organise a 'ploughing and cropping campaign'. It appears that FP 4/1 will be inspected early in the year to see that it complies with required access. JD will advise the landowner and tenant.
ACTION: JD

15/45 Finance.

- A) Payments totalling £922.17 were authorised. Mr G McGuffie, grass cutting of verges + clearing vegetation from notice boards, £440.00; C Wilson, Clerk salary & expenses, £438.25; Luxulyan Parish Council (25% of training & supplies), £43.92. Proposed: DC; 2nd JL.
- B) Clerk's finance reports, *Budget Comparison* to date and *Cash Flow* (8 months actual, 4 predicted), were noted. The £700 'paperless planning' grant has been received from CC to go toward the purchase of equipment required to discuss planning applications at meetings without a paper copy. Paperless planning begins for St Ewe Parish on 1st April 2016. (See item 15/52)
- C) The Council considered the opinion of Mr Hawken during the public session, the statistics regarding website traffic, and the possibility of charging for advertisements on the Parish Council website in the *Tourist Information* section. It was agreed to wait and review the situation in 12 months' time.

- D) It was agreed to accept Mr G McGuffie's quote for £430 cutting the grass verges in 2016 and for £25 to clean the ivy and growth from around the parish notice boards (proposed AB; 2nd TH).
- E) The clerk did not have a detailed quote from Mr Davies for the footpaths in 2016; however, it was agreed to accept his broad verbal quote and the clerk will confer with the Chairman and the Footpath Lead Councillor when she receives the exact quote (proposed AB; 2nd JD).
ACTION: Clerk
- F) The BUDGET for the next financial year 2016-17 was agreed at £7,307; a 6% rise (proposed DC, 2nd JL). The only changes will be the previously approved rise in the clerk's salary (Item July 15/22h) to include her duties on the new website, and a rise in cost of cutting Footpaths and Verges. However, reserves are still very healthy and savings of around 6% is predicted from this year's budget, so the parish precept (paid by parish residents) will remain the same.
- G) The PRECEPT for the next financial year 2016-17 was agreed at £5,104, a 0% change (proposed DC; 2nd JL). This translates to approximately £23 for Band D taxpayers for the fiscal year 2016-17.

15/46 Low Carbon Fund Grants.

The next meeting of the LCF Panel is on Tues, 10th November (the day after this meeting). There would not be enough time for a representative from St Ewe PC to familiarise him/herself with the applications, if elected at this meeting. Therefore, the LCF Panel requested that JD (who had attended the September LCF meeting) attend this year's meeting. The council agreed it would be best. The election of a Parish Council representative on the Low Carbon Fund Panel was deferred until the next meeting when JD can report on the duties required.

ACTION: JD

15/47 Adoption and repainting of the telephone kiosk in Kestle and St Ewe.

AB reported that the red telephone boxes in St Ewe village and Kestle could be taken away unless something is done to keep them. BT will allow the Council to adopt the kiosks for public use at the cost of £1 each. BT could continue to supply electricity to the kiosk, if needed. Cllr Brooks will investigate the possible uses, which could include a defibrillator at St Ewe. A defibrillator would require coordinated fund-raising by the whole community in order to buy the defibrillator and pay for training for members of the community. It will be important for members of the community to give us their view, so the clerk will put a request for ideas on the website, and the public is cordially invited to the next meeting on 11 January to discuss their ideas. The council agreed to adopt the kiosks (proposed AB, 2nd DC).

ACTION: AB and Clerk

15/48 Kestle & St Ewe notice boards.

The Kestle notice board is in a very bad state. The owner of the property where the notice board is hanging has very kindly offered to refurbish the board. The council has budgeted for the maintenance of the notice boards and would like to pay for the materials. The clerk will contact the owner.

ACTION: Clerk

It was reported that the St Ewe notice board is deteriorating and requires repair so that it will close properly. Cllr Dickinson offered to repair it.

ACTION: JD

15/49 Planning

- A) Planning Decisions are listed on the website under *Parish Council/Planning St Ewe Parish*.
- B) Planning correspondence. It was noted that an appeal has been lodged for **PA15/01654** | Amended design to building under construction (i.e. dormer windows in roof space to replace approved 'velux') in garage and workshop. | Large Barn Site Galowras St Ewe St Austell Cornwall PL26 6EW. This was mistakenly attributed to our parish. At its May'15 meeting, after consideration of reports during the public session, St Ewe PC objected to this application.
- C) JL attended the workshops on biodiversity and on the treatment of Preapps by parish councils; the clerk attended the workshops on legal issues and on effective consultee comments. The clerk attended the Paperless Planning Workshop the very next night and was disappointed that CC would not make any concrete recommendations of equipment, so it was not very helpful.
- D) The PC agreed that it would have an open-door policy toward Pre-apps, so that prospective applicants would feel very welcome to come and discuss pre-planning applications with the council if they wish. The clerk will publicise this on the website.
ACTION: Clerk
- E) Applications for Consultee Comments.

Cllr J Dickinson left the room for the next item and returned before 15/49(e)ii.

- i. **PA15/09191** | Construction of a timber built and clad implement shed on existing hardstanding area | Mr Malcolm Sibley| Bosue Vineyard St Ewe St Austell Cornwall PL26 6EU.

After a short discussion the council decided to offer NO OBJECTION (proposed JL, 2nd JM).

*** St Ewe PC offers NO OBJECTION because the building will be unobtrusive. St Ewe Parish Council notes the letter from Mr Cook regarding clients that are neighbours of the Vineyard. The Council retracts its request for any condition concerning noise levels as this could unfairly restrict traditional farming practices. The Council requests that the case officer use his judgement concerning any condition restricting certain uses of the proposed shed, taking current and future use into consideration.
- ii. **PA15/09482**. Tregonan Farm Tregony Truro TR2 5SN Installation of an electrical substation building, and its retention for a period of 30 years, together with ancillary underground electrical cabling. - Mr James Hopkins - (Case Officer - Samuel Dunn) [leading to the wind turbine to be erected at Pittsdown Farm (PA13/11428). This constitutes ancillary electrical infrastructure necessary to the operation of the permitted Pittsdown wind turbine.] The council had originally objected to the Pittsdown turbine primarily for reasons of cumulative visual impact. After looking closely at the rather sketchy application, the council voted unanimously to OBJECT to this application (proposed AB, 2nd TH).

*** St Ewe Parish Council OBJECTS to this application for a number of reasons. 1) Firstly, it is quite vague. The council was particularly concerned that there is no mention of the capacity of the substation and whether this substation will serve only the Pittsdown Farm turbine previously approved (PA13/11428) or whether there will be capacity for other renewable energy projects. 2) As detailed by Cuby Parish Meeting in its objection, it does not explain how it will mitigate the impact of the works on the environment, as a survey by a 'suitably qualified ecologist' has not been made prior to application, nor has it explained how it will cross the

'modest in width' water course with the least disturbance to the fauna. The fact that Natural England stated "The lack of comment from Natural England does not imply that there are no impacts on the natural environment" indicates that a more rigorous approach is expected of the applicant. 3) It is not explained why this route was chosen when there are other shorter routes from the approved Pittsdown turbine to the grid. The loss of power over such a long electrical line would certainly undermine the efficiency and benefit of the turbine. In short, though the technical details of the Pittsdown turbine must be now known, this associated application is very sketchy indeed, more like a pre-application than a full application and, therefore, does not offer any material reason to support it. If the case officer is of a mind to approve this application, St Ewe Parish Council requests that it be considered at Planning Committee.

15/50 Highways

A) TJ reported on the progress of Polmassick flood prevention works and explained at length the reasons for the delays. The council was very concerned about the delays to this long awaited project because of the approaching winter weather and the possible heavy rains. The clerk will write to CC to request clarification about the points raised by TJ.

ACTION: Clerk

B) JL reported on the blocked drains on Tucoyse Hill. The clerk will report to Highways.

ACTION: Clerk

C) JL reported on the latest Flood Forum where she gave a presentation on the emotional effects of flooding. She reported that a new government initiative will support insurance companies by requiring a universal surcharge so that people in flood areas can still get insurance.

15/51 Correspondence and Invitations. (A complete list in Clerk's Notes 9-11-15)

WR read out a letter of thanks to Des Hawken from St Ewe Affordable Homes Ltd for all his time, hard work and dedication, seeing the project through to its successful and timely completion.

15/52 Business for the next meeting.

WR and the clerk will investigate the necessary equipment for paperless planning before the January meeting so that the council can decide on the purchases it must make before the 1st April deadline.

ACTION: WR and Clerk

15/53 Date of the next meetings.

The next ordinary meeting is Monday, 11 January 2016, starting at 7.00 pm, St Ewe Village Hall. An extra-ordinary meeting to discuss planning may be arranged, if required.

The meeting closed at 9.50 pm and the Chairman thanked everyone for attending.

Mrs C Wilson ~ Parish Clerk ~ 20 November 2015