

# Blisland Parish Council



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## DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21<sup>st</sup> DECEMBER 2023

- Present:** Cllr. Meads (Chair), Cllr. Dickin (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Green, Cllr. Spencer, Cllr. Shephard, Cllr. Stansfield, Cllr. Lowden, and Cllr Trevarthern.
- 23-12/1 Apologies:** Cllr. Teasdale
- Also Present:** Locum Clerk: Carolyn May, Cllr. J. Cruse (Cornwall Council), and 3 members of the Public.
- 23-12/2 Declarations of Interest:** No declarations of Interest were received.

The meeting commenced at 7 pm. Cllr. Meads (Chair) welcomed all to the meeting, and reminded attendees that the event was being recorded.

## AGENDA

- 23-12/3 Public Forum** – Mr George Edward-Collins of Trewardale addressed the meeting, in relation to the on-going flooding at Trewardale.

Mr Edward-Collins advised the meeting that the root of the problem arose from water run-off from both the north and south of the entrance gate to Trewardale. Following discussions with Cllr. Stansfield and Cornwall Council, some simple, cost effective, solutions to the problem have been identified.

Currently, the existing ditches and culvert are blocked. Previously, a nine-inch pipe had been installed through the adjacent hedge, to divert the run-off into the field. However, the pipe is constantly becoming blocked, despite regular clearing out. It is, therefore, suggested that a larger pipe/ hole should be installed in order to prevent further blockages, and to facilitate the effective diversion of run-off water from the south side of the gate at Trewardale.

To address the water run-off from the north side of the entrance, it is suggested that kerbstones could be layed in order to divert the water into the field.

The proposed Schedule of Works has been submitted to Cornwall Council Highways Department.

It was recognised that the owners of Trewardale, the Parish Council, English Heritage and Cornwall Council Highways must work collaboratively in order to remedy the situation.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Spencer, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would correspond with the relevant Cornish Council Heritage Officer, to raise our concerns in respect of the damage being done to the heritage assets (the Southern Gateway to Trewardale). Unanimous. **Carried**.

A meeting, with the Senior Highways Officer is being scheduled to take place in January 2024, at Trewardale. At that meeting, Cllr Cruse will invite the Officer to agree to fund the enlargement of the hole in the hedge and the pipe, the laying of kerb stones at the appropriate point and, the re-instatement of the 'lip'.

Cllr Stansfield advised the meeting that, under the terms of sections 25-28 of the Land Drainage Act 1991, Cornwall Council has the power to require to landowners to undertake works to maintain the flow of watercourses, and to require the cleansing of ditches. This could be applied to the land north of Trewardale.

#### **23-12/4 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising**

**23-12/4(1)** Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting of Blisland Parish Council, held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr Trevarthen, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 16<sup>th</sup> of November 2023 would be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the said meeting. Unanimous. **Carried**.

**23-12/4(2)** Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Extraordinary Parish Meeting of Blisland Parish Council, held on the 29th of November 2023.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Dickin, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Extraordinary Meeting held on the 29th of November 2023 would be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the said meeting. Unanimous. **Carried**.

**23-12/5** Cllr Shephard raised the matter of the Blisland Facebook Page, and its possible use for disseminating PC information/ determining the views of parishioners about PC proposals.

It was highlighted that the PC does, in fact, have its' own FB page, which could be used for the purposes highlighted. The Blisland Community FB page is run and moderated by persons not connected with the PC. Therefore, PC business should not be discussed on that platform.

#### **23-12/6 Highways and Footpaths**

**Grit Boxes** – A meeting is to be held between the Highways Steward and the residents at Tregenna, in order to identify an appropriate location for a grit box. Until a location is identified, and agreed, the matter cannot be progressed.

**Road Markings** – This item is to be removed from the agenda until the Highway Steward returns from maternity leave. A proposal has been submitted to Rachel Tatlow. However, to date, there has been no action.`

**23-12/7**

**Cornwall Councillor's Report**

The road works from Four Winds has been delayed but remains on the 'approved' list. There are several bad patches, which will be addressed when re-surfacing begins.

**Quiet Lanes Project** – this had been brought to the CAP Finance group. Cllr Cruse has supported the proposal. It is felt that there are advantages to introducing this as a concept in the Camel CAP area, due to the increased number of horse riders in the area.

**PA20/10648 Moss Farm Barn** - Cllr Cruse stated that she had heard no further from the Case Officer. She will support that stance of the Parish Council on the matter and take the matter to the full Cornwall Council Planning Committee. The reasons for objection to the application are:

- The application contravenes the National Landscape Management Plan, which 'seeks to further the purpose of conserving and enhancing the natural beauty of the National Landscape'.
- The applicant has stated that the barn is used to store machinery, which is used at another location 14 miles away. That is not a sustainable situation.
- Had the application been submitted as a business plan, Cllr Cruse would not have considered it to be acceptable.

**Solar Farm Application (Central Cornwall)** – Cllr Cruse was disappointed with the result of the application for an 84-hectare solar farm to be built in central Cornwall. Farmland should not be used for the siting of solar installations, as farming is the cornerstone of Cornwall and, with an increasing population, all of the available farmland is required.

**Bodmin Moor International Dark-Sky Association (IDA)** – Cllr Cruse stated that the Bodmin Moor IDA is seeking volunteers. If any Councillor is interested, please contact her.

Cllr Spencer suggested that it would be helpful if Cornwall Council was to consider the Dark Skies initiative as part of its planning decision making process. Many applications had been passed which did not comply with the initiative.

**23-12/8**

**Planning Applications and Pre-Applications**

**Planning Applications** – none

**Planning Decisions** - noted

**Other Planning Matters** – None

**23-12/9**

**Finance**

Members considered the Schedule of Payments provided.

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Meads, **seconded** by Cllr. Trevarthen and RESOLVED that the payment schedule would be approved. Unanimous. **Carried.**

**23-12/10**

**RFO Report**

Cllrs Spencer and Green now have the necessary documentation, to permit the making of payments. Cllr. Dickin is still awaiting the delivery of her bank card. A cheque book has now been issued to the Parish Council. Cllr Meads has handed the PC chequebook over to the Clerk.

**23-12/11**

**Correspondence - none**

**23-12/12**

**Blisland Community Shop**

The Parish Council recognises the contribution that the volunteers, and the Community Association make towards the efficient and effective running of the Blisland Community Shop.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Meads, and RESOLVED that the contribution of those involved with the running of the Community Shop should be recorded in the Minutes of the meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

It was **agreed** that a notice would be placed in the Community Newsletter, highlighting the need for volunteers to donate their time to the Community Shop.

**23-12/13**

**Duchy Defibrillators - Temple Defibrillator Update**

Cllr Dickin reported that the Temple Association had received the funding for work to be undertaken by National Grid.

**23-12/14**

**Institute – Windows Update**

Cllr Spencer reported that Historic England had now accepted an updated schedule of work for the Institute windows.

It has been agreed that the bottom half of the left-hand window frame will be replaced, and the bottom third of the right-hand window.

The PC is currently awaiting the decision of Cornwall Council, in relation to the proposal.

The quotation for costs has been updated to reflect the changes to the scope of work to be undertaken. Worst case scenario, the cost will amount to £12,258, at best the cost could be £9,262.

The quotation was provided by the only carpenter who has engaged with the PC in relation to this matter.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Spencer, **seconded** by Cllr Meads and RESOLVED that the quotation for the repair of the windows would be accepted, and that the work would be scheduled to commence in May 2024. Six in favour and two abstentions. **Carried.**

Cllr Stansfield suggested that, should Cornwall Council approve the changes presented, grant funding should be sought for the project.

**Drainage Outside the Institute** – Cllr Shephard reported that the flooding problem at the Institute arises from the blocked soakaway (not a drain as originally suggested). This is deemed to be located on Institute land. Cllr Spencer will arrange to clear the same in the Spring.

**23-12/15 Village Green**

**Work on Benches** – Cllr Trevarthen reported that the benches have been removed for refurbishment. The concrete bases have been cleaned ready for reinstatement of the benches. Cllr Trevarthen

**Parking Around the Village Green** - Cllr Shephard had obtained costings for the provision of suitable road cones as concerns had been raised about the sufficiency of parking space for funeral corteges. This information will be passed to the Church, as these particular parking issues are not the responsibility of the Parish Council.

**23-12/16 Communications**

**Mailing List Update** - this item is to be removed from the agenda.

**Face Book / Whats App** - It was **agreed** that Cllr Spencer would arrange for non-statutory PC communications with the public to be disseminated via the PC's Face Book page, as the Council website was not considered to be an appropriate platform for general notices.

**CAP Contact** – It was **agreed** that all Members should register on the Cornwall Council website, for a 'Let's Talk Cornwall' account, as that is the only platform through which communication can be undertaken in relation to CAP matters.

**23-12/17 Training & Meetings Attended – none.**

**The meeting closed at 20:15 hrs.**

**Next Meeting:** 18<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at Blisland Village Hall, Manor Suite – commencing at 7p.m.