

Blisland Parish Council

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MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 18th JANUARY 2024

Present: Cllr. Meads (Chair), Cllr. Dickin (Vice-Chair), Cllr. Green, Cllr. Spencer, Cllr. Stansfield, Cllr. Lowden, and Cllr Trevarthern.

24-01/1 Apologies: none

Also Present: Locum Clerk: Carolyn May, Cllr. J. Cruse (Cornwall Council), and 3 members of the Public.

24-01/2 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

24-01/2 Resignations

The Clerk reported that resignation s had been received from both Cllrs. Shephard and Teasdale.

24-01/03 Public Forum

Water Run-Off – Tregenna Road Junction.

Mrs J Pippard addressed the meeting in respect of the water run-off at the junction of Tregenna Road, in the village. Mrs Pippard advised the meeting that she had reported the same problem last winter. She added that the condition of the path/ road represented a danger to pedestrians, as ice had a tendency to form in the area.

Cllr Stansfield advised the meeting that he had, in fact, put road grit down in the area on the days when ice was present.

Mrs Pippard was of the opinion that the Parish Council had refused to provide a grit bin for the area. That contention was addressed by Cllr Spencer who

explained that the decision with regard to the placing of a grit bin had been deferred until the problem of the run-off was solved.

Mrs Christine Bond, a resident of Churchtown Mews also reported the run-off of water from the area of the public house. She asked how the problem could be dealt with.

It was **agreed** that both parishioners would contact Cllr Cruse (Cornwall Council) by email in respect of this matter, and that Cllr Cruse would raise the matter with the appropriate department.

Water at Trewardale

Mr Tim Cornelius addressed the meeting in relation to the problems at Trewardale. The gentleman was advised that the matter was listed to be discussed, under Agenda Item 24-01/06(b).

Mr Cornelius then advised Members that the Environment Agency wished him to erect a shed on his land, and asked how he would go about obtaining planning permission for the same.

Mr Cornelius was advised that the principal planning authority is Cornwall Council, and that he would be obliged to submit an application to that body.

It was **agreed** that Mr Cornelius would speak with Cllr Cruse in relation to this matter.

24-01/04 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting of Blisland Parish Council, held on the 21st December 2024.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Spencer, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 21st of December 2023 would be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the said meeting. Unanimous. **Carried.**

23-11/6 Highways and Footpaths

(a) Grit Bins – Two new grit bins are to be provided. One will be located at Temple, and one at Tregenna. We are currently awaiting confirmation from Mr Brian Runnalls, that the bin at Tregenna can be placed on land owned by a family member.

(b) Water Run-Off and Drainage at Tregenna – Cllr Meads reported that work had been undertaken to clean out the culvert and there is, currently, no water run -off onto the road next to the telephone box.

However, the Highway Steward has been advised of the run-off which arises from private land and runs under the stone wall of the pub. It was

agreed that the responsibility for this lies with the landowner, as the run-off from Mrs Bond's property does not enter onto public land. However, Cllr Stansfield has provided road grit to the resident as the run-off is impeding entry/exit to and from her property.

It is understood that the Highways Steward intends to correspond with the owner of the land responsible for the run-off, asking for the problem to be addressed.

Trewardale – A meeting was held on the 17th of January 2024 between representatives from Cornwall Council Heritage Team, Cornwall Council Flood Team, the Highways, the owners of Trewardale, and Parish Councillors.

It was requested that the property owner provides to Cornwall Council, by 1st April 2024, dated and comprehensive evidence relating to rainfall/run-off at the site (to include photographs/ video footage etc).

Cllr Stansfield highlighted the fact that Cornwall Council Highways Department has a statutory responsibility to have water run-off directed into a drain.

24-01/7

Cornwall Councillor's Report

Switching -Off of Street Lights – The streetlights at Blisland are to be turned off between midnight and 5 am. The list of lights to be turned off can be found [on the Cornwall Council Interactive map by following this link](#).

Moss Barn – Cllr Cruse has spoken to the delegated officer regarding the 5 day protocol for Moss Barn and confirmed that she supports Blisland PC bringing this matter to the Planning Committee. It is anticipated that the matter will be considered in either in February or March 2024. It is incumbent upon the Parish Council to send a representative to the meeting, and to advise Cornwall Council Planning of the identity of that representative.

Trewardale – Cllr Cruse confirmed that Trewardle and the Parish Council will gain evidence to send to Highways. This will then be considered along with other works that are 'on the highways maintenance list'.

It was emphasised that any blocked drains or culverts should be reported on the 'report it' system and work will be done to clear this.

Cllr Cruse said that the drain which was installed by Trewardle should be their responsibility as it was installed on their land, by them. It is suggested that the Landowner could look at remedial work to make the drain effective, as currently water rushes past the drain and enters the driveway.

Councillor Stansfield stated that he believed that this construction was not correct either statutorily or factually; under the S41 of the 1980 Highways Act the Highways Authority has a clear statutory duty to '*drain the highway*'; under Sections 100, 130, 163 and 299 of the Highways Act this can be to a '*highways drain*', to a '*riparian drain in private ownership*' or to either a

'drainage ditch that is part of the highway or a riparian ditch in private ownership that is not part of the highway'; it is an irrelevance that the current drain is on Trewardale land; it is not the Trewardale's Estate responsibility to drain the highway; it is for the Highways Authority to do this using the drain on Trewardale land under S163 of the Highways Act if it is necessary to do so (ie to comply with their statutory function to drain the Highway).

Cllr Cruse has spoken with Cllr Richard Williams-Pears who is the relevant Cornwall Council Portfolio Holder, regarding this problem and the Service Director, Phil Mason, regarding confirmation of £3.4 million uplift to the Highways budget.

The greater evidence produced the more likely this will come forward as an enhancement in the 2024/25 budget.

24-01/08 New Planning Applications and Pre-Applications

PA20/10648 – Moss Farm Barn - 5 Day Protocol Update

It was confirmed by Cllr Meads that the text to be submitted to Cornwall Council Planning Committee had been agreed.

24-01/09 Planning Decisions - Noted

24-01/10 Other Planning Matters

Poldhu - It was reported that a bungalow had been constructed at the site, which is now being lived in. No planning application for the same could be found. The Members were advised that a previous Planning Application (in 2003), proposing the demolition of a structure and the construction of holiday accommodation, had been refused. It was **agreed** that the matter would be passed to Cllr Cruse.

Attendance of Mr Gavin Smith (Team Leader Cornwall Council Planning Area 5 – Cllr Meads to arrange a suitable time and date for a meeting between Members and Mr Smith.

24-01/11 Finance

Members considered the Schedule of Payments provided.

The Clerk highlighted that no invoice had been received from the Cleaner. To date, some scanned documents had been received but these had been inadequate. It was **agreed** that the Cleaner would be asked to provide original invoices by a specified date each month, so that these can be appropriately processed.

Cllr. Spencer is to investigate the 'Torch' invoice, which is believed to have an issue due to work undertaken several months ago.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Trevarthen, **seconded** by Cllr Dickin, and **RESOLVED** that the Schedule of Payments would be approved, and invoices discharged. Unanimous. **Carried.**

RFO Report

Cllr. Dickin is still awaiting the delivery of her bank card. This is to be followed up again.

Statements for both Parish Council accounts are now being received by the Locum Clerk.

24-01/12

Correspondence

CALC Strategic Review – Members to respond individually.

Police Surgery Dates

Cornwall Councillor Report – disseminated.

24-01/13

Duchy Defibrillators - Temple Defibrillator Update

Cllr Dickin reported that National Grid would be attending at the Temple Defibrillator site on the 19th of January, in order to reconnect the power supply to the telephone box, following a lengthy delay caused by EDF failing to provide the PC with an unmetered supply account. The defibrillator will be set up shortly.

The Clerk is to re-order defibrillator signs.

24-01/14

Institute – Windows Update

Cllr Spencer reported that the quote for the windows had now been accepted on behalf of the PC. The Carpenter anticipated that work would start in April. However, due to the PC applying for grants to fund the work, the Carpenter was asked if the start date could be ‘nudged back’. The Carpenter has undertaken to discuss this request with the Glazier, and we are still awaiting a response to the same.

Cllr Stansfield reported that an application for funding had been submitted to Historic England South West. He added that the request had been put to that Board, and he would contact their Officer on Monday next.

Alternatively, an application can be submitted to the National Lottery Heritage Fund, which opens again for bids on 1st February 2024.

24-01/15

Village Green

Work on Benches – Cllr Trevarthen reported that the benches will be returned to the village green on the 23rd of January.

24-01/16

Communications

Let's Talk Cornwall – Cllrs. Stansfield, Meads and Dickin have signed up to this website. Members were again reminded of the need to subscribe.

24-01/17 Training & Meetings Attended

Cllrs Meads and Stansfield - CAP Meeting.

Cllr Meads reported that the new Local Plan was discussed at the CAP Meeting.

24-01/18 Diary Dates – Next Meeting, Thursday 15th February

24-01/19 Parish Council Relationship with External Bodies

It was **agreed** that the matter would be discussed in open forum, rather than as a confidential matter.

Cllr Meads raised the issue of the relationship between the Parish Council and external bodies. This matter is of particular importance where Members are, in some way, affiliated to an organisation which is seeking financial support from the Parish Council.

At each meeting Parish Councillors are obliged to declare any interests , where matters are being discussed which would affect a body/ group/ business to which the Parish Councillor is connected. The responsibility for declaring the interest(s) lies entirely with the Parish Councillor with such an interest. All Declarations of Interests are recorded in the Meeting Minutes.

Members sought to ascertain the composition of the Blisland Fayre Committee and the Village Hall Committee, as it appeared that some Councillors sat as Committee Members on one/ both. In relation to both committees, no Parish Council appointment had been made. Therefore, there is official representation for the PC, on either committee.

It was ascertained that Parish Councillors serving on the administrative bodies of both groups were acting in their personal capacities, and not as representatives of the Parish Council. In such circumstances, it was deemed incumbent upon those persons to declare an Interest, at the commencement of any PC meeting at which grant funding (inter alia) was being discussed.

A further issue raised was the lack of appropriate governance rules relating to funding applicant bodies and the need for such bodies to have a formal Constitution. It was **agreed** that all future applications for funding would require evidence of a properly drafted, and enacted, constitution, and the provision of properly maintained accounts.

The meeting closed at 8.40 p.m.

