

Blisland Parish Council



Carolyn Y. May LLB(Hons), M.A, B.Sc
Locum Parish Clerk & RFO
Blisland Parish Council
A209 Victoria Advent House
Station Approach, Victoria
Roche PL26 8LG

01726 210139

clerk@blislandparishcouncil.co.uk
www.blislandparishcouncil.co.uk

MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 22nd FEBRUARY 2024

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

24-02/1 Apologies: Cllrs Spencer and Green

Also Present: Locum Clerk: Carolyn May, Cllr. J. Cruse (Cornwall Council), and 5 members of the Public.

24-02/2 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

24-02/03 Public Forum

24-02/03(1) Mr Simon Draper addressed the Members in relation to the installation of a new pole at Tregenna, by Wildanet Fiber Optics. The decision to site the pole at the chosen location was made without any prior consultation with householders in the hamlet, all of whom are upset at both the visual impact of the same to the natural environment, and the potential removal of a turning place for vehicles by a second pole.

Households, which will be most affected by the siting of the pole at the proposed site, will not benefit from any utilities that will be supported by the structure.

Mr Draper contacted Wildanet by email, requesting that a site meeting be held to discuss the proposed installation.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Dickin and **RESOLVED** that the matter would be discussed by the Parish Council at the extant meeting, due to the time constraints set by the publication and posting of a notice of intention by Wildanet. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Members discussed the proposed installation of the pole. Cllr Stansfield advised that there was no requirement for Statutory Undertakers to consult with interested parties, and that there was only a requirement to provide 28 days' notice (by posting a notice of intention) to the public.

Cllr Stansfield added that there were two requirements that would have to be satisfied, in order to raise a formal complaint:

- The legal status of Wildanet as a non-Statutory Undertaker; or, if the company is a Statutory Undertaker:
- The company has breached the Code of Conduct for Statutory Undertakers.

Cllr Stansfield undertook to provide Mr Draper with a copy of the said Code of Conduct, and advised Mr Draper to contact the company, requesting that the pole be sited elsewhere, and requesting that there be a site meeting with all parties present.

It was believed that the hamlet falls within a designated National Landscape

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would correspond with Wildanet, in relation to the matter, and would also request a site meeting.

24-02/03(2) **Denham House Planning Application (PA24/00876)**

Mr John Bassett and Mt Daniel Bassett addressed the Members in relation to the above detailed planning application.

Mr John Bassett explained that the proposed tree work related to the removal of Leylandii trees, and a cedar tree at the rear of the property. These trees had been left untended by a previous owner of the property and were the subject of complaints from both neighbours. Indeed, one tree is now leaning towards a neighbouring property.

The advice of an arborist had been sought by Mr Bassett, and a plan for necessary tree work agreed. Other than the trees referred to above, no other trees are to be removed. Hedges are to be cut and reinstated.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that the matter would be determined by the Parish Council during the Public Forum, as the application had already been listed on the meeting agenda. Unanimous. **Carried.**

It was **proposed** by Cllr Trevarthen, **seconded** by Cllr Dickin and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would support the application. Unanimous. **Carried.**

24-02/04 **Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising**

Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting of Blisland Parish Council, held on the 18th of January 2024.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **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.**

24-02/05 **Matters Arising - None raised.**

24-02/06

Highways and Footpaths

- (a) **Grit Bins** – The sites for the grit bins at Tregenna and Temple have been identified by the Residents but have yet to be agreed by the Cornwall Council Highways Officer. The matter cannot be progressed until this action has been completed.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr Trevarthen and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Stansfield would correspond with the Highways Officer, in order to progress the matter. Unanimous. **Carried**.

(b) **Water Run-Off and Drainage at Trewardale**

Cllr Stansfield sought the permission of the Members to correspond with Cornwall Council Highways Officer in relation to the water run-off at Trewardale (north and south), the water run-off at the Blisland Inn wall and the water run-off at the Old Smithy.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Dickin and **RESOLVED** that Cllr Stansfield would write to the Highways Officer in relation to water run-off in the parish. Unanimous. **Carried**

24-02/07

Cornwall Councillor's Report

Poldhu - Cllr Cruse visited the chalet at Poldhu and spoke with the owner. The shed in the yard is being used as a workshop, a wood burner has been installed.

The other chalet is a refurbished building which has been on the site for many years. It has been brought up to date with new roof and cladding and may be used for a family member. Cllr Cruse explained to the owner that, should this chalet be made in to a holiday let, the owner would need to apply for planning permission for change of use.

Highways Expression of Interest (EOI) - this was discussed on the 13th of February. However, priority has been given to the Withiel 'restricted lorry scheme,' as this has been 3 years in the process, now has TRO's in place and, following consultation is now at the stage of implementation.

A letter had been written to the Chair of Blisland Parish Council stating that that the existing road signage was adequate and should always be kept visible and well displayed. As there have been no recorded accidents, it would seem that any further intervention would not be supported.

There are plans to bring the '20 is Plenty' into areas which request it, and also, the Quiet Lanes feasibility study, which we hope will be approved, will also have some input on that stretch of road (A30 to Blisland village). It has been requested that all matters relating to road incidents are sent to the Cornwall Highways inbox as multiple requests were causing some administration problems.

Road works have been completed. However, when passing the area where the Heavy-duty vehicles were parked, I have seen a lot of litter which would appear to

be exactly where the vehicles were parked. I have reported this to Highways and expressed my disappointment.

The faulty street lights in the village have been repaired.

Dark skies. We are struggling to find volunteers to help with filling in the IDA Annual return. I requested assistance from the Council officers, but the request was not supported. I wondered if there was anyone in Blisland who might be interested in taking on this role.

Full Council approved next year's Budget and also approved a potential rise in Tamar Bridge and Torpoint Ferry charges. These would only be requested if we were unable to get additional funding from the Government. Current losses are £200,00 a month so an unsustainable drain on the Tamar reserves which are just £500,00.

The following matters were raised with Cllr Cruse:

Road signage – Cllr Stansfield asked Cllr Cruse about the list of recommendations that had been compiled by the Highway Steward, in response to Parishioners concerns. The list was to be provided to Rachel Tatlow (Cornwall Council), yet despite several requests being made by the Parish Council, no copy of the list had been provided to BPC. The PC wished to be furnished with a copy of the list so that potential funding sources can be explored for improvements. Cllr Cruse to follow this matter up.

One main concern raised related to the speed limit on the road from the A30 to Blisland village. There is a narrow, double 'S Bend' on the road which is deemed dangerous for walkers, horse riders and cyclists. Vehicles travelling at the national speed limit (60 mph) on the stretch highlighted pose a danger to other road users. The imposition of a lower speed limit had been suggested.

Cllr Cruse responded by stating that there had been no reported accidents at the location described, therefore, there was no evidence to support a request for more signage/ lowered speed limit.

Whilst a 20-mph speed limit can be applied for, with the implementation of '20 is plenty' in 2026, there was some concern that the 20mph limit will only be imposed from the existing 30 mph sign at the Village Shop. This will not provide any solution to the extant problem. To protect other road users, the 30-mph sign would require placement further back towards the A30 – to cover the double s-bend and approach to the village. Cllr Cruse is to determine if the 20-mph limit can start before the village, advising that the PC could request for this to be implemented. However, such an application would incur substantial costs for the PC.

Work at St Pratt's Cross – this requires to be rescheduled.

Highways Planting Scheme – Cllr Cruse to obtain information.

Gate at Pendrift cattle Grid – this requires replacing, as parts are missing and it is no longer stock proof. Cllr Stansfield to address this matter.

Double Council Tax for Second Homes - Cllr Stansfield asked if there would be an additional payment made to the Parish Council, from the increased payments. Cllr Cruse to make enquiries.

24-02/08 Resignation

Members of the Parish Council were advised of the resignation of Cllr Keith Lowden.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that the resignation would be accepted. Unanimous. **Carried**

24-02/09 New Planning Applications and Pre-Applications

PA24/00940

Address: Pope House, Kennel Hill, Blisland PL30 4LA

Proposal: Proposed sand school and field access.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Trevarthen and **RESOLVED** that the application would be supported. Unanimous. **Carried**

24-02/010 Planning Decisions - noted

24-02/11 Other Planning Matters

Barn at Jollybrook Barn, Temple - It had been noted that a substantial amount of renovation work has been undertaken to the barn, situated at Jollybrook Barn, Temple. Rooms appear to have been constructed inside the structure and the exterior has been slate hung.

Members learned that in 2019 a planning application had been submitted by the owners, requesting permission to convert the structure to a dwelling. However, the application was withdrawn. No further application appears to have been submitted.

It was **agreed** that the Clerk would raise an online Enforcement Complaint.

Moss Barn – the matter of Moss Barn is awaiting consideration by Cornwall Council Planning Committee.

Cllr Stansfield asked Cllr Cruse why this is taking so long to address. He stated that the building had been up for three years and that the Parish Council had requested, in November 2023, that the matter be determined by the full Planning Committee. Cllr Cruse undertook to pursue the matter again.

Meeting with Gavin Smith (Planning Officer, Cornwall Council) – Members to agree a suitable date and time for this event. Cllr Stansfield proposed that Denis Lusby, Julie Best and Veronica Stansfield be invited to attend.

24-02/12 Finance

Members considered the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation provided.

The Clerk highlighted that no acceptable invoice had been received from the Cleaner. To date, some scanned documents had been received but these had been inadequate. Cllr Meads advised the meeting that the Cleaner had been asked to provide original invoices

each month, so that these can be appropriately processed. In addition to invoices, the Cleaner is to provide comprehensive time sheets and finance documentation.

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

RFO Report

The RFO reminded Members that the first instalment of the 2024/25 Precept would be received at the end of March 2024. The RFO alluded to the projected bank balance of the Treasurers Account once the payment is received. She recommended to Members that a suitable sum should be transferred to the Business Bank Account, in April 2025.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Meads, and **RESOLVED** that the sum of £10,000 would be transferred from the Treasurer Account to the Business Bank Account, once the first instalment of the 2024/25 Precept is received. Unanimous. **Carried**

The RFO reported that the subscription for Scribe had been received. This was in excess of £400. The RFO stated that this was an expensive package and suggested that Microsoft Exel was just as versatile.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Trevarthen, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would not renew the Scribe subscription. Unanimous. **Carried**.

24-02/13 Correspondence

The following items of Correspondence were noted:

- County Councillor's Report
- Launceston Velo Letter – Moor – to-Moor Cycle Sportive, 12th May 2024
- Four Cornwall Streetworks Notices

24-02/14 Duchy Defibrillator

Cllr Dickin reported that the defibrillator at Temple id now operational. The matter to be removed from future Agendas.

24-02/15 Institute – No report

24-02/16 Village Green

Cllr Trevarthen reported that the benches have now been placed back on the village green. The matter to be removed from future Agendas.

Cllr Stansfield reported that the Edgar Rowe Memorial Stone requires cleaning and, possibly, re-lettering. Cllr Stansfield to undertake cleaning of the same.

24-02/17 Communications – no report

24-02/18 Training and Meetings Attended – none reported.

At 8.45 p.m. the Chair closed the public meeting.

24-02/19 It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Trevarthen and **RESOLVED** that, pursuant to section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, the public and press should leave, whilst the Members of the Parish Council considered confidential matters. Unanimous. **Carried.**

CONFIDENTIAL DISCUSSIONS

24-02/20 Members considered a matter, relating to the alleged conduct of an independent third party with contractual obligations to the Parish Council. The matter to be revisited in March 2024.

The meeting closed at 9 p.m.

24-02/21 **Diary Dates** – Next Meeting, Thursday 21st March
Cornwall Local Plan, 28th February
Cormac Workshop, 19th April 2024