

Blisland Parish Council



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DRAFT MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 21st MARCH 2024

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

24-03/1 Apologies: Cllr Cruse (Cornwall Council)

Also Present: Locum Clerk: Carolyn May, and four members of the Public.

24-03/2 Declarations of Interest:

Cllr Meads declared an interest in item 17 – Communications (Wildanet)

It was **proposed** by Cllr. Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr. Green and **RESOLVED** that Cllr. Meads should be permitted to engage in the discussion relating too this matter.
Unanimous. **Carried.**

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

AGENDA

24-03/03 Public Forum

24-03/03(1) It was **agreed** that, in light of the attendance of Mrs Lucy Edward-Collins, Item 6(b) on the agenda (Highways and Footpaths) would be discussed at this juncture.

24-03/03(2) Water Run-off at Trewardale

Mrs Lucy Edward-Collins addressed the meeting in relation to the damage sustained to the listed gateway at Trewardale.

Mrs Edward-Collins stated that the gateway, which is the primary entrance to the property, has sustained significant damage because of the water flow emanating from both the north, and the south, of the site.

She added that parts of the gateway are being washed away at an alarming rate, and recent storms have exacerbated the situation.

As the gateway itself is listed, repairs will be expensive. The increasing level of damage caused by the run-off water will increase those costs. A further corollary of the situation is the impact that the damage will have on the family B&B business.

Cllr Stansfield advised the meeting that the problem is caused by the run-off of surface water from both north and south, which is compounded by the problems with the leat/ culvert. He added that the situation had become progressively worse over the past decade. During the past 2 weeks there has been further subsidence of the gateway, on the south side, and the railings had been pushed back. The south side of the gateway is likely to collapse imminently, and the situation (re: run-off) cannot be permitted to continue.

There is a separate although directly related issue revolving around the leat/culvert by the southern entrance and the Trewardale Estate forwarded comprehensive evidence concerning this separate issue to the Highways Manager earlier this month. He added that the Highways Authority has a statutory duty to arrive at an equitable solution to this issue;; which goes back to 2016.

Under the provisions of the Highways Act, the Highways Authority is required to address the remote run-off issues, from both the north and south of the property. Cllr Stansfield proposed that the body is granted a two-week period to provide a clear strategy to resolve the run-off problem. Should this not happen, then a draft letter should be sent to the Heritage Officer.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Green, and **RESOLVED** that Cllrs Stansfield, Meads and Dickin would meet with Cllr Cruse and provide her with a letter in which it will be requested that a clear, written, strategy is formulated (by CC), detailing the action to be taken to address the flooding issues at the site. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Mrs Edward-Collins also advised the Members that her husband had arranged to meet with a representative of the NFU Insurance Company, in order to discuss the implications of the gateway wall collapsing, and the potential cost involved.

24-03/03(2) **Coffee Morning – Grant Funding Request**

It was agreed that item 24-03/08 would be discussed at this juncture. Mrs Ann Shephard, the newly appointed Coffee Morning Co-ordinator, addressed the Members. Mrs Shephard requested a one-off donation of £100 from the Parish Council, and the free use of the Blisland Institute, to reinstate the village coffee mornings.

Mrs Shephard emphasised that future events would be self-funding, with any excess balances from the same being donated to charity.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Dickin, **seconded** by Cllr Green, and **RESOLVED** that the Parish Council would donate a one-off donation of £100, and free us of the Blisland Institute to the group. It was stipulated that, when promoting the events, the financial donation, and the use of the Blisland Institute, must be acknowledged. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Mrs Shephard was asked to complete the on-line booking form for use of the Blisland Institute. The events will be advertised on the digital newsletter.

24-03/04 Approval of Minutes and Matters Arising

Members considered the Draft Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Meeting of Blisland Parish Council, held on the 22nd of February 2024.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Trevarthen, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting held on the 22nd of February 2024 would be accepted as a true and accurate reflection of the said meeting. Five in favour and one abstention.
Carried

24-03/05 Matters Arising - None raised.

24-03/06 Highways and Footpaths

Grit Bins – The site for each bin has now been approved by Rachel Tatlow (CC, therefore, the grit bins can be ordered.

It was **agreed** that the bins should be dark green in colour, A smaller bin should be purchased for the Tregenna site (size to be confirmed to the Clerk), with a standard sized bin being obtained for the Temple site. Bins are to be delivered to Cllr Stansfield. Two salt shovels are also to be obtained.

Speed Limit and Association Highway Safety Issues from A30 to Blisland Shop –

Members discussed what further action could be taken in relation to vehicle speed on the route from the A30 to Blisland Shop. The limit for the stretch is currently 60 mph.

The speed limit had been discussed previously with the Highways Steward and Members were led to understand that a number of proposals had been made by that Officer, to Rachel Tatlow. Despite Cllr Stansfield having requested sight of the recommendations made, the PC was never appraised of the same. In February 2024 the Chair was advised that Rachel Tatlow had never received such a list from the Highways Steward.

Cllr Stansfield advised the Members that, without sight of the list, there is no way of knowing what courses of action are open to the Parish Council. If actions cannot be implemented from the Highways Improvement Budget, then funding for traffic calming measures might be sought from other sources. However, it is necessary to be advised of the actions that would be recommended by/ acceptable to CC.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Trevarthen, and **RESOLVED** that the PC should email the general Highways in-box, marking the email ‘for the attention of Rachel Tatlow.’ The email should state that Rachel Tatlow maintains that she has not received the list of recommendations from the Highways Steward, and requests that Ms Tatlow could co-ordinate with the Highways Steward and respond to the PC requests. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Traffic Grid at Trewarder – Cllr Trevarthen advised the Members that the traffic grid at Trewarder has not been repaired. This matter had been reported to CC Highways by Cllr. Stansfield, who will check this matter again.

Water Run-Off at Blisland Inn - Cllr Meads reported that Christine Bond had contacted her by email, in relation to the water run-off problems at the Blisland Inn. Cllr Meads and Mrs Bond attended at the site and noted that water was running under the wall, from several different points. It was **agreed** that CC Highways would have to address this matter, insofar as the runoff was reaching the Highway, by contacting the owner of the pub. Cllr Stansfield has already written to, and spoken with, CC Highways about this matter. It was confirmed that anything falling within the remit of Highways will be repaired by the end of October, any other areas affected are the responsibility of the appropriate landowner.

24-03/07 **Cornwall Councillor's Report** – none received.

24-03/08 **Funding Application** - **dealt** with at 24-03/03(2) *ibid*.

24-03/09 **New Planning Applications and Pre-Applications** – none as at date of meeting

24-03/10 **Planning Decisions** – Noted.

24-02/11 **Other Planning Matters**

Barn at Jollybrook Barn, Temple – this matter has been reported to CC Planning Enforcement.

Moss Farm Barn – the matter of Moss Farm Barn is listed for consideration by Cornwall Council East Planning Sub Committee in May 2024.

NDP Boundary – following the adoption of the NDP in October 2023 it is necessary for the Parish Council to revisit planning application PA22/06256 Land to the East of Little Place; the Locum Clerk would put this application on the Agenda for the April Meeting and the Councillors would attend a Site Meeting before the April Meeting.

Applicants Required for Planning Partnership - Cllr Stansfield is to apply to sit on this committee. Terms of Reference to be forwarded to the Locum Clerk.

24-03/12 **Finance**

Members considered the Schedule of Payments and Bank Reconciliation provided.

The Clerk highlighted that, again, no acceptable invoice had been received from the Cleaner. Cllr Meads to remind the Cleaner 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.

It was **agreed** that the ICT payments should be made via Standing Order in future. The Locum Clerk is to arrange this.

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

24-02/13 **Correspondence**

Letter from Mrs Shirley Lobb - to draw the attention of the Parish Council to the gate at Waterloo, which goes through the Hams. The gate has not been hanging for a considerable period of time. it is a Bridle Path used frequently by horse riders &

really needs to be repaired so that riders can open it easily, at the moment it is impossible to open as it is tied up for safety.

Action: This matter to be reported to Cornwall Council.

Email from Mr Guy Martin – to report accidental damage to granite guidepost at Tressarrett.

Action: Members felt that, as this is a Grade II Listed monument, the matter would be reported to Cornwall Council, which will arrange for repairs to the same.

24-03/14 **Institute** – No report

24-03/15 **Member Portfolios** – deferred to April Meeting

24-03/16 **EV Charging Points**

Members discussed the possible siting of EV Charging Points in the village. It was felt that two such points would be preferable. However, this arrangement would require a space equivalent to three parking spaces.

Three potential sites were identified, the gable end of the Village Hall, the village car park (at Village Hall) and the rear of the Village Shop.

The site at the gable end of the Village Hall raised a number of concerns. Firstly, it is not public land, secondly, cars parked at the site would overhang the pavement, and therefore present as an obstruction. Cllr Trevarthen queried whether there is, in fact, sufficient power at either of the Village Hall sites to support the installations.

The site at the rear of the Village Shop is out of sight and would not be easily found/observed during non-business hours.

It was agreed that further investigations need to be carried out.

Wildanet (Cllr Meads declared an Interest in this matter)

Cllr Meads reported that, despite Cllr Stansfield being informed that Wildanet would not be commencing work in the Parish prior to the first week after Easter, work had in fact commenced on 21st March 2024, in Manor Close.

At that location, the road had been dug up, prior to any consultation taking place with the PC/ Parishioners.

It was also reported that the landowner of Bridge Cottage had objected to posts being placed on their land by Wildanet. The latter removed the posts and, without consultation/ consent, placed these on land owned by Cllr Meads.

Members felt that there was a need to hold a meeting in public with Amanda Pennington, the Wildanet Customer Impact Manager so that parishioners can raise any matters of concern with her.

It was **agreed** that a meeting in public should be held in April, for the sole purpose of discussing the Wildanet Plan. Arrangements are to be made to book the large room at the Village Hall and advertise the meeting. This will not be a Parish Council meeting.

Age Concern Bus to Royal Cornwall Show

Cllr Stansfield reported that there is an intention to arrange a trip to the Royal Cornwall Show, in June. The cost of the trip will be £14.50 per person. The charge will include transport to and from the show, a pasty, and entrance into the showground.

Members indicated their willingness to promote this event. Cllr Stansfield **agreed** to design and publish a poster to publicise the event.

24-02/18 Training and Meetings Attended

Highways Seminar – 19th April 2024 – Cllr Stansfield

CAP Meeting – 22nd April 2024 - Cllrs. Meads and Stansfield

Grant Workshop – 24th April 2024 – Cllrs Meads and Stansfield

At 9.10 p.m. the Chair closed the public meeting.

24-02/19 It was **proposed** by Cllr Stansfield, **seconded** by Cllr Spencer, 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 Unacceptable Conduct

Members considered a matter, relating to the alleged conduct of an independent third party with contractual obligations to the Parish Council.

Concern was expressed that the conduct of the individual (ibid) may have prejudiced the Parish Council's position in relation to the potential application of a party who had shown interest in an advertised position.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Green, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and **RESOLVED** that, a suitable letter should be drafted and forwarded to the Vice Chair for approval, prior to the same being sent to CALC. Unanimous. **Carried.**

Appointment of Parish Clerk and Responsible Finance Officer

Cllr Dickin advised Members that an interested party had been interviewed for the position of Parish Clerk.

The applicant intends to continue to work as Parish Clerk to the current PC and has requested that she undertake Parish Clerk duties only. In order to ensure that the RFO position is properly maintained, it was proposed that a separate RFO be appointed.

Members were advised that the arrangement referred to above could be maintained within the agreed 2024/25 PC budget.

It was **proposed** by Cllr Spencer, **seconded** by Cllr Stansfield, and RESOLVED that, Mrs Maria Roper would be appointed to the position of Parish Clerk for the Parish of Blisland, commencing on the 1st of April 2024. The salary and hours have been agreed. The RFO duties would be undertaken by a third party. Unanimous. **Carried.**

The meeting closed at 9.30 p.m.

24-02/21 **Diary Dates –** Next Meeting, Thursday 18th April 2024

Chair *Stephanie Meads*

Date *18th April 2024*