

Gwennap Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT GWENNAP CHURCH HALL ON 17th MAY 2007

Present. Cllr I Herbert (Chairman), Cllr J Wharton , Cllr R Snell

In attendance Alan Blamey - Clerk, District Cllr J Whiteley

Apologies none

Also present : Paul Millett, Donna Squibb, Ray Humble, PC Filkins, PCSO North

PARISHIONERS' DISCUSSION

1. PC Filkins introduced PCSO Richard North who is covering our area in place of Chris Vincent. He presented his report for the past month which indicated a static position of recorded crime compared with the previous year. There had been 18 calls to the Force Enquiry Centre during the past month.
2. PCSO Vincent had spent considerable time following up issues that arose at last months PACT meeting.
3. Paul Millett reported that during the recent heavy rain, the river at Trehaddle had turned cloudy. It was not sure whether this was due to the sewage works at Poldory or the Rubbish Tip at United. We needed to report it when it happened to the Environment Agency, who would follow it up.

ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN (& VICE CHAIRMAN)

07/176

1. A proposal by Cllr Snell that the position of Chairman and Vice Chairman remain unchanged was agreed by both Cllr Wharton and Cllr Herbert.
A counter proposal by Cllr Herbert nominating Cllr Wharton as Chairman was not seconded.

SIGNING OF THE DECLARATIONS OF ACCEPTANCE OF OFFICE

07/177

1. The three Councillors signed their Declarations of Acceptance of Office, countersigned by the Clerk as the Proper Officer of the Council.

CO-OPTION OF ADDITIONAL COUNCILLORS

07/178

1. There had been only one written response to the adverts for additional Councillors to be co-opted onto the Council. Donna Squibb accepted the invitation to join the Council and signed the Declaration of Acceptance of Office.
2. The Clerk was instructed to place more posters in prominent places, especially those areas of the Parish not covered by current Councillors. A deadline of 8th June would be stated, with any interviews taking place at the Portakabin on Wednesday 13th June at 7.00 p.m.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

07/179 none

MINUTES.

07/180

The minutes of the previous meeting were signed as an accurate record with one amendment to the decision on the planning application for Wheal Maiden, where the word "object" was replaced with "concerns".

ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

07/181

1. The Clerk will forward copies of our request to Countryside Access for a tar-spray finish to byways 44 & 47 at Crofthandy to County Cllr Hichens, who may be in a better position to get a response.
2. The Pulla Bridge Travellers saga is now with Carrick legal department.
3. The Clerk had met recently with Mike Hawkey for an update on a meeting County and Carrick had recently regarding the Blackmans Site at United Downs.
There now seemed no likelihood that the site would gain permission to be used as an alternative for off road biking. The County Council would, in all probability, now sell off the land.
4. The Clerk read legal correspondence which described the obligations of the Parish Council towards the upkeep of Gwennap closed churchyard. Although it was clear that the liability for tree matters remained with the Parochial Church Council, it was RESOLVED that as it was an integral part of our current maintenance, the

Parish Council should continue to deal with tree matters. If it were passed to the PCC, delays in carrying out works could hinder our own work.

5. District Cllr Whiteley would look into whether Carrick would be prepared to create a bin ‘bunker’ at Carn View where residents carried their refuse for the weekly collection.

APPOINTMENT OF PARISH COUNCILLORS ON OUTSIDE BODIES

07/182

It was felt that the current cover arrangements should stand until the Council had co-opted it’s full compliment.

REVIEW OF FEES AT FROGPOOL CEMETERY

07/183

1. It was RESOLVED that the fees remain at their current level for the second successive year.
2. The Clerk explained how Carharrack parishioners were currently being charged double fees as “outside of the Parish”. This was technically correct, but they are one of the few local Councils without a burial ground, and many years ago were actually part of the Parish of Gwennap. It was RESOLVED that residents of Carharrack Parish pay the same fees as our own parishioners.

REVIEW OF CLERKS SALARY AND EXPENSES

07/184

It was RESOLVED to uplift the Clerks salary and expenses by 3%.

REVIEW OF CARETAKER / STREET CLEANER ALLOWANCES

07/185

It was RESOLVED to uplift the hourly rate of the street sweeping / caretaking role by 3%.

CORRESPONDENCE

07/186

1. Carrick DC - The Cleansing Grant for 2007-08 had been confirmed and would be sent in the near future.
2. A reply from CCC Env. & Heritage on the future plans for the Great Yard at Crofthandy confirmed that the Parish would be kept abreast of any developments. The Chairman and Cllr Snell asked the Clerk to arrange a site meeting with Kath Statham to discuss the route of the footpath.
3. Carrick DC had provided copies of the Revised Code of Conduct which the Clerk handed to Councillors. They had also proposed dates for Parish Councillors to attend for training on the Code. Councillors Herbert and Snell would attend at the 31st May 6 p.m. event whilst Councillors Wharton and Squibb would wait until 11th July, also at 6 p.m.
4. It was RESOLVED that Gwennap Parish Council adopts the revised Model Code of Conduct including paragraph 12 (2) with immediate effect, and that the ten general principles governing the conduct of Members of Local Authorities as set out in the relevant Authorities(General Principles) Order 2001 be included as preamble to the Code of Conduct.
5. CALC invited our comments before formulating their reply to the Government on the proposals for a Unitary Authority.
6. CCC Emergency Planning Department requested the completion of a Burial Ground survey in preparation for a Human Flu Pandemic.
7. Tony Mogford Associates Ltd had carried out the quarterly Playground inspection, and commented on the need to secure the end of the climbing ropes. Cllrs Wharton & Herbert would take a look to see how this might be carried out and report back to the next meeting.
9. The Mineral Tramways Steering Group minutes of 13th April 2007 meeting were noted.
10. Endurance GB had written to inform us that their annual ride would be taking place on 19th August. Route details were to follow.
11. CCC Strategic Projects were offering grants towards new Bus Shelters. It was felt that there were two potential sites in the Parish, one at Trelawney Estate and the other at Carn View. Before the Council carried out activity surveys and other relevant assessments, it was felt that the Highways department should be consulted to see if they felt either site was satisfactory.
12. Carrick DC - Licencing Act 2003, revised policy consultation - noted.
13. Julia Goldsworthy MP had copied the Parish Council into correspondence she had written to the County Council asking for details of what was being done to control the nuisance of off road biking in the Wheal Maid valley. She invited the Parish Council’s comments, and the Clerk had sent a factual reply giving background information.

WHEAL MAID

07/187

1. The Clerk had written to Joe Ryan at the Environment Agency to see when their report would be available. It was nearing completion but was currently with the Health Protection Agency who were the body who could

evaluate the work of the EA and apply it to human health risk. It was anticipated to be finished in the near future.

2. Joe did make the point that it was not within their remit to carry out tests on the dam structures, but readings from water levels within the dam suggested the Parish Council, as owners, bring in their Competent Person to carry out a stability assessment. He would be writing to us separately and Carrick confirming this concern.
3. Cllr Wharton produced a test report from the chemist at Wheal Jane, commenting on levels of contamination from samples he had taken from the tailings dams. Cllr Wharton wanted to go public with the findings which highlighted much higher levels of contaminants than the CLEA limits and called for the valley to be closed to the public for their safety. It was pointed out that high levels did not necessarily mean high human health risk and that it would be irresponsible for us, as a Council to raise alarm without the opinion of the Environment Agency. This was a private sample, not one that the Parish Council had instigated, and could potentially be pulled apart by experts.
4. It was RESOLVED not to make the document public but to ask the EA for an opinion and to press for a swift conclusion to their work so that we could receive their findings. Cllr Wharton asked for the minutes to reflect that he did not agree with this decision.
5. Verbal proposals had been made to Cllrs Herbert and Wharton by Wheal Jane who wanted to dispose of material from their own site onto the tailings dams, then covering over with soil. They were also prepared to re-route the culverted river. Until there was a written proposal from them, it was decided to defer any further discussion on the matter.

PLANNING

07/188

NEW APPLICATIONS

Appn Ref PA12/0749/07/R
Applicant Mr & Mrs Whitney
Location Apryl Bungalow, Point Mills, Bissoe
Development extension to garage and porch/sunroom
Grid Ref 176870/41390

SUPPORT.

OTHER PLANNING

One decision notice had been received back from Carrick Mr & Mrs Grubb, Penventon Nursery – polytunnel. APPROVED.

FINANCE

07/189

Accounts.

IT WAS RESOLVED to pay the following accounts: -

CHEQUE NO.	TO WHOM	DETAIL	AMOUNT (£)
100709	Cornwall Wood Treatment Services	new gates	528.67
100710	Cornwall & Devon Media	advert	17.63
100711	M P Chegwidden	grass cutting/footpaths	1501.06
100712	Acland Plant Hire	equipment hire	1724.97
100713	L Moody	caretaking / litter cleaning	227.50
100714	VCGW Church Hall	hire of hall	15.00

Although Cllr Snell had signed the cheque for Acland Plant, he had done so because he was one of only three Councillors available to sign and to have refused would have meant the Council defaulting on its responsibilities. His comments from the previous meeting regarding the extra works carried out on byway 44 stood. .

FOOTPATHS

07/190

1. The works to byways 44 and 47 were debated at length regarding potential drainage problems. To resolve the matter, it was agreed to meet on site on Wednesday 30th May at 7.30 p.m

Signed.....
Chairman

21st June 2007