

Gwennap Parish Council

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD AT FROGPOOL CHAPEL ROOMS ON 22nd OCTOBER 2009

Present. Cllr Furnish (Chairman), Cllr R Humble (Vice Chairman), Cllr M Padmore, Cllr P Roscorla, Cllr R Snell, Cllr L Barton

Apologies Cllr Plummer, The Police

Also present : Mr Reburn, Mr Stagg, Mrs Bone, Mrs Wharton, Ms Ward

PUBLIC CLINIC

1. Mr Stagg had previously sent a letter to the Council about the abusive behaviour of adult mountain bikers at Wheal Maid, using the trail from the County woodland down to the Cornish Way. Mr Stagg agreed that the Parish Council should send a copy to the police for them to follow up, and he was prepared to speak with them if necessary.
2. Ms Ward asked for confirmation regarding who was liable for byway trimming. The Clerk confirmed that it was the landowner. She reported that the hedges on Byway 47 leading to Goongumpas needed attention, and also those on Byway 44. The Clerk would take a look at the growth and report back.
3. Mrs Wharton asked for a copy of the business plan that the Parish Council sent to SITA Trust to obtain a grant. The Chairman said we would check whether this was possible and inform her.
4. Mrs Wharton questioned the way in which the Council spent its funds. The Clerk explained that the Council had built up a capital fund over several years and that this was now going to help fund the Parish Rooms project. Mrs Wharton felt that as the balance had been explained as potentially being required for Wheal Maid remediation, then it should be spent on site security. The Clerk explained that it was working with other agencies to meet the financial demands of the valley. For example, the EA would source any grants required to fund their remediation plans, the Mineral Tramways were making Davey's shaft safe and the Parish Council were following up the possibility of Natural England assisting with the habitat planning. The failed fencing initiative was a County Council project, not the Parish Councils. The Parish Council accepted that it was not possible to make the site secure as there were public rights of way entering and leaving the valley. There were few, if any, unauthorised access points on Parish Council owned land that motorcycles or 4x4's could use.
Mrs Wharton also asked for a copy of the grant application made by the Parish Council to the SITA Trust. The Chairman replied that we would check whether this was in order and get back to her.
5. Mrs Bone was given an update on the Trelise planning application The Clerk read a letter from CC Planning to the owners explaining that the application was set for refusal, unless it was withdrawn and re-submitted in accordance with Planning suggestions.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

09/078

Cllr Padmore declared a personal interest on anything SITA related.

Cllr Furnish declared a personal interest in Wheal Maid matters.

PREVIOUS MINUTES.

09/079 It was RESOLVED that the previous minutes be signed as a correct record of events.

ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

09/080 All matters arising were included on the agenda.

WHEAL MAID

09/081

1. Three signs had been replaced by the Clerk during his monthly inspection of the valley.
2. The Mineral Tramways team were hoping to start work this week on the fencing and other safety works around Davey's Shaft. An update on Taylors would follow later in the meeting.
3. The Clerk had received replies from the three properties that had access rights through the Hale Mills Tunnel. One had objected to a lockable bollard being erected, but the Chairman agreed to discuss this matter again with them. It was also stated by one resident, that during the past seven months they had been at home most of the time and had seen no 4x4 accessing the valley through the tunnel. This information had been passed on to the police.

4. The Environment Agency had telephoned the Clerk to report a further delay in the long awaited report, due to continuing illness. They also requested our permission to give a copy of our Culvert report to Mrs Wharton who had written to them with other valley-related queries. The Clerk had agreed to this.
5. Following the withdrawal of funds from the Mineral Tramways project, and the demise of the scheme at the end of the year, the Clerk and Gary Jago from the Project met with Natural England to see if there was an opportunity to secure alternative funding. The meeting was very positive, and following a further meeting on site between the Clerk and Natural England, it was confirmed that they were prepared to pick up the £200k scheme from the Mineral Tramways. There were several issues to address, including the Parish Council registering with the Rural Payments Agency and the Rural Land Registry. A further scheme whereby the Parish Council would receive funding from Natural England over a ten year period for management of the natural habitat of the valley was a possibility. It would mean the Council entering into an agreement with Natural England's High Level Stewardship scheme. All this would be at little or no cost to the Parish Council – possibly some initial payment for assistance in completing paperwork. Councillors were sceptical about this seemingly excellent offer, and RESOLVED that the Clerk follows the registration steps to enable Taylors to commence, but that he obtains further details of what the Agreement contains.

CORRESPONDENCE

09/082

1. The notes from the United Mines Liaison Group meeting of 17th September were noted.
2. The Police report for the previous month showed a decrease from eight to four crimes when compared to a similar period last year. Sixteen of the six hundred calls to the Force Enquiry Centre related to our area. A general warning regarding rural theft was given, especially garden ornaments.
3. Cornwall Council had acknowledged our communications relating to the Bal Maiden enforcement, but there would be a delay in replying whilst their legal team investigated the matter.
4. Geothermal Engineering Ltd had sent details of their organisation along with a poster promoting a public exhibition they were holding at Carharrack on 27/28 October. This all linked to a possible forthcoming planning application for a power plant at United Downs.
5. A reply had been received from Highways regarding their policy on hedge trimming. Although it was the responsibility of the landowner, Cornwall Council did trim areas where health and Safety were a consideration, and also if funding allowed, for reactive safety works. The official wording from their letter would be used in the next newsletter.
6. BT had written again to see if we were interested in adopting any of the red telephone kiosks scheduled for closure. It was RESOLVED that we do not take up this offer. The Clerk is checking with BT that Crofthandy kiosk is not scheduled for removal, as it did not feature on the original consultation document.
7. Cornwall Council had asked for our views on future communication with them. This was linked with the future of Community Networks and Panels. Councillors were asked to send their views to the Clerk by the 27th, otherwise the reply would be that we preferred contact direct with Council officers rather than via new Network Panels.
8. We had been advised by CC Planning that the application for Mr Palmer at Crofthandy would be decided by Planning Committee following our differing opinions on the village settlement boundary.
9. CC had advised that there would be an inflationary adjustment of £49.14 due to the Parish Council for the annual cleansing grant.
10. An invitation had been received to a stakeholder day at Scorrier where developers were submitting proposals for a waste to energy scheme at Hallenbeagle.
11. SITA had sent an update on their current recycling operations in the area. Average recycling at United Downs for household waste was 61%

PLANNING

09/083

Planning Applications received from Cornwall Council for comment:

1. Mrs R Huxley, Chapel View Farm, Coombe Lane, Bissoe - replacement barn and change of use of land from agricultural to domestic.

Decision notices received from Cornwall Council

Mrs J Grubb, Penventon Nursery - retention of railings and planting APPROVED
 Mr M Drew, Ruby Barn, Consols Road - change of use of land & swimming pool. APPROVED
 Mr & Mrs Baxter, Fernsplat Farm - formation of dormer roof. REFUSED
 Cornwall Wood Treatment, United Ind. Park - cladding & workshop relocation. APPROVED
 Mr Parker-Price, Carn View, Lower Goongumpas - first floor extension. APPROVED
 Mr Eathorne, Conifers Drive, United - bungalow demolition & replacement house. APPROVED
 Fleetwood, Race Hill, Bissoe – Cert. Of Lawfulness GRANTED
 Copy letter from Planning Officer to Mr Ferguson, Trelise House, Frogpool re.new dwelling. Noted.

Local enquiries regarding possible developments at Little Beside House had been made to the Parish Council by residents. A brochure and a letter described the possible creation of a Social Centre for dementia sufferers and also young people

with a Learning Disability. The Clerk has been in touch with CC Planning to see if they are aware of the proposal, but they confirmed nothing has been received as yet. Change of use is likely to be required, and the building is Listed.

OUTSIDE MEETINGS FEEDBACK

09/084

1. The Clerk had attended the CALC General Meeting at County Hall on 29th September. A talk by Mr Mason, head of Planning & Regeneration was the main theme. Nothing new to report from it.
2. The Clerk attended a meeting at Falmouth Police Station on 2nd October. The police were having a three month concentrated effort on curbing the motorised activities on the public rights of way in the Wheal Maid Valley. This followed a PACT meeting where it was raised as a possible initiative. They would be meeting with Cornwall Council to erect more signs, they were involving the ASBO officer, contacting motorcycle clubs to get them to use their websites warning against the use of motorbikes on the paths, and would support the Parish Council in its attempt to downgrade the Byway through the Hale Mills tunnel.
3. Cllr Snell had attended a meeting of the Historic Churchyards on 21st October. There was discussion on printing individual churchyard leaflets, identification signs alongside plants and the possibility of having the toppletester re-calibrated.
4. Cllr Snell and the Clerk attended the recent Mineral Tramways meeting where the arrangements for Davey's shaft were agreed.
5. Cllr Roscorla had attended the Grand Summer Fete meeting. They had now secured a Treasurer and counter signatory for a new bank account which would see the funds separated from the Friends of Cusgarne School. The next Fete would be held on 26th June 2010, and a request was made of the Parish Council to consider a larger grant than in previous years to perhaps pay for the band, or part pay for it. The Chairman asked for this request to be put in writing for consideration at our next meeting, and also for a copy of their financial position. A request that the Parish Council opens a separate account for internal items in the proposed Parish Rooms did not receive support. It was possible to show the income and expenditure on the new build separately in the cash book.

SITA PROPOSED TRANSFER STATION

09/085

The Clerk had contacted the other local Parish Councils to see if a meeting was thought to be beneficial. Carharrack felt that Cllr Kaczmarek was looking after our interests at this stage whilst St Day were agreeable to meet if there was something to discuss. Without any new information, it was agreed to wait until the next SITA meeting on 12th November to see if further details were available.

REPAIRS AND MAINTENANCE

09/086

1. It was RESOLVED (retrospectively) that the three new seats provided last year be varnished before the winter.
2. All matters highlighted last month with play equipment had been carried out by Mr Hedges.
- 3.

FOOTPATHS

08/087

1. CC had drawn to the attention of the Parish Council a problem on Path 11 at Gwennap Church. Having inspected the path, the Clerk informed CC that the path was of a Silver category, where the Parish Council could decide whether to spend money on trimming. It was RESOLVED that there was no need to spend on this path, as walkers would always follow the route inside the electric fence, not outside it.
2. When trimming Path 52 at Crofthandy, Paul Chegwidden reported household garden waste being tipped over a hedge onto the footpath, causing an obstruction. After visiting the site, the Clerk reported it to CC, who were sending their fly-tipping section out to investigate.
3. The Clerk had informed CC that the leat hedge on the Hicks Mill to Coombe footpath had collapsed again. CC had visited the site and asked the owner of the leat to repair the damage.

PLAYING FIELD PARISH ROOMS UPDATE

09/088

1. We had received confirmation from the SITA Trust that our grant application had been successful. A grant of £25,000 less £2,570 that had to be paid over to SITA UK had been approved, subject to conditions. Our reply to the conditions would follow the receipt of tenders when a better idea of total cost would be known, and a time scale for completion known. The Clerk had prepared tender documentation and sent it out, with a deadline of 4th November for return.
4. Andy Burton was on holiday, but on his return the Clerk would chase up the Building Regulation approval and the electrical drawing that should have formed part of the specification pack.
5. There was a need now for the Parish Council to concentrate on the detail of the project. Matters such as the relocation of Portakain items during the build, a project officer would be needed to oversee the build on a weekly basis, and we needed to ensure that following an agreed tender price, the omissions did not form an expensive list of "add-ons".

FINANCE

09/089

1. Income had been received during the month of £4.93 bank interest : £463.32 car boot : £49.14 cleansing grant : £1174.31 VAT rebate April – September 2009.
2. Car Boot profit for 2009, after the deduction of the cost of adverts totalled £951.42. This compared favourably with 2008 (£396) and 2007 (£644). The Clerk explained that a refund was due for an amount of £137.60 that the organisers had paid over twice to the Council.
3. The Insurance premium was due for renewal. Zurich, our current insurers, had quoted £1,891.14 compared to £1,848.18 currently. However, an alternative quote from Came & Co, who brokered through Aviva was £1,481.55. The Clerk had been in communication with them to highlight the Wheal Maid Valley implications and the regular Car Boot Sales, and their cover was identical to that of Zurich, better in some cases. The only minus point was an excess of £250, where Zurich had £100 in a few areas of cover. It was RESOLVED to take up the Came & Co offer.
4. Confirmation had been received from the Football Association that our application for a goalpost grant had been successful. It was now necessary to pay a pro-forma invoice for the total amount then recover 50% of the goalpost costs from the F.A.. The claim form was signed by the Chairman and Vice Chairman.
5. A bank mandate was completed by all Councillors to enable our new Councillor, Lee Barton to sign on behalf of the Council whilst removing the name of ex. Councillor Herbert. Cllr Squibb was not present, the Clerk would arrange for her to sign as soon as possible.

6. It was RESOLVED that the following cheques be signed for payment:

CHEQUE	PAYEE	SERVICE	AMOUNT
100904	A&N Media Ltd	advert	£23.00
100905	Edwards Sports Products	goalposts	£609.50
100906	RBL Poppy Appeal	wreath	£18.75
100907	CommuniCorp	annual subscription	£10.00
100908	M P Chegwidden	grass cutting/footpaths	£1,332.85
100909	P Hedges	repairs/refurbishment	£203.00
100910	EDF Energy	P/Field electricity	£68.23
100911	L Moody	cleaning/litter	£215.47
100912	A Gazzard	reimbursement car boot	£137.60

MISCELLANEOUS/ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS

09/090

1. Precept for 2010/11
2. The Chairman would be taking the wreath to Gwennap Church on Armistice Sunday, and invited all the Council to accompany him.

Signed.....
Chairman

26th November 2009