

Gwennap Parish Council

MINUTES OF SPECIAL MEETING

HELD AT THE PORTAKIN, RICHARD JORY PLAYING FIELD, PULLA CROSS ON 8th February 2007

Those Present: Cllr. I Herbert (Chairman)
Cllr D Lanyon
Cllr. R. Snell
Cllr M Ivey
Cllr J Wharton
Cllr D Squibb

Also present: A Blamey, Clerk

Apologies: Cllr N Nicholls

This was a special meeting of the Council to discuss the recent media coverage relating to the Wheal Maid Valley. A protest rally was to be held by bikers on 3rd March at 3.00p.m.

Declarations of Interest.

This item was placed on the agenda by the Chairman as he felt the whole Council needed to determine whether any of the Crofthandy based Councillors needed to declare an interest in the matter.

It was agreed by all that no Councillor stood to gain a financial interest by speaking on the subject.

In the case of Councillor Lanyon, he was related to the owner of a nearby motorcycle dealership and also owned an off-road bike. He wanted the Council to do whatever they felt appropriate, excluding him from voting if that was their decision, but as a Parish Councillor, the only considerations for him were to follow the correct procedures and protocols.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that he did not have an interest to declare.

Councillor Snell lived near the Valley and could hear the noise, but he did not feel this impaired his judgement.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that he did not have an interest to declare.

Similarly, Councillor Wharton lived near the site, but he and his family had been singled out as the target for abuse and threats. His main concern was for their safety, but he felt he could still view the Council's responsibilities for the valley with impartiality.

It was RESOLVED unanimously that he had no interest to declare.

Security.

The proposed rally was discussed. It was agreed that the Parish Council could not stop the potential arrival of up to 500 bikes, and that then placing of boulders to prevent access at the main entrances would only serve to drive the bikers down dangerous alternative narrow lanes. To prevent unnecessary damage, it might be prudent to actually leave the barrier open as it was believed the protest would be orderly and at a slow pace.

Both Mike Hawkey from the County Council and PC Filkins had been in contact and were meeting together shortly to discuss what action to take. The outcome would be available for our next meeting on 22nd February.

In the meantime, the Clerk would prepare a press release to be issued after the 22nd, putting the Parish Councils' viewpoint – something that seemed to have been lost in the events of the last month with County fencing, vandalism etc.

It would also be advantageous if this angle could also be put forward by someone on the day of the protest, when it was anticipated that the media would be present.

County Councillor Kaczmarek

We were getting no support at all from Cllr Kaczmarek. He had never directly contacted the Parish Council about any of the related items he spoke about in the press, some of them glaringly inaccurate, and although some of his residents were users of the valley, he did not represent Gwennap.

Some of his comments were completely opposed to his role as chairman of the Mineral Tramways Project, and the Clerk will make enquires at County level to see if they are satisfied he is not in contravention of their protocols.

Signed.....
Chairman

22nd February 2007