

# CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, March 17, 2011 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

**Present:**

Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman)	Cllr R.E.Just
Cllr A.H.Bolt	Cllr E.Nicholls
Cllr J.E.G.Boote	Cllr R.J.Williams
Cllr K.Cavanagh	Cllr N.J.Wiseman
Cllr C.Gray	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** CCllr Hatton, Mr Kent, Mr Rice and Mr Webber.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the March meeting.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

It was noted that

- there are two dangerous potholes on the road up from Port Navas towards Treviades
- the street lights on the new Wheal Vyvyan estate are on all night and spread an intense white light to the irritation of neighbours
- the sub-contractors on the Wheal Vyvyan site have caused offence by being unnecessarily noisy and through their use of swear words
- the new drain at Port Navas is again blocked
- the new dog-bin at the northern end of Well Lane has again been stolen
- the Wheal Vyvyan engine house will be fenced off in the near future to keep members of the public away from the open shaft
- the scaffolding on the road outside the Queens Arms presents a hazard to vehicles. The Parish Council is unaware of permission for its erection either being sought or given
- speeding up and down Fore Street and through Port Navas will inevitably result in accidents
- skateboarding down Fore Street has become almost as dangerous as the traffic
- a Boat Watch scheme has been established at the Port Navas Yacht Club
- the potholes in Bowling Green Road have been repaired
- Mr Jorey is to be thanked for his excellent work tidying up the entrance to the New Cemetery
- the leaking taps in the cemetery have both been repaired

## 1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Reynolds (personal) and PC Cook sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all others in favour to accept their apologies.

## 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

### in items on the agenda

Cllr Bolt, Cllr Gray and Cllr Wiseman each declared a personal interest in Agenda item 11, a request for help with funding from the Constantine Cottage Garden Society.

### of gifts (received as a result of being a member of the Council) of a value greater than £25

There were no declarations of gifts of a value greater than £25.

*Chairman's initials.....*

### 3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Boote seconded, Cllr Cavanagh and Cllr Nicholls being absent from the last meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday February 17, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

### 4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA

It was noted that

- the no parking lines at the top of Well Lane have yet to be painted
- the minutes make no mention of the abandoned boats on Anna Maria creek (Cllr Williams assured members that the Helford River Association is aware of these and that the matter is in hand)
- the notice prohibiting HGVs from the car park is ready for fixing to the wall

### 5 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Cook reported that since the meeting on February 17, 2011 there have been two crimes in the Parish which have been reported to the Police (the theft of a field bike and a marine pump from an out-building and the theft of fuel oil from a tank in a garden). PC Cook added that there had also been a number of reports of anti-social behaviour during the same period.

PC Cook warned that the theft of metal objects from rural areas continues to be of concern and advised members of the public to take suitable precautions.

### 6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Hatton reported that

- as from April 1 the salt bins and their contents will belong to the Parish Council. The Parish Council might like to see if someone living close to each of the bins will take responsibility for them during the summer months
- as a result of attending a training course earlier in the year, he has been awarded a Certificate in the Correct Use of Salt Bins. The Parish Council agreed to care for it
- the Constantine Enterprise Company has been invited to the Lord Lieutenant's tea-party in recognition of the furtherance of their nomination for the Queen's Award for Voluntary Service
- a public meeting to discuss a proposal for a 1,000 home eco-village at Rame has been called for 7.15pm on March 30 at Wendron Cricket Club

Speaking of the proposed solar farm at Brill, Cllr Hatton said that

- he had advised our Member of Parliament that it is essential that the present uncertainty surrounding the Feed in Tariff (FiT) is addressed by Parliament by June at the latest
- there is a growing belief that the FiT for large scale developments is too generous, that the maximum permitted qualifying size of development is too large, that companies are being too greedy and that sources of alternative energy other than that of solar energy should be explored
- the designation of a section of countryside as an Area of Great Landscape Value is a County imposed designation and as such it cannot be ignored in planning matters
- there are in excess of one hundred applications for solar farms in place and all of them will be decided at meetings of the Strategic Planning Committee
- the cumulative effect of all these applications cannot be denied
- some of these applications are for less sensitive areas than Brill and others have the support of local communities
- the application for the solar farm at Brill is now scheduled for decision on April 28 (the applicant having asked for it to be held back so that he can re-consult local people): however there is a possibility that it may be decided at an even later date
- a petition against the development of a solar farm at Brill has been handed to him to take to the Planning Authority and contains in excess of two hundred signatures
- no prior decisions have been made
- the consultation period in respect of the application at Brill is now closed.

In answer to a question, Cllr Hatton agreed that Cornwall has no extant planning policy for the development of solar farms. This statement prompted considerable discussion as a result of which the Clerk was asked to write to the Chairman of the Strategic Planning Committee stating Constantine Parish Council's concern that, despite the fact that it is the County's published aim to be at the forefront of alternative energy generation, Cornwall has no written policy in place, there has been no forward planning to identify suitable sites within the county for the development of solar farms and decisions are therefore being made on an *ad hoc* basis by individual officers and Councillors.

The Chairman reported that he had attended last week's meeting of the Strategic Planning Committee when members had agreed a proposal for a solar farm. It was his opinion that a decision had been made too quickly and without members being fully aware of the implications of their decision. As a farmer, he had

*Chairman's initials.....*

been appalled that no-one present, not even the planning officers, seemed to be able to judge quite how large an area of 13 hectares is.

## **7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

In the absence of a request from the electorate to call an election, the Clerk reported that Constantine Parish Council is now in a position to consider the co-option of Parish Councillors. It was agreed to publish advertisements on the Parish notice-boards inviting interested residents to put their names forward for consideration. The Clerk reported that he already has a letter expressing interest.

## **8 PARISH MATTERS**

### **The New Churchyard**

Reporting back on the possible dangers presented by earth sinking into graves in the New Churchyard, Cllr Wiseman told members that he had walked around the Churchyard and that it is his opinion that all that is needed is some soil to 'top-up' three graves. It was noted that this would require the use of a wheelbarrow rather than mechanical equipment and agreed that it should be done as and when surplus soil becomes available.

### **Car-Park**

In the course of discussion the Clerk was asked to seek quotations both for the erection of diamond rail fencing to prevent cars parking too close to the trees on the site and for stump grinding the remains of the two felled trees. Members noted that Cornwall Highways has been contacted about the area (which has become eroded during the course of the winter) between the edge of Bowling Green Road and the grass.

Members noted that the sign banning HGVs from using the car-park has been purchased and that Cllr Reynolds has agreed to attach it to the wall near the entrance.

### **Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that Mr Osgood has quoted £200 to repair the Cornish hedge behind the Bowling Club. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all in favour to accept this quotation.

Members noted that the signs banning dogs from the Recreation Ground will be placed near entrances within the month.

### **Young people**

The Clerk read a report on the Youth Club which had been sent to him by Mr Gribble. Considerable discussion followed concerning the future of the Youth Club during the course of which the Council's disappointment that Cornwall has seen fit to ignore the needs of youngsters living in Constantine was voiced. Nevertheless, it was proposed by Cllr Boote, seconded by Cllr Wiseman, all in favour that a letter should be sent to Mr Gribble stating that Constantine Parish Council has decided to continue to finance the Youth Club (and to pay Mr Gribble's honorarium) until September 30, 2011. At that time, the Council will withdraw funding unless it can see clear evidence of an increase in the number of members, a well-advertised and varied programme of events and activities and a vibrant, thriving organisation. Additionally, the Parish Council will require a monthly report from the Youth Club detailing week by week numbers of youngsters attending, the activities they have undertaken, sight of minutes of committee meetings relating to the management of the Club and a copy of the receipts obtained and payments made in that month by the Club.

### **The War Memorial**

Members considered the addition to the War Memorial of the names (identified by Mr Rashleigh) of four men from Constantine who lost their lives during the Great War and the names of two people who lost their lives during the Second World War. It was agreed that the Clerk should seek quotations for the necessary work in respect of the five servicemen who had lost their lives but that Loveday Jane Richards, a civilian who lost her life in a bombing raid at Gweek, would be better remembered on the War Memorial in the Gweek Mission Church.

*Chairman's initials.....*

## 9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

### Applications

PA10/07612 Mr D.Morris – Retention and completion of shed and boathouse (amended plans) – Barans, Port Navas. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Gray seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *The only difference that Constantine Parish Council can see between the original and the amended plans is the removal from the location plan of the boathouse. If this is so, it renders the description of this application as the "retention and completion of a shed and a boathouse" inaccurate because the application is seeking permission for the retention of the shed.*

*If the applicant is indeed seeking permission solely for the retention of the shed Constantine Parish Council can only repeat the substance of the observations it made in January.*

*Constantine Parish Council notes the absence from the application of any indication concerning the manner of disposal of foul waste (from the proposed shed) and therefore registers its strong objection to this proposal (which additionally represents a further intrusion into a highly sensitive, nationally and internationally recognised and protected area).*

*Constantine Parish Council reminds the Local Planning Authority that the Helford Ria as a whole forms part of the Cornwall Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, the protection of which is primarily the responsibility of Cornwall Council. This particular site is further designated as an Area of Great Scientific Value and as such offers protection to the important muddy and rocky foreshore of the adjacent Lower Fal and Helford Intertidal SSSI and the marine environment of the Fal and Helford Special Area of Conservation.*

## 10 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Members noted that the Clerk, having first consulted the Chairman, had signed a new contract for the supply of electricity to The Square. (This is used to power the lighting for the Christmas tree.)

### Correspondence

**Clerks and Councils Direct** newsletter – *noted*

**Audit Commission** appointment of Jackie Ballard as Constantine Parish Council's external auditor – *noted*

**SW Ambulance Service** Twentyfourseven newsletter – *noted*

**Constantine Cottage Garden Society** request to hold the Annual Show in the Recreation Ground on the weekend of July 16/17, 2011 – *acting in their rôle as the Management Trustee of the Alice Hext Charity Parish Councillors agreed to this request*

## 11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at March 17, 2011. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from the 1<sup>st</sup> Constantine Brownies and Guides for a grant of £100 towards the cost of their first pack holiday. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Just, all others in favour that under the terms of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972 Constantine Parish Council should forward a cheque to Constantine Brownies and Guides in the sum of £100.00

*As members of the Society, Cllr Bolt, Cllr Gray and Cllr Wiseman declared a personal interest in the following request for help with funding from the Constantine Cottage Garden Society. They remained in the room, taking part in the discussion but abstaining from voting.*

Members considered a request from Constantine Cottage Garden Society for a grant to be used mainly towards the cost of prize money for the Village's best kept gardens. It was proposed by Cllr Carter, seconded by Cllr Nicholls, and agreed that the sum of £200 be forwarded to the Constantine Cottage Garden Society under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

The following accounts were presented for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Jennings (March)	£	47.44	
Mr G.Jorey	£	270.60	

PA11/01492 Mrs L Gregory – Listed Building Consent for the erection of iron railings to replace wooden fence – 61, Fore Street. Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Councillors support this application.*

	HM Revenue and Customs		£ 367.79		
	Came & Company (insurance)		£ 1,270.87		
33.68	JFC Monro (Bowling Club)		£ 202.11	£ 168.43	£
	Mr Barry Woodard (garden in The Square)		£ 40.00		
96.00	RTS (Garden Services) Ltd (cemetery 3 months)		£ 576.00	£ 480.00	£
5.66	EdF Energy (street lighting)		£ 118.50	£ 112.84	£
5.69	Veolia ES Ltd		£ 34.15	£ 28.46	£
	Constantine Church Hall				
	Youth Club	£ 72.00			
	Parish Council meetings	£ 36.00	£ 108.00		
Harlequin Design		£ 17.70	£ 14.75	£ 2.95	
Colin Chapman					
	Salary (February)	£ 400.46			
	telephone	£ 26.76			
	office expenses	£ 54.00			
	travelling	£ 28.29			
	use of home	£ 25.00			
		total	£ 534.51		

Proposed by Cllr Gray, seconded by Cllr Boote, all others in favour that the above twelve accounts be paid.

The following receipts were noted

Colin Matthews (Mrs Kelly)	£ 20.00
Francis Memorials (Mr Dale)	£ 81.00
Constantine Bowling Club (repayment)	£ 168.43
T.Cooke (re Mrs Bowers)	£ 261.00

**12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES**

The Clerk reported that at the meeting on February 21, the Constantine Recreation Ground Friends' and Users' Group had recommended that the Group should be wound up for the following reasons

- the Parish Council has been diligent in its care of the Recreation Ground
- the Parish Council (as the Management Trustee) has the ultimate responsibility for making decisions relating to the Recreation Ground
- the fact that last meeting of the Users' Group was held nearly two years ago has not impacted unfavourably on the care and maintenance of the Recreation Ground
- members of the Friends' and Users' Group appear to be content with the way in which the Parish Council is caring for the Recreation Ground.

The Parish Council noted these findings and agreed that, in the circumstances, the Parish Council acting as the Management Trustee should accept the recommendation.

**13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

There were no comments from Councillors.

**14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Parish Meeting will be held on Thursday April 21, 2011 at 7:00pm in The Vestry.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.00pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman's initials.....*