

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, June 9, 2011 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

Present:	Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman)	Cllr E.Nicholls
	Cllr A.H.Bolt	Cllr M.J.Reynolds
	Cllr J.E.G.Boote	Cllr R.J.Williams
	Cllr K.Cavanagh	
	Cllr R.E.Just	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Mrs Daly, Mr and Mrs Garrish, Mr Hines (representing Sunpower), Mr Kent, Mrs Mullaly, Mr and Mrs Parry, Mrs Stilwell, Mr Suverton, Mrs Worth.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the June meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Worth expressed her disappointment that Constantine Parish Council had not arranged a party for residents of the parish in celebration of the recent Royal Wedding. She expressed the hope that thought will be given to celebrating the Queen's Diamond Jubilee next year and stated that Constantine Pre-School is willing to organise a Community Party or something similar, if that is what is wanted. She reminded members that the Queen has encouraged everyone to share lunch with neighbours and friends on Sunday June 3, 2012 as part of the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. On another issue, she asked if thought might be given to the idea of individuals purchasing 'memory' lights (lights in memory of a relation or friend) for the Christmas tree in The Square and if the Council would consider organising a special 'switch-on' ceremony. Members agreed to put both matters on the agenda for September.

Amongst concerns expressed about Planning Application PA11/03632 the following points were noted

- the original entrance to the site should be used rather than creating a new one
- the existing Cornish hedge should be retained
- as should the hawthorn trees growing on it
- the exit from Well Lane onto Fore Street is already difficult because of inconsiderate parking
- the increase in traffic resulting from development of this site will exacerbate already dangerous conditions for pedestrians
- surface water run-off from the development will cause problems in Well Lane
- the mains sewer may not be able to cope with the additional requirement relating to this dwelling.

The Chairman stated that Mr Kent had spoken informally with members of the Parish Council and that he had agreed to revise his plans to make use of the existing entrance to the site from Well Lane. He had further stated that the necessary building materials will be brought onto the site through Wheal Vyvyan rather than from Well Lane

Mr Hines, who is no longer contracted to SunPower, read a statement from the company which ran "After careful consideration, SunPower has decided to withdraw its proposal for a 5MW solar development on land at Brill near Constantine. We would like to thank those who have engaged in the planning process and whose input has been taken into account." He added that, if SunPower had been made aware at an earlier stage of the depth of opposition to their proposal, they might have withdrawn their application earlier. In answer to a question from a member of the public, Mr Hines stated that it was his opinion that SunPower is unlikely to re-apply for planning permission on this site. The Chairman thanked Mr Hines for coming to make the statement and Mr Hines left.

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1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hatton, Cllr Miss Evans (work), Cllr Gray (personal), Cllr Wiseman (personal) and PC Cook sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Just seconded all others in favour to accept their apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Boote declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9, Planning Application PA11/03632.

Cllr Bolt declared a personal interest in Agenda item 9, Planning Application PA11/03836.

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.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, Cllr Cavanagh and Cllr Nicholls being absent from the Annual Meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday May 19, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

4 TO AGREE AS ACCURATE THE MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING

Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Williams seconded, Cllr Cavanagh and Cllr Nicholls being absent from the Annual Parish Meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 19, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as being accurate.

5 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA

It was noted that the salt bin at Ponjeravah (which had not been mentioned at the last meeting) will be stored over the summer months by Mr Murdoch who lives at Skol Goth. The Chairman reported that he and Cllr Reynolds had collected the four bins from the village (including the one outside the school) and that they are presently in storage at Trengilly Farm. The Clerk was asked to obtain quotations for a tonne of salt.

6 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PC Cook reported that since the Annual Meeting on May 19, 2011 there have been two crimes in the Parish which have been reported to the Police (one of possible criminal damage and an assault). Additionally, there were two calls in relation to anti-social behaviour in the village.

7 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

In the absence of Cllr Hatton there was no report from the Cornwall Councillor.

8 PARISH MATTERS

Car-Park

The Clerk reported that he had received a quotation from Cormac for the creation of a permanent edge between Bowling Green Road and the new car-park in the sum of £3,248.23 + VAT: this to supply and lay 45m of concrete drop-nosed kerb to the edge of the parking area. If Constantine Parish Council accepts this quotation, there is an undertaking that, at the same time as this work is done, the road will be made good at Cornwall Highways' expense. Following discussion, it was agreed that, before a decision is taken, a second quotation should be sought.

The Clerk reported that, using delegated powers proposed and agreed at the last meeting, he had instructed Fal Fencing to erect diamond edge fencing to protect the area under the trees. As quoted, this work will cost £490 and will be completed shortly.

Recreation Ground

Members noted that the work to fell two ash trees and to pollard five others in the Recreation Ground has been completed.

Young people

No report on the activities of the Youth Club was available for members.

Proposal for a community owned Constantine Residential Care Home

Members considered a proposal for a community owned Constantine Residential Care Home. Cllr Just suggested that the Council might like to consider applying for Planning Permission if the project reaches that point. He observed that a great deal of voluntary work has already gone into this project adding that the support of the Parish Council would be welcome encouragement for those volunteers. Considerable discussion arose and amongst the points made were the following

- the proposed site, which is some way out of the village, may be subject to planning restrictions

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- further, its distance from the village would make it difficult if not impossible for elderly residents to visit friends on foot
- running a residential home is possibly a matter best left to professionals (and, in the present climate, even they are finding the business difficult)
- any financial commitment from the Parish Council would have to be limited. Applying for Planning Permission would be expensive
- in financial terms, the proposal is for a not-for-profit company backed by a Charitable Trust
- if the home is built and then fails, concerns were expressed about the future of accrued funds and of a large building in the countryside

Despite all the above concerns, there was general agreement that the concept is a good one. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Cavanagh seconded, Cllr Just and Cllr Reynolds abstained, all others in favour that Constantine Parish Council supports the principle of a community-owned Residential Care Home but reserves its position subject to receipt of detailed proposals. In the meanwhile, the Clerk was asked to seek Planning Authority Officers' initial thoughts about the proposed site.

Bowling Club

Acting in its rôle as the Management Trustee for the Alice Hext Charity, Constantine Parish Council considered plans for rebuilding the Bowling Club buildings as submitted by Constantine Bowling Club. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed that, should the plans come to fruition, the new buildings will prove an asset to the Club, to the Charity and to the village and that the Management Committee should support the initiative.

9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

As a resident of Well Lane, Cllr Boote declared an interest in the following application. He remained in the room, but, as a Parish Councillor, took no part in either the discussion or the voting.

Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded and it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Cllr Boote to speak as a member of the public.

Cllr Boote, speaking as a member of the public, drew members' attention to the Appeal Decision dated January 11, 2005 relating to this site and in particular to what the Inspector had said about the effect of development of this site on the form and setting of Constantine, the effect on highway safety and the reference to an earlier Appeal in which it was stated that, if development was to be permitted on this site "it could encourage other developers to create similar areas on other exception sites leading to a breakdown in the Council's control over open market housing outside settlement boundaries". He stated that, although the majority of people would sooner see the sort of development proposed than something less sensitive, his request was that, based on the wording of the Appeal Decision referred to above, the application should be refused.

Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded all agreed that Standing Orders should be resumed

PA11/03632 John Kent Ltd – Erection of a dwelling and formation of access – land off Well Lane. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, Cllr Boote abstaining and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Council is not in principle opposed to the development of this site. However, the Council will not support the creation of a new access from Well Lane onto the site, preferring use to be made of the existing access. Moreover, the Parish Council would expect both the Cornish hedge bordering Well Lane and the Hawthorn trees on it to be retained in any future development. (The Council acknowledges that this will probably result in re-siting and possibly re-designing the proposed dwelling.) The Parish Council has further concerns both about surface water run-off and about the inevitable increase in traffic along Well Lane which this development will create. In particular, Members have in mind the difficulty of exiting from the southern end of Well Lane (made so because of inconsiderate parking on the splayed entrance). The Parish Council fully supports the applicant's intention to use a temporary access from Wheal Vyvyan for building purposes. All these matters have been discussed with the applicant and he has indicated that he is willing to make the desired amendments.*

Nevertheless and despite all the foregoing, Constantine Parish Council would draw the Planning Authority's attention to the Appeal Decision relating to this site dated January 11, 2005.

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PA11/03656 Mr R.Grant-Sturgis – Extension of time for the change of use of lakes and ponds to coarse fishery and erection of an amenities’ block (Decision Notice Number PA08/00276/F dated 20 May 2008) – Coarse Fishery, Mawnan Smith. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Cavanagh seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Council makes no further comment*.

As a close neighbour, Cllr Bolt declared an interest in the following application. He remained in the room, but took no part in either the discussion or the voting.

PA11/03836 Mrs Bruce – Installation of window and replacement of window with door – Badger Barn, 2 Seworgan Farm. Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Williams seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Councillors support this application*.

Decisions

PA11/00521 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission (installation of solar panels) – Potager Garden, High Cross – *noted*

PA11/02824 Grant of Conditional Planning Permission (porch extension to dwelling) – Dunstans Cottage, Seworgan – *noted*

Correspondence

CC Amended public speaking procedure at Planning Committee meetings – *noted*

CC Confirmation of withdrawal of application (felling of six sycamore trees at Bridge Cottage, Constantine) – *noted*

10 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Cruse in Cornwall invitation to AGM on July 7, 2011 at St Austell Community Hospital – *noted*

Constantine Pre-School invitation to join a Constantine Village History Walk on July 1 – *noted*

Constantine Carnival Organising Group acknowledgement of and thanks for donation towards the Garden Tea Party to celebrate the Royal Wedding and a request to use the Recreation Ground on the weekend on July 23/24 – *Constantine Parish Council acting as the Management Trustee for the Alice Hext Charity agreed to this request*

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council’s financial position as at June 9, 2011. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Tanya’s Courage Trust for help with funding. Following discussion, it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council cannot support this cause.

The following accounts were presented for payment

		GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Jennings		£ 47.44		
Mr G.Jorey		£ 321.20		
HM Revenue and Customs		£ 362.20		
W.B.Bowden & Sons (sand for Recreation Ground)		£ 42.00	£ 35.00	£ 7.00
RTS (Garden Services) Ltd		£ 396.00	£ 330.00	£ 66.00
Gweek Garage		£ 67.00	£ 55.83	£ 11.17
Cornovia Tree Services Ltd		£ 180.00	£ 150.00	£ 30.00
Veolia				
Duty of Care	£ 36.00			
Constantine Cemetery	£ 65.42			
		total	£ 101.42	£ 84.52
				£ 16.90
Colin Chapman				
Salary (May)	£ 400.46			
telephone	£ 17.03			
office expenses	£ 72.63			
travelling	£ 39.34			
use of home	£ 25.00			
		total	£ 554.46	

Proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Williams, all others in favour that the above nine accounts be paid.

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The following receipts were noted

Western Power Distribution (Wayleave)	£ 37.96
Frederick Wearne & Sons (Mrs Richardson)	£ 27.00

12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Reynolds asked that his name might be added to those serving on the Planning Committee.

Cllr Cavanagh drew members' attention to shrubs growing out and over graves in the New Churchyard and asked that the contractor is instructed to cut them back.

Cllr Boote asked if Footpath 1 leading to the well might be cut out

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

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

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8:45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....