

# CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday December 15, 2011 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

**Present:** Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman) Cllr M.J.Reynolds  
 Cllr J.E.G.Boote Cllr R.J.Williams  
 Cllr A.H.Bolt Cllr N.J.Wiseman  
 Cllr Miss C.Evans  
 Cllr C.Gray Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitor:** CCllr Hatton and Mr Fox.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the December meeting.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members noted that

- although the planning application to remove the chimney and re-roof Port Navas hall has been with the Planning Authority since April, no written decision has been received
- the Parish Council will site a dust-bin full of road-salt at the corner of Comfort Wartha and Well Lane
- three new road-salt bins should have been delivered to Constantine earlier in the day. They will be sited at Trewardreva, Brill crossroads and Penwartha.
- it appears that the gap in the diamond-edge fencing on the new car-park is too small to accept the ride-on mower.

### 1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr E.Nicholls (work) and PCSO Gardiner sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Gray seconded, all others in favour to accept their apologies.

### 2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

#### in items on the agenda

There were no declarations of interest in items on the agenda.

#### 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 Williams proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 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

Members noted the now dreadful state of the new car-park and suggested that, further to the resolution taken by the Parish Council in July 2010, the top soil of the first ten feet or so of the car park should be scraped clean and replaced with a load of chippings. CCllr Hatton urged the Parish Council to remain patient for a short time. The application under his Members' Budget for Highways improvement had been submitted, but has yet to be costed and approved (both of which procedures have to be completed by the end of December). In the hope that the necessary kerbing work will be completed by Cornwall Council, after which chippings might more usefully be spread, Members agreed that they would exercise patience, but for a short period only.

The Clerk reported that Mr Osgood has now removed the climbing frame from the playground.

*Chairman's initials.....*

**5 POLICE REPORT**

Through the Clerk, PCSO Gardiner reported that, since the meeting in November, a single crime that of burglary has been reported to the Police. There were no reports of anti-social behaviour.

PCSO Gardiner reminded members and residents alike that the annual Christmas period *Don't Drink and Drive* Campaign has started.

Finally and on behalf of Devon and Cornwall Police, he wished everyone in the village a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year.

**6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

CCllr Hatton reported that

- the Nans Avallon appeal is proceeding and the decision is likely in mid-January
- the state of the road leading to Merthyn is 'challenging'. It is an adopted road and a portfolio of photographs which illustrate the existing problems has been passed to Cornwall Highways
- he had attended a Localism briefing which had covered areas such as the Community Right to Challenge (the manner in which the Authority is delivering a statutory duty), Housing and the transfer of Authority owned Community Assets to local organisations. The spirit of the act requires funding to be devolved with the delivery of the duty: in practice this may prove to be problematic.

**7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

**Dates of coming meetings**

Members agreed that, unless there are pressing reasons for change, the dates for the meetings in 2012/2013 will be as follows

January 19, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
February 16, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
March 15, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
April 19, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
May 17, 2012	Annual Parish Meeting
May 17, 2012	Annual Meeting
June 14, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
July 19, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
September 13, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
October 18, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
November 15, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
December 20, 2012	Ordinary Meeting
January 15, 2013	Ordinary Meeting
February 19, 2013	Ordinary Meeting

Public Question Time will precede all meetings which are due to begin at 7:00pm

**8 PARISH MATTERS**

**The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth**

Cllr Miss Evans reported that she had attended the second meeting of the sub-committee on Tuesday and stated that initial funding available amounts to £800 (£300 from CCllr Hatton's Community Chest and £500 from the Parish Council). Further funding streams are being investigated. Various ideas have been mooted: these include

- a regatta at Polwheveral
- a marquee on the Recreation Ground (in which a series of events might be held including a Church Service on the Sunday)
- a fun-day
- a parade
- a craft exhibition in the WI Hall
- a flower festival in the Church
- presentation of the commemorative mugs at simultaneous ceremonies in Constantine, Seworgan and Port Navas
- a finale involving the lighting of a beacon.

However, the sub-committee is anxious to let people know that anyone may get involved at any stage and that it would be appropriate for events to be held at Port Navas (where, during the Golden Jubilee celebrations, a community meal was served on the quay) and at Seworgan. Finally, it has been suggested that the opportunity arises for cross-parish boundary events.

*Chairman's initials.....*

**To consider accepting an offer from Cornwall Council to provide signage on footpath 32**

Following discussion, Cllr Williams proposed and it was agreed to accept an offer from Cornwall Council to provide a number of signs drawing users' attention to the fact that Footpath 32 is a footpath and not a bridleway.

**To discuss the repair of the bank next to the stile at the northern end of Footpath 32**

Following discussion, it was agreed that the Parish Council should write to the respective landowners asking if they would make the necessary repairs.

**To discuss a proposal to seek a Modification Order altering the legal status of footpath 32 to that of a bridleway**

Following discussion, this proposal was withdrawn as being inappropriate.

**The Recreation Ground**

The Clerk reported that the Cornish hedge near the pedestrian gate which leads to the play area is in need of repair. Following discussion, Cllr Williams proposed and it was agreed that Mr Osgood should be instructed to carry out this work.

**The Vestry**

Members noted that the windows of the Vestry are in need of some repair. It was agreed to seek a quotation for the work from two contractors.

**9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS**

**Applications**

PA11/09161 Mr Jim Ravey – Installation of 3 No x 50kW wind turbines (24.6m to hub, 34.2m to tip), access track and associated ancillary development – Lower Nancrossa Farm, Halfway House, Rame Cross. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Wiseman seconded Cllr Bolt abstained, all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Because the application site bestrides the parish boundary, Constantine Parish Council has collaborated fully with Wendron Parish Council in the compilation of these observations.*

*Constantine Parish Council understands that a number of residents living in close proximity to the site have not been informed of this application and urges the Planning Authority to make every effort to contact them.*

*In respect of the Planning and Design Statement submitted with this application, Constantine Parish Council notes with bemusement the reference to South Somerset Council on page 30 and the reference to the A303 on page 34.*

*However...*

*There has been no pre-application consultation with the community, contrary to EHS Guidelines 2007.*

*It is noted that a request for an EIA Screening Opinion was submitted to Cornwall Council (page 8 Planning and Design Statement) but that no response has been received. Constantine Parish Council urges the Planning Authority to reply positively to this request.*

*Constantine Parish Council believes the scale of the turbines will be grossly out of proportion with the surrounding landscape and will have an adverse affect on the residents of the many small communities surrounding the site.*

*It is noted that there are existing dwellings well within 500 metres of the proposed turbines. Constantine Parish Council considers the proposed turbines will impose on residents' quiet enjoyment of those properties.*

*The applicant has used the recommendations outlined in ETSU-R-97 (Noise Assessment and Rating advice note for Wind Turbine Developments) to suggest that the noise generated by the proposed turbines would be unnoticed by residents of neighbouring properties. This document was written fourteen years ago and both wind farm technology and experience in environmental effects have advanced since its publication and the recommendations contained within the document are therefore open to question. Constantine Parish Council cannot accept the generalised assurances of a company employed by the applicant nor indeed those of the manufacturer that the proposed turbines will be very quiet. The average windspeed at a height of 10 metres above ground level at this location is 7.3 m/s (source DECC). According to the document submitted by the applicant, this wind-speed equates to just over 89 decibels (that of a motor-cycle at 20 feet or a propellor-driven plane at 1,000 feet). It is Constantine Parish Council's view that this continuous level of noise is unacceptable.*

*It is noted that the position of all three turbines is at odds with Natural England's guidelines as outlined in its Technical Information Note TIN051.*

*Chairman's initials.....*

*It is noted both that a section of Wendron Bridleway 99 represents the access route for construction and inspection vehicles and that the remaining section of this Bridleway passes within 50 metres of the site of the proposed turbines. No method of ensuring the safety of members of the public making use of this Right of Way either during construction or upon completion is detailed in the Design and Access Statement contrary to RenewableUK Guidelines.*

*The size, siting and prominence of the turbines would appear as a dominant and visually intrusive feature in the surrounding rural landscape and would be imposing and overbearing on views of and from this ridge, which, at 630 feet, dominates the sky line for miles around.*

*The plans indicate that the turbines will be visible from the far side of Truro, from Cadgwith, from Penzance, from St Ives and from St Agnes – an area in excess of 1,256 square kilometres or more than a third of the entire area of Cornwall. It is an area which attracts tourists from all over the world who come principally to enjoy the rural charm of the landscape. In 2009 Cornwall attracted 15.1 million visitors who spent approximately £1.8 billion pounds (which supported approximately 60,000 jobs across the county or 25% of the total employment): there is every reason to believe that these figures have increased more recently. The erection of turbines on this site may have an adverse effect on the local economy and, for this reason, Constantine Parish Council believes that a Tourism Impact Study of the area should have been carried out.*

*For all the above reasons, Constantine Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development. The visual impact and intrusion into the countryside of the proposed turbines is contrary to policies 1 and 2, of the Cornwall Structure Plan 2004 and ENV1, ENV4 and ENV17 of the Draft Kerrier District Local Plan 2004. Constantine Parish Council also believes the cumulative impact of turbines of differing sizes within the area (PPS22 paragraph 21 and Policy 7 of the Cornwall Structure Plan 2004) militates against permission for further turbines being granted.*

*Finally, Constantine Parish Council would draw the attention of the Planning Authority to the decision to refuse permission for development for the erection of a single turbine and ancillary building at Polkanuggo Farm (PA11/01263).*

PA11/09359 Mr James Fox – Installation of 5Kw wind turbine. on 12 metre mast (may affect a public right of way) – Treadreva Farm, Constantine. Cllr Williams proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application with the proviso that in the event that the turbine ceases to generate power for a continuous period of six months, the base, the tower and the turbine itself are removed from the site and the land is returned to agricultural use.*

PA11/09575 Mr & Mrs K. & H.Hubbard – Erection of 5.2Kw wind turbine on 15 metre monopole tower – Trevaney Farmhouse, High Cross. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Williams seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council has concerns about the effect noise produced by this turbine may have on adjoining residential properties and therefore seeks reassurance that all near neighbours were consulted before the application was presented. In the absence of that reassurance the Council reserves its right to make any observations.*

PA11/09807 Mrs M Ruberry – Extension of time for the erection of a dwelling and formation of a replacement access (Decision Notice PA08/01782/F dated 15 December 2008) – The Bungalow, Trebarvah Road. Cllr Wiseman proposed, Cllr Gray seconded all others in favour that this application should be returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council reiterates the observations it made originally. It supports the application, but would draw the Planning Authority's attention to the possibility of contaminated land on the site.*

## **Decisions**

PA11/06723 APPROVED (Change of use and conversion of barn to form holiday accommodation) – Tresidder Cottage, Trebarvah Woon.

PA11/06727 APPROVED – (Listed building consent for conversion of barn to form holiday accommodation) – Tresidder Cottage, Trebarvah Woon.

PA11/09291 APPROVED (Proposed detached double garage) – 2 Brillwater Road, Constantine

## **10 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE**

### **Correspondence**

The Clerk reported that he had received no correspondence of note.

*Chairman's initials.....*

## 11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at December 15, 2011. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Victim Support for financial help with funding the cost of its work. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Gray all in favour that the sum of £25.00 be forwarded to Victim Support under the terms of Section 142(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members considered a request from Cornwall Air Ambulance for help with funding. Following discussion, Cllr Boote proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, all in favour that the sum of £100 be forwarded to the Cornwall Air Ambulance Trust under the terms of Section 137 of the Local Government Act 1972.

Members considered the Precept for the year from April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2013. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Wiseman, seconded by Cllr Boote all in favour that the Precept for the year 2012/2013 should be increased to £33,000 This increase reflects the loss of the rental income from the Social Club both in this financial year and the potential for loss in the coming financial year, of the potential for future insurance and repair costs associated with the Social Club building and of potential costs relating to the Diamond Jubilee Celebrations. The Parish Council is also acutely aware of the need to improve the play equipment in the Recreation Ground. The increase represents an additional demand on residents' Council Tax bills of 50p per month.

The following accounts were presented for payment

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 470.68		
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 48.64		
Mr G.Jorey	£ 289.40		
Gweek Garage	£ 20.00	£ 16.67	£ 3.33
Viridor Waste Management Ltd	£ 65.42	£ 54.52	£ 10.90
Mr R.Osgood	£ 370.00		
W.B.Bowden and Sons (scalping)	£ 115.20	£ 96.00	£ 19.20
Colin Chapman			
Salary (November)	£ 400.26		
telephone	£ 17.49		
office expenses	£ 35.62		
travelling	£ 42.43		
use of home	£ 25.00		
Florescent light starter	£ 2.29		
Clock and battery	£ 8.50		
Moss and algae chemical	£ 30.00		
	total		
	£ 561.59		

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

Members noted the following receipt

Ching Memorials (Mrs Rashleigh)	£ 27.00
CC LMP payment	£ 2,494.00

## 12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

No reports from Committees or Representatives were tabled.

## 13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Wiseman publically offered his thanks to everyone who had assisted him in collecting and erecting the Christmas trees in the village – and in particular to Mr Nicholls and Mr Blatter for their help with transport. He added that this really would be the last year he would be able to undertake this task and suggested that the Parish Council might like to consider the consequences of that decision in February or March. Speaking on behalf of the Council, the Chairman offered his thanks to Cllr Wiseman for all the effort and hard work he has put in over so many years to make the celebration of Christmas in Constantine such a success.

Cllr Miss Evans reminded Members that the Youth Consultation event (to collect views on the Youth Club) is scheduled for January 21 or 28, 2012

*Chairman's initials.....*

**14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING**

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday January 19, 2012 at 7:00pm in The Vestry.

Wishing everyone a very happy Christmas, the Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.56pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

*Chairman's initials.....*