

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday September 16, 2021 at 7.30pm in Constantine WI Hall.

Present:	Cllr P.Carter Cllr J.Andrew Cllr H.Bolt Cllr Mrs E.Batley-Birch Cllr A.Carter Cllr E.Jeffery	Cllr E.Nicholls Cllr C.Painter Cllr Mrs T.Thompson Cllr R.Wickins Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)
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Visitors: There were no visitors.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs Scott (personal) and CCllr Bastin sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr A.Carter seconded and it was agreed 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 Painter proposed, Cllr Wickins seconded, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Mrs Thomson who were absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday July 15, 2021 should be adopted as 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

- no reply had been received from the Football Club concerning the Parish Council's response to their request to permit parking on the Recreation Ground on match days
- the work to replace the chain link fencing around the Recreation Ground has yet to be started, The Chairman reported that he had spoken to Mr Milburn, who had expressed his concerns about the increase in material prices. The Chairman had reassured him that the Council would meet that cost and Mr Milburn had undertaken to order the necessary material without delay
- Cllr Painter offered to organise a party to weed the new hedge fronting Trebarvah Road which has again been somewhat overwhelmed. The Clerk confirmed that replacement Blackthorn whips have been ordered and will be delivered before the end of October
- the wild-flower volunteers have made a start with preparing the ground of the verge on Trebarvah Road.

5 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Through the Clerk, CCllr Bastin reported that

- Cornwall was placed into an Enhanced Response Area a week ago. This brought both extra funding to help reduce the Covid infection rate and the return of the Hands, Face and Space advice

Chairman's initials.....

- case numbers of Covid are falling, but this may change as Children return to school
- patients with Covid have resulted in an increase in hospital entries and this is of greater concern
- young people with the Covid infection may have the following additional symptoms: very sore throat, headache and fatigue . They are perhaps at a lower risk of severe illness, but they can still pass on the disease
- Cornwall Council's planning portal now has a comprehensive section (which includes information about Tree Preservation Orders) to help local councils in all aspects of the planning process.
- an online survey concerning Rubbish and Recycling is available until the 21st December. Its aim is to get feedback from local communities on how the system might be improved
- the Community Network Panel will next meet on Tuesday September 21 at 7.00pm

The Clerk was asked to contact John Bastin both about the availability of wild-flower seed and about the Unitary Authority owned car-parks. Concerning the latter, a number of instances were cited when the older payment machines have not been working and when motorists are required to pay using a mobile phone and a banking app.. Members noted that there are many people who do not have the necessary technology, which means that the Authority's current practices discriminate against them. Clearly, this is both unfair and unjust and The Clerk was asked to contact the Portfolio Holder to ask for clarification.

Still on the matter of Cornwall Council Members noted that within the parish there are a number of extant Planning Enforcement allegations, some of which date back a number of years. The Clerk reported that, wearing another hat, he has asked for a list of outstanding allegations together with the dates that the allegation was first made and the stage which the allegation has reached. No reply has been forthcoming. He was asked to write to the Portfolio Holder to insist upon some answers.

6 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Constantine Parish Council's carbon footprint

Bearing in mind the Climate Emergency, Cllr Jeffery introduced what turned into a wide-ranging discussion concerning the reduction of the Parish Council's carbon footprint. It was noted that the Parish Council's carbon footprint at present is very low and further, that for some while, Parish Council-owned street lamps at the end of their lives have been replaced with LED lights. The dissemination of information using paper was also considered and it was noted that the Council must balance the use of technology (which has both a financial cost and a carbon impact) with the requirement to keep residents (not all of whom have access to the necessary technology) informed. It was agreed that decisions on future capital investment will include considerations of sustainability. As an aside, the Clerk stated that meeting papers can nowadays be legally served electronically.

Constantine Parish Council's website pages and the use of social media

Cllr Jeffery suggested that Members might like to consider ways in which the Parish Council can reach out to residents, thereby making the Council itself more approachable. He added that many Town and Parish Councils have photographs of their elected members on their websites. He further suggested that the Council might beneficially have a presence both on FaceBook and on Instagram. Members noted that on Social Media as a whole there is the opportunity for ill-intentioned, often hurtful and anonymous posts and the recent incidence on a local Facebook page when the Parish Council was the subject of ill-informed and unpleasant comment was mentioned. It was further suggested that Social Media as a whole is not a suitable platform for Local Government – although there is may be scope for other local websites to advertise Council meetings.

Provision of road-salt

Members considered the maintenance of the roadside salt-bins in preparation for the winter. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed to ask Mr Bob Sanders to undertake this task.

Affordable Housing

Members considered offering support to the resolution concerning Affordable Housing, new homes and second homes made by Bude Stratton Town Council. The resolution seeks the following measures

1. *End the 'Right to Buy' scheme*
2. *Scrutinise the principles of Affordable Housing with a view to creating links to local earnings*
3. *New homes must be prioritised for local need and occupancy*
4. *Second Homes:*
 - a. *To allow a multiplier of council tax which is passed to local communities*
 - b. *Scrutiny of the principle of registering houses as businesses*
5. *Additions to our housing stock should be delivered to high sustainable living standards and offered with secure and humane tenancy agreements*

Chairman's initials.....

Following considerable discussion, during the course of which it was suggested both that Constantine Parish Council should be careful of lending support to what might be considered a political document and that the County of Cornwall as a whole is in danger of following the fate of its coastal villages and becoming a ghost community during the winter, Cllr A.Carter proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded, Cllr Painter abstained and it was agreed both to offer Bude Stratton Town Council Constantine Parish Council's support and to lobby Mr George Eustice MP with a view to furthering the proposals.

Standing Orders

Members considered a proposal to adopt a Standing Orders document based on the Model Orders written by the National Association of Local Councils and the revisions suggested by the Cornwall Association of Local Councils. Following discussion and the adoption of minor changes, Cllr A.Carter proposed, Cllr Mrs Batley-Birch seconded and it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council should formally adopt this document.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

Members noted the following observations returned using delegated powers during the summer recess

PA21/05498 Mr J.Croftson – Replacement of garden shed with larger garden shed and erection of domestic polytunnel – 2 Inow Terrace, Port Navas. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA21/05754 Mr C.Williamson – Construction of side extension to dwelling – Lone Pine Cottage, High Cross. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA21/06482 Ms H.Lyall – Repair, extension and upgrading of listed building, erection of sauna replacing swimming pool surround – Bonallack Farm, Gweek. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application*

PA21/06483 Ms H.Lyall – Listed Building Consent for repair, extension and upgrading of listed building, erection of sauna replacing swimming pool surround – Bonallack Farm, Gweek. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA21/06650 Mr and Mrs S.Tyrell – To provide an extension to allow provision of modern kitchen and bathroom to a small and listed dwelling – Bosvathick Lodge, Constantine. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA21/07123 Mr J.Dungavel – Extension of a bungalow to form annexe including utilising the space of a garage with variation of condition 3 of decision PA20/05959 dated 14/08/2020 – Springmoor, Trenarth. This application was returned with the following observation *Bearing in mind the reasoning behind the imposition of Condition 3 of decision notice PA20/05959 dated 14/08/2020, Constantine Parish Council does not support this application.*

PA21/07803 Mrs L.Ormerod – Works to trees namely;- Tree 1- Sycamore to be felled, Tree 2- Sycamore to be felled, Tree 3-Oak- dangerous branch, needs to have branches trimmed - subject to a Tree Preservation Order(TPO) – Low Barn, Ponjeravah. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council will support this application subject to the agreement of County's Tree Officer.*

Applications

PA20/06881 Coastline Housing – Erect a mix of 25 affordable intermediate homes and rented homes with associated highways and drainage works – land North of Trebarvah Court, Constantine. Cllr Wickins proposed, Cllr Mrs Thomson seconded and it was agreed to return this application marked *Constantine Parish Council finds it extraordinary that in October 2019 (PA19/02590/PREAPP) the Affordable Housing Officer considered the scale of the then proposed development of 30 affordable homes on the same site to be excessive and that it was "not proportionate to the number of families registered as being in need of housing in Constantine". The registered number of families in need at that time was 24.*

In December 2020, the same Officer's report (PA20/06881) showed a need for 37 affordable homes: some eight months later (assuming the letter should be dated 2021) the Officer notes a need for 53 affordable homes. Between October 2019 and August 2021 therefore, the Affordable Housing Officer records that the need for affordable homes in Constantine has soared by some 120%. The Parish Council believes that this figure is artificially inflated by individual requests for housing in multiple parishes on the HomeChoice register.

Constantine Parish Council feels as if it is being asked to comment on a fact it simply cannot check (the number of local families in need) added to which it has been given no indication of how many families from the parish of Constantine have been housed in the rural exception sites of Phase 1 and Phase 2 – some 23 homes in total.

Even if the Parish Council is to accept the figures provided by the Affordable Housing Officer as factual its objections remain the same.

Chairman's initials.....

The Council believes the proposed development to be too large to be considered as a rural exception site within the context of the existing community. The proposal will more than double the number of homes on the two immediately adjoining exception sites to the south which have been granted permission one of which (surprisingly in the present context) has yet to be completed (PA15/09199). A quick glance at Cornwall's mapping site will reveal quite how far the site of these homes already extends into the open countryside and away from the existing developed boundary.

The scale of the proposed development in this Area of Great Landscape Value will have an adverse visual impact on the highly-valued, rural landscape, an impact which would be out of proportion to the identified housing need and therefore one which outweighs any benefit deriving from the development.

Access to employment, shops and services within the village is severely limited (employment to the point of being non-existent) and the use of private vehicles to access work and facilities by future residents of the proposed development will be a necessity.

Indeed, with no practical alternative modes of transport available, the proposed development on the edge of the settlement will give rise to increased lengthy journeys by private cars and delivery vehicles which would be harmful both to the environment and to public health and is at odds with Cornwall's Climate Change Development Plan.

The Parish Council would suggest that the Authority should be aware that the infrastructure in and around the village is such that it is already overloaded: the school, roads, medical facilities, electricity, water, sewage are all under pressure and it would be irresponsible to ignore the fact that the sustainability of the village as a whole is currently at risk.

Constantine Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development.

Further to the Planning Officer's request dated August 31, 2021 for an immediate response to the formal protocol letter he forwarded on August 24, 2021, if as indicated in a telephone conversation on August 25, 2021 and despite the very real concerns that Constantine Parish Council has expressed about this application, his recommendation for approval remains, the Parish Council asks for the final decision to be made by the Planning Committee.

Decisions

PA21/00340 APPROVED – Extension including a balcony and studio for private use – Trevellan High Cross – *noted*

PA21/05754 APPROVED – Construction of side extension to dwelling – Lone Pine Cottage, High Cross – *noted*

PA21/05932 APPROVED – Non material amendment in respect of decision notice PA19/05279 – Polanguy, Barn 1 Trebarvah Woon – *noted*

PA21/05933 APPROVED – Listed building consent for amendments to approved scheme under decision PA19/05280, comprising: Removal of proposed new door to south elevation and restore solid granite wall in keeping with original structure; to north elevation change location of roof window, insert window in kitchen wall and remove window in shower room and replace with roof window; amendment to roof line on east elevation; insertion of roof window – Polanguy, Barn 1 access to Polanguy, Trebarvah Woon – *noted*

PA21/07123 APPROVED – Extension of a bungalow to form annexe including utilising the space of a garage with variation of condition 3 of decision PA20/05959 dated 14/08/2020 – Springmoor, Trenarth – *noted*

PA21/07803 APPROVED – Works to trees namely;- Tree 1- Sycamore to be felled, Tree 2- Sycamore to be felled, Tree 3-Oak- dangerous branch,needs to have branches trimmed - subject to a Tree Preservation Order(TPO) – Low Barn, Ponjeravah – *noted*

8 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at September 16, 2021. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members noted the conclusion of the audit for the year to March 31, 2021. The External Auditor had made no comments.

Members considered a request from the Women's Centre, Cornwall for a grant towards the costs relating to the provision of this service. Following discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Cllr Mrs Thomson, all others in favour that, using the General Power of Competence (re-adopted by Constantine Parish Council on May 20, 2021), Constantine Parish Council should forward the sum of £50.00 to the Women's Centre, Cornwall.

Chairman's initials.....

The following accounts were paid during August using delegated powers

	GROSS	NET	VAT
CALC Code of Conduct Training (Cllr Mrs Scott)	£ 24.00	£ 20.00	£ 4.00
Source for Business (cemetery)	£ 14.81		
Source for Business (public convenience)	£ 68.96		
PKF Littlejohn (External Auditor)	£ 360.00	£ 300.00	£ 60.00
Viridor Waste Management Ltd	£ 49.38	£ 41.15	£ 8.23
SSE (public lighting)	£ 94.96	£ 90.44	£ 4.52
SSE (The Square)	£ 36.37	£ 34.64	£ 1.73
Mrs J. Pleasance	£ 308.90		
Constantine WI (Hall hire)	£ 78.00		
R.Sanders			
Cemeteries	£ 800.00		
Recreation Ground	£ 390.00		
Seat near Doctor's Surgery	£ 20.00		
	total	£ 1,452.00	£ 1,210.00
Colin Chapman			£ 242.00
Salary (July)	£ 625.77		
travelling	£ 42.43		
telephone	£ 38.33		
office expenses	£ 38.76		
use of home as office	£ 25.00		
	total	£ 770.29	

The following accounts in relation to expenses for the Recreation Ground were paid during August using delegated powers

	GROSS	NET	VAT
SW Playground Safety Inspections	£ 30.00	£ 25.00	£ 5.00
EdF Energy (The Pavilion)	£ 17.50	£ 16.61	£ 0.89

The following accounts were tendered for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Booker (Sundries for public convenience)	£ 49.46	£ 35.98	£ 8.24
Truro Diocesan Board of Finance (Convenience)	£ 150.00		
Truro Diocesan Board of Finance (Car park)	£ 350.00		
Viridor Waste Management	£ 49.38	£ 41.15	£ 8.23
Mrs J.Pleasance	£ 308.90		
SSE (public lighting)	£ 89.20	£ 84.96	£ 4.24
Viv Beckerleg	£ 95.00		
R.Sanders			
Church and cemetery	£ 800.00		
Recreation Ground	£ 390.00		
Port Navas Quay	£ 30.00		
	total	£ 1,464.00	£ 1,220.00
R.Sanders PROWs	£ 3,548.61	£ 2,957.17	£ 244.00
Colin Chapman			£ 591.44
Salary (August)	£ 625.57		
telephone	£ 35.81		
office expenses	£ 7.29		
travelling	£ 7.07		
use of home	£ 25.00		
	total	£ 700.74	

It was proposed by Cllr A.Carter, seconded by Cllr Bolt, all others in favour that the above ten accounts be paid.

The following account relating to the Recreation Ground was tendered for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
SW Playground Safety Inspections	£ 30.00	£ 25.00	£ 5.00

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It was proposed by Cllr Mrs Thomson, seconded by Cllr Bolt, all others in favour that the above account be paid.

Members noted the following receipts

CC CTS grant (2 nd instalment)	£ 644.83
CC Precept (2 nd instalment)	£ 25,000.00
Robert Lawrence (Irene Battersby)	£ 120.00

10 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

11 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

It was agreed that the notice-board in The Square has very nearly reached the end of its life and Cllr Andrew and the Clerk agreed to seek quotations. It was further suggested that perhaps the village board might be better sited elsewhere. The matter will be discussed at the meeting in October.

It was noted that the path between Penbothidno and Bowling Green is now badly overgrown and that despite Cornwall's admission some while ago that it is responsible for its maintenance, Constantine Parish Council will, again, clear it on a regular basis, but will now seek repayment from Cornwall Council.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday October 21, 2021 in The Vestry, Constantine.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.40pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....