

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday September 8, 2011 at 7.00pm in The Vestry, Constantine.

Present:

Cllr P.C.Carter (Chairman)	Cllr R.E.Just
Cllr J.E.G.Boote	Cllr E.Nicholls
Cllr K.Cavanagh	Cllr M.J.Reynolds
Cllr Miss C.Evans	Cllr R.J.Williams
Cllr C.Gray	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: Mrs Chadwick (Community Network Manager), Mr Fox and Ms Worth.

The Chairman welcomed members and visitors to the September meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Members noted that

- the grass in front of the new properties at Wheal Vyvyan is badly in need of attention and that, some while ago, Carrick Housing had intimated that they would care for it
- the main sewer from the new Wheal Vyvyan development had again become blocked and raw sewage had spilled onto a garden and on down into an ancient fresh water well. Members noted that, over a period of seven years, various authorities had been warned that this sewer is inadequate. The Clerk was asked to contact the appropriate bodies about the matter
- those few irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to foul public places are spoiling the village. The Clerk was asked both to contact the Dog Warden and to place a notice about the matter on the parish notice-board
- the historic fingerpost near the school has been repainted by Mr and Mrs Roberts and looks splendid. On behalf of the village, Councillors offered their thanks to the Roberts
- parking in Port Navas throughout the summer has proved very difficult, perhaps because of visitors' over-reliance on Sat Navs. The possibility of erecting signs directing visitors to Glendurgan and Trebah Gardens along the wider roads was raised. In the meanwhile, the Clerk was asked to contact the manufacturers of Sat Navs with a request for help in this matter.

1 TO ACCEPT APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Bolt (holiday), Cllr Wiseman (holiday) and CCllr Hatton sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Gray proposed, Cllr Just seconded all others in favour to accept their apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Boote, Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Just, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Reynolds declared an interest in agenda item 7.

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 Miss Evans seconded, (Cllr Cavanagh, Cllr Just and Cllr Nicholls being absent from the last meeting, abstained), all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday July 21, 2011 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

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

It was noted that *Fal Fencing* had done a good job with the diamond-edge fencing in the new car-park, but that it might have been better placed. The Clerk was asked to invite *Fal Fencing* to return to re-site the fence and Cllr Reynolds agreed to direct the required alterations.

In answer to a question, the Clerk reported that CCllr Hatton had confirmed that he will fund the dropped-kerb edging to the Parish Council car-park from his Member's Highways Budget.

5 POLICE REPORT

Through the Clerk, PCSO Gardiner reported that, since the meeting in July, four crimes (two of criminal damage and two of theft) have been reported to the Police. Additionally, there has been a single report of anti-social behaviour.

The *Have Your Say* cards have been collected from the Post Office and the surgery and are in the process of being reviewed.

The new non-emergency number to contact the police (which replaces the old 0845 number) is 101. Members of the public are warned to ask for identification from anybody who calls at the door claiming to be from a utility company or a salesperson.

6 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

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

7 PARISH MATTERS

Young people

The Clerk reported that Mr Gibble had e-mailed him to state that a total of thirteen young people had attended the three meetings of the Youth Club held since mid-August. He had added that the Club has future sessions planned with a local artist, a beat-boxer, events focussing on the forthcoming Black History Month and the possibility of a visit to the new Mount Hawke skate-park.

Members voiced the following concerns and points

- for what it achieves, the cost of underwriting the Youth Club is very high
- the young people of the village do not know what is planned in advance of each session
- there has been no programme of organised events during the summer
- the Parish Council's initiative has had no help from the County since its inception
- although the principle is good, the lack of information militates against greater attendance
- finance might be better diverted to supporting existing organisations
- the Guides and Brownies are so popular that the time may come when there has to be a waiting list.

Following further discussion, Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Cavanagh seconded and it was agreed that the Parish Council will continue to finance the Youth Club from the public purse until the end of October on condition that meetings are each attended by a minimum of eight people and that a programme of sessions and their content is widely publicised. It was further agreed that if this approach fails, the Parish Council will discontinue funding the Youth Club, but will look favourably at individual requests for part or full funding for one-off events for young people in the village.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to suspend Standing Orders to allow Ms Worth to speak during discussion of the next two agenda items.

The Diamond Jubilee celebrations of HM Queen Elizabeth

Following discussion, it was agreed to call a public meeting in mid-October (to which individuals and organisations would be formally invited) with the intention of forming a committee to organise celebrations to mark the Diamond Jubilee of HM Queen Elizabeth II.

Christmas Lights

Ms Worth told members that, this year, circumstances do not allow her to follow through the idea of 'memory' lights (lights in memory of a relation or friend) for the Christmas tree in The Square. However, she suggested that members might like to consider supporting a 'switch-on' ceremony with Christmas Carols in the Church followed by a walk through the village to the Tolmen Centre where mince pies might be made available. She suggested involving the Silver Band and the church bell ringers. Members agreed that, by not setting a particular day for switching on the Christmas lights, the village is out-of-step with its neighbours. Ms Worth added that she would be very willing to organise such an event. However, members agreed to re-visit the topic at the meeting in October, when Cllr Wiseman will be present. For many years,

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Cllr Wiseman has worked hard to ensure that the village is decorated at Christmas and his experience will be invaluable in any discussion.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to allow Mrs Charlotte Chadwick to speak at this time. It was noted that Standing Orders remained suspended.

8 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Speaking on behalf of members the Chairman welcomed Mrs Charlotte Chadwick (Cornwall Council's newly appointed Community Network Manager) to the meeting and invited her to address the Council.

Mrs Chadwick said that, as the local Community Network Manager, she had responsibility for supporting nine Town and Parish Councils. However, in consultation with the Town Councils of Falmouth and Penryn, it had been agreed that her time would be better spent supporting the rural communities and their respective Cornwall Councillors. She expressed interest in the problems the Parish Council has with the Youth Club and offered to forward details of an initiative for young people. Additionally, she suggested that funding might be available to enable the Community Bus to visit the village and also that the Parish Council might like to consider hosting a Community Consultation event at which young residents might be invited to express their views about what they want. Having added that she had considerable experience in writing applications for funding, the Clerk drew her attention and that of members to the much needed refurbishment of the play area, and agreed to send her details of the existing proposals.

To general approval, the Chairman thanked Mrs Chadwick for coming to the meeting.

The Chairman proposed and it was agreed to resume Standing Orders.

7 PARISH MATTERS (resumed)

As members of the Social Club, Cllr Boote, Cllr Just, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Reynolds all declared a personal interest in the following matter. As an employee of the Social Club, Cllr Cavanagh declared a personal and prejudicial interest in the following matter and left the room. Having business elsewhere, he did not return.

The Social Club

Cllr Nicholls stated that an Emergency General Meeting of members of the Social Club had been held on Tuesday, that the Committee had resigned *en bloc* and that Cllr Just had been elected Chairman.

Cllr Just, speaking as the Chairman of the Social Club, reported that

- because the Club had not adjusted to the financial conditions pertaining within, at least, the last three years, it had traded at a loss
- it owes the brewery £10,000 and other creditors (including the Trustees of the Alice Hext Charity) a further £8,900
- the Club has not raised members' subscriptions, probably since its foundation
- the sixty-eight members present at the EGM did not wish to see the Club file for bankruptcy and had resolved that the Club should keep going
- the Club must therefore take steps both to increase its income and to decrease its expenditure
- however, the financial situation is critical and is expected to remain so for the next twelve to eighteen months
- the Club recognises that neither the Trustees of the Alice Hext Charity nor the Parish Council can subsidise the social and drinking habits of its members and has therefore determined that it will not ask for the rent it owes to be waived
- it recognises that two quarters' rent is already owing: it has every intention of paying this, but would ask for the Management Trustee's forbearance
- savings of at least £4,000 per annum have already been achieved by de-registering the Club for the purposes of VAT
- a Committee Meeting will be held on Tuesday at which harsh decisions will have to be made. These will be presented to members at the Annual General Meeting in November.

A number of suggestions were made by those present, but it was recognised that the future of the Social Club lies in the hands of its members. Acting as the Management Trustee for the Alice Hext Charity, the Parish Council noted that two quarters' rent is owed and that the Social Club is minded to honour that debt. The matter will be revisited by the Management Trustee in December following the Social Club's AGM.

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Winter Service Provision

The Clerk reported that Cornwall Council will charge £70.20 + VAT for a 1 tonne dumpy bag of road salt delivered to Trengilly Farm, the home of the Chairman. Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded all in favour that Constantine Parish Council should purchase 1 tonne of road salt for use in the parish during freezing conditions.

8 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS (resumed)

Members considered whether or not there is a need for a written Code of Conduct for Constantine Parish Council in the light of the proposed changes emanating from the Localism Bill. It was agreed that the matter should be reviewed once the Bill passes into law.

9 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Members noted the following planning application received during August and returned, using delegated powers, with the attached observations

PA11/04824 Mr R Grant-Sturgis – Change of use of lakes to coarse fishery, siting of 7 holiday cabins, equipment store and associated works including relocation of access, car parking area, landscape planting and ecological enhancements – Coarse Fishery, Mawnan Smith. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council notes that the now lapsed Planning Permission for change of use of lakes and ponds to coarse fishery and erection of an amenities block limited the number of people using the ponds to twelve at any one time. The construction of seven two-bedded, four-person cabins suggests that this number would greatly exceed this level of use. Constantine Parish Council repeats what it said in February 2008 that, it has very serious concerns about the very narrow, twisting County approach road to this property and the increase in traffic the proposed development would create.*

The Council has further concerns about the proposed chalets which will create new accommodation, albeit for holiday purposes associated with coarse angling, (and therefore presumably closed for business from March 15 to June 15), in the open countryside contrary to Policy H14 of the Kerrier District Local Plan.

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

PA11/05562 Mr M.Harris – Construction of kitchen and toilet extension to café greenhouse – Potager Garden, High Cross. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA11/05825 Mr I.Sinclair – Listed Building consent in respect of installation of central heating, en-suite shower and associated works – Chestnut Cottages, Port Navas. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA11/05890 Mr & Mrs M.Papastavros – Extensions and alterations to dwelling – Panoramic View, Tucoyse Lane, Higher Brill. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA11/06410 Mr G Sole – Felling of 4 Leylandii – 52 Fore Street, Constantine. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA11/06414 Mrs A Nightingale – Various tree works – 1 Clinton Road, Constantine. This application was returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

Applications

PA11/06843 Mr James Fox – Installation of 5Kw wind turbine on a 12 metre mast – Trewardreva Farm. Cllr Just proposed, Cllr Boote seconded, Cllr Williams against 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 the turbine ceases to generate power for a continuous period of six months, the base, the tower and the turbine itself are all dismantled and removed from site and the land is returned to agricultural use.*

Correspondence

CC notification from Planning Enforcement of alleged unauthorised building works and associated storage of rubble on a field – *noted*

CC Revision of the Local Validation List – *noted*

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10 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Cllr Hatton copy of his letter to Cornwall Highways concerning Local Member Budgets and the nomination of three schemes namely, kerb edging to the Parish Council car-park at Constantine, amending road makings at the top of Well Lane and replacing the broken finger-post at Port Navas – *noted*

CPRE Fieldwork newsletter – *noted*

Royal Horticultural Society Britain in Bloom (opportunities for volunteers) – *noted*

Mrs Hitchcox letter of thanks – *noted*

CPRE Countryside Voice Newsletter – *noted*

Devon and Cornwall Housing Group Newsletter – *noted*

Clerks and Councils Direct Newsletter – *noted*

11 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at September 10, 2011. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from the Constantine Silver Band for financial help. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Gray, and agreed that, under the terms of S137 of the Local Government Act 1972, the sum of £250 be forwarded to the Constantine Silver Band.

Members noted the receipt of the conclusion of the audit for the year to March 31, 2011. Neither the internal nor the external auditor had commented.

Members noted and approved the following payments (made in August using delegated powers)

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 47.44		
Mr G.Jorey	£ 289.20		
Fal Fencing	£ 490.00		
RTS (Garden Services) Ltd (cemetery)	£ 444.00	£ 370.00	£ 74.00
South West Water ((public conveniences)	£ 90.59		
South West Water (cemetery)	£ 13.59		
Tony Mogford Associates Ltd (playground inspection)	£ 126.00	£ 105.00	£ 21.00
EdF Energy (Village Square supply)	£ 8.24	£ 7.85	£ 0.39
Gweek Garage	£ 73.57	£ 61.31	£ 12.26
Veolia ES (UK) Ltd	£ 94.04	£ 78.37	£ 15.67
Colin Chapman			
Salary (June)	£ 400.46		
telephone	£ 16.17		
office expenses	£ 35.61		
travelling	£ 42.43		
use of home	£ 25.00		
total	£ 519.67		

The following accounts were presented for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Jennings	£ 47.44		
Mr G.Jorey	£ 289.40		
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 362.20		
Audit Commission	£ 342.00	£ 57.00	£ 24.00
Constantine Church Hall	£ 72.00		
RTS (Garden Service) Ltd	£ 396.00	£ 330.00	£ 66.00
Mr Roberts	£ 36.60	£ 30.50	£ 6.10
Constantine Stores Ltd	£ 60.65	£ 50.56	£ 10.09
Gweek Garage	£ 66.58	£ 55.48	£ 11.10
Barry Gribble (youth work)	£ 75.00		
Veolia (surcharge August to December)	£ 23.84	£ 19.87	£ 3.97
Veolia (August)	£ 65.42	£ 54.52	£ 10.90

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Colin Chapman	
Salary (August)	£ 400.46
telephone	£ 13.32
office expenses	£ 8.98
travelling	£ 21.22
use of home	£ 25.00
	total £ 468.98

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

Members noted the following receipt

Precept (second instalment) £ 14,000.00

12 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

No reports from Committees or Representatives were tabled.

13 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Councillors made no further comments.

14 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Parish Council Meeting will be held on Thursday October 20, 2011 at 7:00pm in The Vestry.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.26pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

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