

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Tuesday June 17, 2021 at 7.30pm in Constantine WI Hall.

Present:	Cllr P.Carter	Cllr C.Painter
	Cllr J.Andrew	Cllr Mrs K.Scott
	Cllr H.Bolt	Cllr Mrs T.Thomson
	Cllr Mrs E.Batley-Birch	Cllr R.Wickins
	Cllr E.Jeffery	
	Cllr E.Nicholls	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Bastin, Mrs Brittain-Long, Mr Kaiser-Bunbury, Mrs Mullaly and Mrs White.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Mullaly stated that she now has a volunteer band of some thirty-five individuals who are willing to make themselves responsible for the maintenance of various areas throughout the village where a herbicide is currently used to control the growth of weeds. She reiterated her understanding that glyphosate is a carcinogenic substance citing the World Health Organisation as her authority. She added that its use has been banned in a number of EU countries and that a number of local government authorities in Great Britain, including several in Cornwall, had followed suit. She suggested that the Parish Council should similarly look at other ways of controlling weeds, such as hand-weeding and strimming. She drew Councillors' attention to the fact that she had started a petition calling for the cessation of the use of herbicide by the Parish Council, adding that it has already attracted in excess of two hundred signatories.

Considerable discussion followed during the course of which it was noted that

- a document produced by the Pesticide Action Network UK entitled 'Myth Buster' had been forwarded to Councillors
- volunteers will not maintain the edges of the Recreation Ground; as with the Recreation Ground as a whole, that remains the direct responsibility of the Alice Hext Managing Trustee
- the Parish Council's contractor has all the necessary qualifications to use herbicides.

The question was asked, if the Parish Council agreed to Mrs Mullaly's current proposal, does the group have further ambitions?

The Clerk questioned the use of the word 'extensively' in a recent FaceBook post which reads "Constantine Parish Council sprays toxic glyphosate weedkiller in public areas of the village. It is used extensively in the recreation ground, the children's playground, new churchyard, trees under the trees area and bus stop." He stated that the statement might be viewed as misleading in that a less than a litre of concentrate is used annually within the Parish.

Mrs Brittain-Long supported Mrs Mullaly's initiative.

Mr Kaiser-Bunbury suggested that the scientific evidence against glyphosate is ambiguous and that although he is supportive of the initiative he would urge caution. He added that its use in this country has become an emotive subject, but that he does have first-hand of the damage it has caused to the environment in third world countries.

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr A.Carter (holiday) sent his apologies for absence. Cllr Andrew proposed and it was agreed to accept his apologies.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

As members of the Constantine Cottage Garden Society, Cllr Andrew and Cllr Bolt each declared an interest in Agenda item 9.

Chairman's initials.....

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 Bolt seconded, Cllr Wickins who was absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held on Thursday May 20, 2020 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as being accurate.

Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, Cllr Wickins who was absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Annual Meeting held on Thursday May 20, 2020 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

There were no matters arising which were not covered in this agenda.

5 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CCllr Bastin reported that

- he has been appointed by Cornwall Council to serve on the West sub-area Planning Committee and the Strategic Planning Committee and further that he now serves as the Chairman of the Adult Health and Social Care committee
- the number of cases of Covid-19 in Cornwall has increased dramatically in the last week or so, apparently particularly affecting people in the 16-29 year group j
- he understands that the Auction House price for the open space at Comfort Wartha was not met and that it therefore remains unsold. The S52 agreement remains in place and a recent request for its removal has again been refused by Cornwall Council
- the Boundary Commission is currently reviewing Parliamentary constituency boundaries. Residents may access and comment on the proposals by following this link <https://www.bcereviews.org.uk/>

It was noted that

- the next Community Network Panel Meeting will be on June 29, 2021.
- Planning Enforcement procedures need to be made more transparent
- Planning Appeals might be better decided by a panel sitting within the south-west
- the "20's plenty" initiative is moving forward, but it will need local people to ask for it. However, for enforcement to be imposed, a laser speed-camera needs a clear field of 100 metres
- it is anticipated that future vehicles will be speed-sign sensitive: that is to say they will automatically be governed to keep within the speed limit in every circumstance.

6 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Members considered a request from Mrs Mullaly for permission to take responsibility for the maintenance of the green verge between Trebarvah Road and the Cornish hedge delineating the Recreation Ground. Following extensive discussion during the course of which it was noted that, ultimately, the responsibility for maintenance of this verge remains with the Parish Council, it was proposed by Cllr Nicholls seconded by Cllr Andrew and agreed that, for an initial twelve month period, Mrs Mullaly's volunteer group should maintain this verge and should seek to establish locally occurring wild flowers within the existing vegetation.

Mrs Mullaly confirmed that she and the volunteers will be working with Cornwall Council and professional gardeners to identify, retain and sow the seed (in September/October) of beneficial wild flowers. Other coarser weeds will be weeded out. The verge will be maintained on a regular basis.

THE ALICE HEXT TRUST

Maintenance

As the Managing Trustee, the Parish Council considered a request from Mrs Mullaly for permission to take responsibility for weeding the edge of the Recreation Ground field as it meets the Cornish hedge fronting Trebarvah Road. Mrs Mullaly withdrew this request during the course of discussion and members noted that accordingly, maintenance remains with the Managing Trustee.

As the Managing Trustee, the Parish Council considered a request from Mrs Mullaly for permission to take responsibility for weeding around the bases of the trees and the play equipment in the play area in the Recreation Ground. Following discussion, it was agreed that the Council supported the proposal in principle but that in order to clarify responsibilities the Chairman would meet with Mrs Mullaly in the Recreation Ground to discuss the matter. The Chairman will then report back to the Parish Council when, following discussion, a formal decision will be made.

Cllr Jeffery left the meeting

Chairman's initials.....

Various matters: Parking

It was agreed that the Clerk should formulate a draft document outlining the Managing Trustee's position on parking within the Recreation Ground. The issue will be discussed at the meeting in July.

Various Matters: Bier House

It was noted that an offer from Mr Down to clear the Bier House roof of brambles and to paint the door has been accepted.

Various matters: The Hedge

It was noted that the new Blackthorn hedging is being smothered by annual weeds. The Chairman agreed to arrange a working party to cut the weeds.

Weed Control Policy and Practice Statement

The Chairman was of the opinion that the following declaration and publication of existing practices should be considered as a matter of urgent business.

Members considered the publication of a document stating the Parish Council's existing Weed Control Policy and Practice Statement and it was resolved to publish the following as part of these minutes.

This Council notes that its continuing custom and practice in the control of weeds, brambles and other unwanted plants is by the appropriate application of the limited and targeted use of approved herbicides, conforming with the prevailing and relevant UK Health & Safety and Environmental Standards, and also by manual intervention in the areas of maintenance under its remit* pursuant to its statutory duties and obligations, and to the safety of the public.

- * The areas under the Council's remit are currently designated as:

The Cemetery around the outside of the Church,

The 'New Cemetery'

Parish Council's Cemetery including the War Graves and Memorial Garden

The base of the Cornish Hedge delineating the Recreation Ground

The Recreation Ground as a whole (as Management Trustees)

The Car Parks and Area 'Under the Trees' (on Glebe Land under the terms of the Lease)

The Market Square Bus Stop

The area under the Notice Board in Well Lane

The near area surrounding the 'Welcoming' Stones

The Parish Council's remit does not extend to Highways & Highway Verges. The remit for those areas falls to County Council's Highways department

Cllr Painter proposed, the Chairman seconded, Cllr Mrs Scott abstained, all others in favour that the above document should be published.

Port Navas defibrillator

The Clerk reported that it has been suggested to him that the defibrillator at Port Navas is not immediately visible to visitors to the area and that, possibly, it might be better sited elsewhere. It was agreed to approach the Village Hall committee with a view to siting it on the gable end of the Hall.

Mrs Lucas' electricity company has estimated the cost of electricity to power the defibrillator in Port Navas is closer to £60 per annum rather than the £50 the Council has paid. The Chairman proposed and it was agreed that the extra £10 should be forwarded to Mrs Lucas together with the Council's thanks.

7 PLANNING MATTERS

Applications

PA21/04970 Mr Andy Cooke KAST Architects – The proposal is to build a boat shed in the south west corner of the site roughly on the footprint of a former shed / workshop building – The Oyster House, Port Navas. Following discussion, Cllr Painter proposed that the application should be returned with the following observation 'Constantine Parish Council is inclined to accept the proposal in principle; however, it has concerns about the proposed cladding materials which may conflict with the materials to be used in the rebuilding of The Oyster Farm. An amendment proposed by Cllr Wickins, seconded by Cllr Andrew that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application* was agreed.

PA21/05932 Miss Hilary Thorn – Non material amendment in respect of decision notice PA19/05279 – Polanguy, Barn 1 access to Polanguy, Trebarvah Woon. Following discussion, Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded and it was agreed that this application should be returned marked *Constantine Parish Council supports this application*

Chairman's initials.....

Decisions

PA21/02422 WITHDRAWN – Proposed single storey extension to east of existing building. Minor refurbishments to existing building. Extended existing ground floor decking and new steps – Polwartha Farm, Bowling Green – *noted*

PA21/02723 APPROVED – Extension of existing car port/ store to form home office/ gym – The Reens, Brillwater – *noted*

PA21/04129 DECIDED NOT TO MAKE A TPO – Works to trees namely - T1-1 Sycamore, Fell - T2-1 multi-stemmed Sweet chestnut, remove lowest/lateral stem, prune upright growth-1.6m H - T3-1 Sycamore - remove 2 lowest branches towards lawn - T4 - 1 Cherry, remove limb - within a Conservation Area – The Old Vicarage, Constantine – *noted*

PA21/04308 APPROVED – Extension to enlarge the existing master bedroom to provide room for an en-suite bathroom – South View, 11 Brillwater Road – *noted*

8 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk reported that he had received an e-mail from Mr Steve Canning seeking permission to erect a plaque to the memory of his father who had lived at Vicarage Terrace for the first twenty-five years of his life. Following discussion and bearing in mind the length of time Mr Canning senior had lived in the village, it was agreed that the Parish Council has no objection to this course of action.

9 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at June 17, 2021. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request from Transition Constantine for a grant towards the cost of a parish-wide questionnaire concerning the future use of the Church Hall. Member noted that the Parish Council has a vested interest in the Church Hall's future and that it would therefore be inappropriate to contribute directly towards the cost of the questionnaire. However, members recognised the important part Transition Constantine plays within the community and were therefore happy to contribute towards the group's on-going expenses. Following discussion, it was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by the Cllr Andrew, 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 Transition Constantine.

As the Treasurer and Vice-Chairman respectively of the Constantine Cottage Garden Society, Cllr Bolt and Cllr Andrew each declared a pecuniary interest in the following request. They remained in the room but took no part in the discussion or the voting.

Members considered a request from Constantine Cottage Garden Society for a grant towards the costs and prizes for the Village's best kept gardens. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thomson, Cllr Bolt and Cllr Andrew abstaining, 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 £100.00 to the Constantine Cottage Garden Society.

The following accounts were tendered for payment

		GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Pleasance		£ 231.60		
HMRC		£ 719.49		
Viridor Waste Management		£ 49.38	£ 41.15	£ 8.23
SSE (Feeder pillar)		£ 30.97	£ 29.50	£ 1.47
SSE (public lighting)		£ 60.85	£ 57.96	£ 2.89
R.Sanders				
Church and cemetery	£ 800.00			
Recreation Ground	£ 390.00			
Port Navas Quay	£ 20.00			
	total	£ 1,452.00	£ 1,210.00	£ 242.60
Colin Chapman				
Salary (May)	£ 625.77			
telephone	£ 43.90			
office expenses	£ 60.01			
travelling	£ 28.29			
use of home	£ 25.00			
	total	£ 782.97		

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It was proposed by Cllr Andrew, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thomson, all others in favour that the above seven 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

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

Western Power (wayleave)	£ 43.63
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10 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

11 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

There were no further comments from Councillors

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday July 15, 2021 in the WI Hall, Constantine..

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.53pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....