

# CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

[www.constantinecornwall.com/parish-council/meetings/](http://www.constantinecornwall.com/parish-council/meetings/)

C.F.P.Chapman  
Clerk to the Council  
Chy Lean  
St Keverne Road  
Mawgan  
Helston TR12 6AY  
telephone 01326 221648  
[parish.clerk3@btinternet.com](mailto:parish.clerk3@btinternet.com)

Minutes of the Extra-Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday September 29, 2022 at 7.30pm in The Vestry.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr P.Carter Cllr J.Andrew Cllr H.Bolt Cllr A.Carter Cllr E.Jeffery	Cllr E.Nicholls Cllr C.Painter Mrs Scott Cllr Mrs T.Thomson Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)
-----------------	--	--

**Visitors:** Mrs Boreham, Mr Dangerfield and Miss Griffiths.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mrs Boreham said that she was present to offer her support to the proposal to purchase the Church Hall and the adjoining land. She added that the results of the questionnaire compiled and circulated by Transition Constantine (which was largely held during the Covid lock-down) together with the results of the Wishing Tree had shown not only that there was a strong emotional attachment to the Hall but that residents felt that it could be put to good economic use by the community. She and Transition Constantine were strongly of the opinion that the creation of two rentable units within the Hall (which would contribute hugely towards future running costs) would keep people and businesses within the village.

It was stated that of equal importance to the potential loss of the Hall would be the loss to the community of the two car-parks, the open space under the trees and the public convenience. The purchase of this property as a whole was not a once-in-a-generation opportunity nor a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity: if sold to a private individual it will have gone forever and the community as a whole will suffer as a result.

## 1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Mrs Batley-Birch (personal) and Cllr Wickins (personal) sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Bolt 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 £50

There were no declarations of gifts of a value greater than £50.

## 3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded, Cllr Bolt, Cllr Nicholls and Cllr Mrs Sott who were absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Meeting held on Thursday July 21, 2022 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

Speaking of the stone memorial to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, Cllr Painter asked if the Council might consider adding a further plaque to mark the Queen's life and reign. It was agreed that this should be added to the agenda for the next meeting.

Chairman's initials.....

## **5 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **The Church Hall**

Members noted receipt of and approved the following documents

- a copy of the Council's budget for the current and coming financial year which shows the anticipated cost of interest and loan repayments on £425,000. (Members further noted that, should borrowing approval be granted for this sum, it does not follow that the whole amount will be borrowed.)
- a business plan stating the anticipated cost of the proposed purchase, the estimated costs relating to the refurbishment of the Church Hall and the estimated income and expenditure relating to its future use.

Members also noted the results of the questionnaire circulated with the Constant Times to all dwellings within the community during the summer of 2021

Members considered the purchase of the Church Hall using the Community Right to Bid process. Following discussion, Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr A.Carter seconded and it was agreed in principle and subject to agreement within the Parish to make every effort to purchase the Church Hall for use by the community and to make an offer to the Diocesan Finance Committee for the purchase not only of the Church Hall, but also of the stone-walled car-park, the public convenience, the new car-park and the open Space "Under the Trees".

The above proposal having been adopted, members considered seeking the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a loan of £425,000 over a borrowing term of 30 (thirty) years to cover the cost of the purchase of the Church Hall (and its refurbishment), the stone-walled car-park, the public convenience, the new car-park and the open Space "Under the Trees". Cllr Mrs Thomson proposed, Cllr Mrs Scott seconded and it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council should seek the approval of the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities to apply for a loan of £425,000 over a borrowing term of 30 (thirty) years to cover the cost both of the purchase and of the refurbishment of the Church Hall, the stone-walled car-park, the public convenience, the new car-park and the open Space "Under the Trees".

The above proposal having been adopted, members considered increasing the Parish Council Tax precept demanded of residents by 66.66% (based on the current year's Council Tax demand) to a total of £97.51 per Band D household for the year April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024 for the purpose of making repayments of both interest and capital relating to the loan. Councillors noted that this proposal equates to an annual increase in Council Tax of £38.46 per Band D household or 74p per week. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Mrs Scott seconded and it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council should increase the precept to reflect the requirement to repay interest and capital relating to this loan subject to the approval of residents attending a Parish Meeting.

The above proposal having been adopted, members considered calling a Parish Meeting to explain the impact of and the reasoning behind the above decisions to residents. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Mrs Scott seconded and it was agreed that Constantine Parish Council should convene a Parish Meeting as soon as is practicable. The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

## **6 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS**

Councillors had no further comments.

## **7 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday October 20, 2022 in The Vestry, Constantine.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.20pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....