

# THE PARISH OF CONSTANTINE

<http://constantinecornwall.com/council/>

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 a Parish Meeting of the Parish of Constantine held on Thursday November 8, 2022 at 7.30pm in The School Hall, Constantine. The Chairman of Constantine Parish Council, Cllr P.C.Carter presiding, Mr C.Chapman (Parish Clerk) in attendance.

**Present:** There were in excess of one hundred and forty members of the public present.

The Chairman welcomed all those present to the meeting and asked the Clerk to explain the reason for holding the meeting.

The Clerk explained the demands of the protocol which requires the Parish Council to seek permission from the Secretary of State simply to seek a loan. He further stated that, whatever may be decided at this meeting or elsewhere, there is no guarantee that the Diocesan Finance Committee will sell the Hall and the adjacent land to the community.

## **1 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Mr R.Thomas sent his apologies for absence.

## **2 MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING HELD ON OCTOBER 13, 2022**

The draft minutes of the meeting held on Thursday October 13, 2022 were condemned by a few residents as being largely inaccurate and biased towards the Parish Council's point of view. Following a well-supported request, the meeting as a whole agreed to proceed leaving the minutes of the meeting on October 13, 2022 unadopted.

## **3 PRESENTATION OF FUTURE PLANS.**

Emphasising that nothing is set in stone and repeating that, this evening, the Council is simply looking for the authority from residents to seek permission to apply for a loan to purchase the Church Hall the walled car-park, the public convenience, the 'new' car-park and the green space under the trees, Cllr Painter ran through the details of the proposed business plan for the Hall which has been available to view in The Vestry for four days. The following points raised by members of the community were noted:

- the purchase of the whole parcel will impose a financial burden on future residents for many years
- surveys undertaken in 1997 and 2007 suggest that there is little interest in having a village hall
- many parishioners are in favour of purchasing the walled car-park, the public convenience, the 'new' car-park and the green space under the trees. There is less appetite for purchasing the Hall
- if the parish does not grasp the opportunity to purchase the parcel as a whole, the opportunity will be lost forever
- the issue raised in the last Parish Meeting concerning the terms of the lease on the car-parks is currently being pursued through the Council's solicitor
- the Hall has limited outside space: if purchased by an individual, it will need the walled car park as a minimum
- if the whole parcel is bought, there may be an opportunity then to sell the Hall to a private individual
- residents need to think about the future. It is not for the present generation to make decisions which deprive our children of community facilities
- there is already a great deal of community space within the village
- smaller groups have less choice when it comes to renting a Hall

*Chairman's initials.....*

- being in the position of having to declare quite how much the community needs to borrow to purchase the parcel allows other buyers to gazump any offer the Parish Council may make
- a vote this evening in favour of allowing the Parish Council to proceed does not cost residents anything. If permission is granted this evening, the Council has undertaken to bring a fully-costed business plan to the community and to seek permission to proceed
- if there is sufficient demand at the next meeting, an official poll allowing a community vote on the matter which will be organised and run by Cornwall Council will be sought as required in law
- the current socio-economic position suggests that it is both the poorer and the elderly members of our community who will have the greatest difficulty in shouldering the financial burden
- the building may indeed be relatively sound, but it will need a great deal of renovation work
- considerable grant funding is currently available to undertake renovation work
- if permission to seek a loan is granted by the community this evening, a Buildings Survey will be commissioned.

## 5 FORMAL VOTING FOLLOWED BY AN ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE RESULT

Those attending were invited to cast their vote on the following two questions.

Are you in favour of Constantine Parish Council proceeding with the purchase of the Church Hall, the public convenience, the walled car-park, the 'new' car-park and the space under the trees? **YES / NO**

Yes: 112                      No: 18                      Undecided: 4                      Spoilt (change of wording): 3

Are you in favour of Constantine Parish Council proceeding with the purchase of the Church Hall, the public convenience, the walled car-park, the 'new' car-park and the space under the trees if it includes a council tax precept increase of 66.6% which is the equivalent of an additional £38.46 a year for the purpose of the annual loan repayments? **YES / NO**

Yes: 109                      No: 24                      Undecided: 1                      Spoilt (change of wording): 3

Following the announcement of the result, the Chairman thanked residents for attending and closed the meeting.

Agreed for accuracy at the Ordinary Parish Council Meeting on November 17, 2022

Chairman

Formally adopted at the Annual Parish Meeting on May 18, 2023

Chairman

*Chairman's initials.....*