

# CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday December 15, 2022 at 7.30pm in The Vestry.

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

**Visitors:** CCllr Bastin, Mrs Edwards and Mrs Currell.

The chairman welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

## **PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no comments from members of the public

### **1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Cllr Bolt, Cllr Nicholls, Cllr Mrs Scott and Cllr Wickins sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Mrs Thomson proposed, Cllr Andrew 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 Jeffery seconded, Cllr A.Carter being absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 17, 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**

There were no matters arising which were not included on this agenda.

### **5 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT**

CCllr Bastin urged members and parishioners to respond to the consultation (questionnaire) document concerning the devolution deal (and, if adopted, the consequently necessary appointment of a mayor) which can be found at [letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/bigdeal](http://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/bigdeal) alternatively, a paper copy will be forwarded on request by telephoning 0300 1231 118

The next Community Network Panel Meeting will be held on January 17, 2023 and there is an Extra-ordinary meeting on January 25, 2023 to discuss the proposed Cornwall Devolution Deal. Considerable discussion followed the latter announcement and it was agreed to discuss Constantine Parish Council's stance in the matter at the meeting in January.

Cllr A.Carter stated that the school is undertaking a review of the numbers of children it can educate, with management seeking eventually to reduce numbers in each classroom by two pupils. He questioned whether the planning authority ever considered the infrastructure of smaller communities when approving planning applications for new homes within the area. The Authority has recently given permission for 26 new homes to be built in Constantine

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and yet the school already has problems coping with demand for places. Additionally, within Constantine, there are problems relating to access to medical services; water, sewage and electricity services are also stretched, but the Authority appears either not to care about or to understand these constraints and the concerns expressed about them. It was further noted that, increasingly, swathes of green-field agricultural (grade 2 and grade 3) land is being swallowed up by development thus endangering our food security and necessitating the use of more and more vehicles. Building in rural areas is not sustainable.

## **6 PARISH MATTERS**

### **Maintenance of the Historic Finger-Posts**

The Clerk reported that he understands that, although the finger-posts do not conform to present day highways' requirements, Cornwall Council will supply both paint and brushes on request to anyone keen to maintain them. He again asked members to forward details (and photographs) of finger-posts – their position and state of repair. Cllr Jeffery agreed to seek a price for on-site shot blasting (which will have to be done before signs are re-painted).

### **Traffic calming measures and No Parking areas**

Cllr Painter, Cllr Mrs Thomson and Cllr Wickins had met with Viv Bidgood (Cornwall Council's Highways Manager) with a view to understanding what might be done in the village to improve traffic flow and current car-parking arrangements. A copy of Cllr Painter's report is attached to these minutes and was duly noted by members. The Chairman thanked those who had attended.

### **The Platinum Jubilee marker**

Following some debate, Members decided that the best position to site the stone pillar is near the gate on the open space under the trees. The Clerk was asked to contact Wearne's and ask them to install the stone.

### **Maintenance work within the village being undertaken by volunteers**

Members considered whether or not to continue with the arrangement negotiated in November 2021 by which volunteers living locally undertook to

- keep the grass cut around the posts supporting the play-equipment in the Recreation Ground
- maintain the verge between the Recreation Ground and Trebarvah Road
- maintain the bus shelter and the surrounding area
- keep the grass cut around the oak trees and the low fencing posts on the picnic area

Speaking on behalf of the volunteer group, Mrs Currell stated that they had looked after the verge, but had been unaware of the other three undertakings. She stated that during the summer she had recorded fifty-five species of wild-flowers growing on the verge and that a report about this on the FaceBook page had been very well received. It was noted, however, that the Parish Council had received a number of complaints about how untidy that stretch of footpath had been during the summer. Following discussion, it was agreed that the volunteer group would continue to look after the verge for the coming year, that the situation would be reviewed in November/December 2023, and that a scheme of work to be carried out during the year would be submitted to the Council for its information

## **7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

### **Casual vacancy in the Office of Councillor**

Members noted that the Clerk had been informed by the Returning Officer that there had been no request from electors for an election to fill the current vacancy. He was asked to post a notice on the boards inviting expressions of interest in co-option.

### **The Church Hall**

The Clerk reported that all the necessary documents had been received at the Office of the Secretary of State for the Department of Levelling Up Housing and Communities.

## **8 PLANNING MATTERS**

### **To consider observations concerning the following planning applications**

PA22/02807 Mr M.Mullaly – Extension, refurbishment and external works – The Orchard, Church Square, Constantine. Cllr Andrew proposed, Cllr Painter seconded and it was agreed to return the following observation. *On balance, Constantine Parish Council will support this application.*

### **Decisions**

PA22/02782 APPROVED – Proposed New Dwelling and Garage – Panoramic View, Tucoyse Lane Higher Brill – *noted*

PA22/09030 APPROVED – Removal of conservatory and replacement extension to create a large living area. New pitch roof, new windows and insulation throughout, exterior to be timber clad, air source pumps and solar panels – Primrose Cottage, Brill – *noted*

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## 9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing further to report.

## 10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council's financial position as at December 15, 2022. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered the Precept for the year from April 1, 2023 to March 31, 2024. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Andrew, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thomson, all others in favour that the Precept for the year 2023/2024 should be set at £75,000

The following accounts were tendered for payment

		<b>GROSS</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>
HMRC		£ 871.67		
Mrs J.Pleasance		£ 329.47		
EdF Energy (The Vestry)		£ 51.17	£ 48.73	£ 2.44
Booker Ltd (Public convenience sundries)		£ 61.87	£ 51.56	£ 10.310
Hockerill Engraving Ltd		£ 100.20	£ 83.50	£ 16.70
Muddy Creek Signs		£ 130.00		
Biffa		£ 97.09	£ 80.91	£ 16.18
SSE (public lighting)		£ 89.20	£ 84.96	£ 4.24
Randle Thomas		£ 480.00	£ 400.00	£ 80.00
SSE (pillar in The Square)		£ 35.65	£ 33.96	£ 1.69
R.Sanders				
Cemeteries (trees, hedges)	£ 950.00			
Clean War Memorial etc	£ 78.00			
Cemeteries	£ 425.00			
	total	£ 1,986.00	£ 1,655.00	£ 331.00
Colin Chapman				
Salary (November)	£ 948.89			
telephone	£ 42.94			
office expenses	£ 68.93			
travelling	£ 42.43			
Plants for trough	£ 24.48			
use of home	£ 25.00			
	total	£ 1,152.67		

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

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

	<b>GROSS</b>	<b>NET</b>	<b>VAT</b>
SW Playground Safety Inspections	£ 36.00	£ 30.00	£ 6.00

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

## 11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or Representatives.

## 12 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Members noted that

- the Buildings' Survey on the Church Hall will be done on December 21
- the village Carol Service will be held in the Church tomorrow evening
- the Christmas lights in the village look fantastic: Constantine is fast becoming established as one of the must-see villages at Christmas. Tracey Clowes and her team are to be congratulated on yet another magical display.

## 13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday January 19, 2023 in The Vestry, Constantine.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.20pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

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