

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday March 16, 2023 at 7.30pm in The Vestry.

Present:

Cllr P.Carter	Cllr E.Jeffery
Cllr H.Bolt	Cllr C.Painter
Cllr J.Andrew	Cllr Mrs K.Scott
Cllr A.Carter	
Cllr Mrs W.Dearing	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr Bastin and sixteen members of the public.

In the initial absence of Cllr P.Carter (the Chairman), Cllr Bolt assumed the chair and welcomed members and visitors to the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

With reference to PA23/00600 Worden Crownmark Developments – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the proposed construction of a single dwelling – land adj to 3 Comfort Wartha, members of the public present raised both the following issues and others

- bearing in mind the number of times similar applications to build on this site have been submitted and refused in recent years, this application is a waste of public time and money
- the plans (and in particular the photographs) which form part of this application are misleading
- despite what is claimed, construction on this site would have an enormous and adverse impact on neighbouring residents
- the recent pre-emptive clearance of woodland may be illegal (contractors were instructed to clear the land all the way down to Bosahan Wood – but left the site when the strength of opinion against such action became obvious)
- the Cornwall Wildlife Trust suggests that the site as a whole acts as a natural corridor for wildlife access to Bosahan Wood: neighbouring residents report frequently seeing many different sorts of wildlife including bats, deer, hedgehogs and a heron. A report suggests that it might be a preferred site for nesting otters
- a recent initiative to access funding for stewardship over Bosahan Woods (which includes the area contractors were instructed to clear) over the next ten years is close to success, but ultimately is dependent on the inclusion of this corridor of land

With reference to PA23/01418 Mr W.Eastham and Ms P.Fisher – Change of use of land to equestrian, construction of sand school and storage building, and retention and extension of stables – land North of Rose Cottage, The Level, Members of the public present raised both the following issues and others

- the application is retrospective in nature
- the large, illegally-erected stable building has been erected with wanton disregard for planning procedures
- the adverse effect of construction on the wild-life of the area is already obvious
- the construction of the stables and the sand school will have an unwelcome visual impact on the area as a whole
- applications for buildings on this site have twice been refused
- the entrance off the road and onto the site has long been recognised by the Planning Authority as representing a danger to highway users

The applicants stated that they wanted simply to keep horses on land they owned and that, having been advised that planning permission would take some while to come through, had decided to go ahead and to seek retrospective permission. They apologised for causing their neighbours any distress.

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1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr E.Nicholls, Cllr Mrs T.Thomson and Cllr R.Wickins sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Andrew proposed, Cllr Painter seconded, all others in favour that these apologies should be accepted.

2 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

in items on the agenda

Cllr Andrew declared a non-disclosable interest in agenda item 10 (the request for financial help from the Cottage Garden Society).

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 Andrew proposed, Cllr Mrs Scott seconded, Cllr Jeffery being absent from the meeting abstained, all others in favour that, with the hand-written amendment, the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday February 16, 2023 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

Cllr Painter reminded members that he had requested that the issue of road safety, particularly at the point where feeder roads enter the village, should be made an agenda item. He further reported that, as agreed, members of the Making Space for Nature group had tidied the verge between the recreation ground and Trebarvah Road.

Cllr P.Carter joined the meeting at this point

5 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

Cllr Bastin reported that

- the Falmouth and Penryn Community Network Panel has now met for the last time
- however, the same partner members will meet again in September under the new label of The Community Area Partnership
- in addition to the existing highways scheme, this partnership will have access to some £300,000 from the Levelling Up scheme for capital project funding under a number of headings including community infrastructure and bio-diversity
- moreover, Community Facilitation money (which is designed to finance a dedicated team to work up capital schemes to the point at which grant funding can be sought) will become available
- the Cornwall and Isles of Scilly Local Nature Preservation Summit 2023 will take place on May 19 between 9.00am and 4.00pm at Heartlands, Pool. He recommended this organisation and the summit to all those present

In answer to questions, CCllr Bastin said that

- whether or not the new Community Area Partnership will meet on-line or face-to-face has yet to be decided
- the result of the consultation on the so-called devolution deal has yet to be published, but will need to be in the public domain before the next Cabinet meeting (when the deal is due to be discussed and a decision taken) at the end of March
- bearing in mind the lack of water resources and the influx of summer visitors, he would pass on a question about whether or not there are any plans to restrict numbers of holiday-makers. The current suggestion that desalination plants might be built relies entirely on the availability of huge amounts of energy

In view of the considerable number of visitors who had earlier demonstrated a particular interest in two of the planning applications due to be considered, Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded and it was agreed to consider agenda item 8 Planning at this point

8 PLANNING MATTERS

To consider observations concerning the following planning applications

PA23/00600 Worden Crownmark Developments – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the proposed construction of a single dwelling – land adj to 3 Comfort Wartha, Constantine. Cllr A.Carter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council believes that the Section 52 Agreement in respect of this land still serves a useful purpose in protecting against the loss of an area of public open space which remains highly prized by local residents and which has not been demonstrated to be surplus to requirements. The retention of the Agreement would meet the tests set out under paragraphs 98 and 99 of the National Planning Policy Framework 2019. Furthermore, the proposal is contrary to Policies 13 (Development standards), 16 (Health and well-being) and 25 (Green Infrastructure) of the Cornwall Local Plan Strategic Policies 2010-2030. Constantine Parish Council requests the Planning Authority to refuse permission for development because*

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the S152 agreement signed on August 28, 1985 by the then Director and Secretary of Crownmark Developments Limited of Crown House, 2 Crowndale, London SE19 2NQ remains of value.

PA23/01418 Mr W.Eastham and Ms P.Fisher – Change of use of land to equestrian, construction of sand school and storage building, and retention and extension of stables – land North of Rose Cottage, The Level. Cllr P.Carter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded and with two abstentions it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council does not support this application. The existing, unlawfully constructed, large stable block represents substantial and unwelcome sporadic development which has a detrimental visual impact on the landscape at this point and the construction of a sand-school on the site will only add to that impact. The proposed material change of use from agricultural to equestrian with the associated requirement for the use of a motor vehicle for daily access throughout the year and the paraphernalia necessary for the husbandry of horses is also inappropriate in this location. Finally, the Parish Council notes that in 2002 Kerrier District Council deemed that “the access to the site is at a point where the visibility available to drivers of emerging vehicles is restricted” and that “the use of such an access is likely to give rise to danger to highway users”.*

PA23/01629 Mr Nicholls – Proposed replacement dwelling – Lowenna, Brill. Cllr P.Carter proposed Cllr Andrew seconded and it was agreed to return the following observation *The Applicant has been a well-liked and well-respected member of Constantine Parish Council for so many years that the Council believes it would be inappropriate to make any observations concerning this application.*

PA23/01699 Messrs R.A. and R.S.Bassett – Construction of a modern steel portal-frame agricultural building – Trevassack Farm, Constantine. Cllr A.Carter proposed, Cllr Painter seconded and with two abstentions it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

6 PARISH MATTERS

Maintenance of the Historic Finger-Posts

Cllr Jeffery reported that obtaining quotations for on-site shot-blasting of the finger-posts is proving problematic: he will keep trying.

The Coronation of HM King Charles III

Members considered a proposal to present a commemorative gift to local school-children. Following considerable discussion, during the course of which it was noted that a mug represents more of a lasting historical marker of the occasion than perhaps a medal might, Cllr Jeffery proposed, Cllr A.Carter seconded with one member against and one member abstaining that the Parish Council will fund the purchase of commemorative mugs.

7 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Insurance Policy

Members reviewed the terms of Constantine Parish Council’s Insurance Policy and considered an invitation from A.J.Gallagher to renew insurance cover with Hiscox in the sum of £1,930.33 Following discussion, Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded, all others in favour to renew Constantine Parish Council’s insurance with Hiscox through A,L,Gallagher in the sum of £1,930.00

The Church Hall

The Clerk stated that he had nothing further to report.

The Alice Hext Trust

Members considered a request from Mrs Kate Edwards-Shaw (the Pre-School Manager) for permission to use the Recreation Field to host the Pre-School Sports Day on the afternoon of Wednesday June 28th. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded and it was agreed that the pre-school should have permission to use the Recreation Field to host the Pre-School Sports Day on the afternoon of Wednesday June 28th

9 CLERK’S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

CC 2023 Off-Street Parking Order – invitation to comment on the proposals – *noted*

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The Clerk presented Councillors with a statement of Constantine Parish Council’s financial position as at March 16, 2023. A copy of that statement is attached to these minutes.

Members considered a request for financial help towards the running costs incurred by the Constantine Silver Band. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr P.Carter, seconded by Cllr Jeffery, 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 £400.00 to the Constantine Silver Band.

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Having earlier disclosed an interest in the following request, Cllr Andrew remained in the room but took no part in either the discussion or the voting.

Members considered a request for financial help towards the Cottage Garden Society's annual award for the Best Kept gardens and the cost of the marquee for the Society's Annual Flower Show. Following discussion, it was proposed by Cllr Mrs Deering, seconded by Cllr Painter, 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 £400.00 to the Constantine Cottage Garden Society.

The following accounts were tendered for payment

		GROSS	NET	VAT
HMRC		£ 783.89		
Mrs J.Pleasance		£ 329.47		
WEL Medical (batteries Seworgan & Port Navas)		£ 384.00	£ 320.00	£ 32.00
EdF Energy (The Vestry)		£ 68.93	£ 65.65	£ 3.28
Biffa		£ 103.58	£ 86.32	£ 17.26
SSE (public lighting)		£ 83.66	£ 79.68	£ 3.98
R.Sanders				
Cemeteries	£ 425.00			
Recreation Ground	£ 205.00			
	total	£ 756.00	£ 630.00	£ 126.00
Colin Chapman				
Salary (February)	£ 671.57			
telephone	£ 40.57			
office expenses	£ 38.30			
travelling	£ 23.87			
use of home	£ 25.00			
	total	£ 799.31		

It was proposed by Cllr P.Carter, seconded by Mrs K.Scott, all others in favour that the above eight accounts be paid.

The following accounts relating to the Recreation Ground were tendered for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Southwest Playground Safety Inspections	£ 36.00	£ 30.00	£ 6.00
Southwest Playground Safety Inspections Annual)	£ 192.00	£ 160.00	£ 32.00

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

Members noted the following receipts

Pendle Funeral Directors (Mr Gregory)	£ 150.00
Penryn and Falmouth Funeral Directors (Mr Nichols)	£ 400.00

11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from committees or representatives.

12 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr P.Carter offered his and the Council's thanks to Cllr Bolt for chairing the meeting so successfully.

Cllr Jeffery reported damage to the new fence caused both by children forcing their way underneath and by the Football Club which, for stability has tied a goal to the fence.

Noting the work done by members of the Making Space for Nature group, it was agreed that Bob Sanders should be instructed to trim the vegetation off the hedge between the recreation ground and Trebarvah Road.

The Clerk was asked to contact Roger Tripconey to remind him about the repair to the hedge near the Pavilion gateway.

13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday April 20, 2023 in The Vestry, Constantine.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 8.54pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

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