

CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Tuesday December 12, 2023 at 7.30pm in The Vestry.

Present:	Cllr P.Carter	Cllr E.Jeffery
	Cllr A.Carter	Cllr E.Nicholls
	Cllr J.Andrew	Cllr Mrs T.Thomson
	Cllr H.Bolt	Cllr R.Wickins
	Cllr Mrs W.Deering	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

Visitors: CCllr J.Bastin.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

There were no members of the public present.

1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Painter and Cllr Mrs Scott sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Andrew proposed, Cllr Mrs Thomson seconded all others in favour that their apologies should be accepted.

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 received of a value greater than £50.

3 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded, Cllr A.Carter, Cllr Jeffery and Cllr Wickins being absent from the last meeting abstained, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday November 16, 2023 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

Cllr Wickins proposed, Cllr Mrs Deering seconded, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Parish Meeting held on Thursday November 23, 2023 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as being accurate.

4 MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES BUT NOT INCLUDED ON THIS AGENDA

There were no matters arising from the minutes of the meeting held on November 16, 2023.

5 CORNWALL COUNCILLOR'S REPORT

CCllr Bastin reported that

- residents using the library will, in future, need a PIN to access on-line services
- Cornwall Council-owned street lighting will be switched off between midnight and five o'clock
- there are currently two hundred and twenty-six public charging points for electric vehicles in the county.

In answer to a question from Cllr Nicholls, CCllr Bastin undertook to jog Alan Mason's memory about coming to Constantine to answer questions concerning the apparent lack of action in progressing planning enforcement issues.

Speaking of the state of roads both in the parish and further afield, Cllr Wickins asked if something might be done particularly where blocked drains are concerned.

Chairman's initials.....

6 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS

Social Media

Following considerable discussion, Cllr Wickins proposed, Cllr Mrs Deering seconded and it was agreed to look into setting up an electronic notice-board, purely to make information more widely accessible. Members noted that this project will not be without cost. Cllr Mrs Deering undertook to make every effort to bring an example of what might be achieved to the meeting in January.

7 PARISH MATTERS

Christmas Lights Committee and Carnival Committee

Members considered a request to make space available on the Recreation Ground for storage for both the Christmas Lights and the Carnival Committees. Cllr Nicholls proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded and it was agreed that if the old tractor shed is removed and a hard-standing created, two twenty foot storage containers might be sited there. The old Carnival Committee container will be removed.

The Gazebo

Following some discussion, Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr A.Carter seconded and it was agreed to protect the ridges on the roof of the gazebo on the Recreation Ground with apex flashings.

Maintenance of the village

Cllr Mrs Deering proposed inviting interested parties from the parish to an informal meeting at which differing ideas for the maintenance of public spaces might be expressed. Her intention is that those ideas would then be considered by the Parish Council at the February meeting, before contractors are instructed.

The Green Space under the Trees – Welcoming notice

Having agreed to site a welcoming notice on the Green Space under the Trees, members further agreed the form of words to be used. Cllr Nicholls proposed and it was agreed to purchase and site a second new sign asking visitors to take their litter home.

Maintenance of the Historic Finger-Posts

The refurbished finger-post from Brill is now ready to be reassembled and put back into position. Cllr Jeffery undertook to do this at the earliest possible moment ... and once the Christmas tree has been removed!

Public Rights of Way

Members agreed to extend an invitation to Cllr Paul Simmons to address the Council at the meeting in January on the subject of managing maintenance of Public Rights of Way.

8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS

Applications

PA23/04337 Mr and Mrs Morgan – Replace the existing conservatory with a new single storey glazed extension and a first floor rear extension. Conversion of the outbuilding store to a garden room and wet storage – The Grange, Treviades. Cllr Jeffery proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded, Cllr Bolt against and it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

PA23/09867 Mr N.Gundry – Works to Trees covered by a Tree Preservation Order (TPO) - T1 Oak - Crown reduction, T2 Oak - Crown reshaping, T3 Turkey Oak - Crown lifting, T4 Oak - Crown lifting – Clear Creek, Trewince Lane, Port Navas. Cllr Bolt proposed, Cllr Wickins seconded and with two abstentions it was agreed to return the following observation *Subject to the agreement of the County Tree Officer, Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing to report.

10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

Members considered the Precept for the year from April 1, 2024 to March 31, 2025. Following discussion, Cllr Nicholls proposed that the precept should be set at £65,000 However, noting that the cost of the Parish Poll will be in region of £5,000 and that costs both of wages and of goods are continuing to rise, an amendment to keep the precept at £75,000 was proposed by the Chairman, Cllr Nicholls against, all others in favour that the Precept for the year 2024/2025 should be set at £75,000

The following accounts were tendered for payment

	GROSS	NET	VAT
HM Revenue and Customs	£ 936.05		
Mrs J.Pleasance	£ 396.30		
Corido (Bench for the space under the trees)	£ 484.75	£ 403.96	£ 80.79
Biffa	£ 90.64	£ 75.53	£ 15.11

Chairman's initials.....

Blast Clean Brill finger-post)		£ 300.00	£ 250.00	£ 50.00
R.Sanders				
Cemeteries	£ 435.00			
Recreation Ground	£ 210.00			
Install litter-bin	£ 100.00			
War memorial	£ 75.00			
Cemeteries Hedges,shrubs etc.	£ 854.00			
Recycling bins	£ 170.00			
	total	£ 2,212.80	£ 1,844.00	£ 368.80
Colin Chapman				
Salary (November)	£ 954.10			
telephone	£ 55.13			
office expenses	£ 43.24			
travelling	£ 28.29			
use of home	£ 25.00			
	total	£ 1,105.76		

It was proposed by Cllr A.Carter, seconded by Cllr Bolt, and agreed that the above seven accounts be paid.

The following accounts in relation to expenses for the Recreation Ground were tendered

	GROSS	NET	VAT
Southwest Playground Safety Inspections (Sept)	£ 40.00	£ 33.33	£ 6.67
Octopus Energy (DD)	£ 49.14	£ 46.80	£ 2.34

It was proposed by Cllr A.Carter, seconded by Cllr Mrs Thomson and agreed that the above two accounts be paid.

11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

There were no reports from Committees or representatives.

11 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

The Chairman read aloud letters of resignation from both Cllr Mrs Thomson and the Clerk.

To general agreement, Cllr Jeffery said that the Council and indeed all the residents of the Parish owe Tracey Clowes and her band of helpers an enormous debt of gratitude for all the hard work they have put into making the village look so magical this Christmas.

12 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS

Thursday, January 18, 2024 in The Vestry, Constantine at 7.30pm

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.45pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....

Chairman's initials.....