

# CONSTANTINE PARISH COUNCIL

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Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Constantine Parish Council held on Thursday, January 18, 2024 at 7.30pm in The Vestry.

<b>Present:</b>	Cllr P.Carter	Cllr E.Nicholls
	Cllr H.Bolt	Cllr C.Painter
	Cllr Mrs W.Deering	Cllr R.Wickins
	Cllr E.Jeffery	Mr C.Chapman (Clerk)

**Visitors:** Mr P.Gendall and Cllr P.Simmons.

The Chairman welcomed those present to the meeting.

## PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

Mr Gendall, representing the applicant, sought the Parish Council's support for PA23/09721. He stated that, having withdrawn the earlier application following concerns about the design, the applicant had made significant changes and that the new design addresses most if not all the concerns expressed at the time. Certainly, a pre-application which had included these changes had been well received by the Planning Officer. The new design 'fits' well into the landscape and makes a 'better statement' at the eastern edge of the settlement of Brill.

The Chairman introduced Cllr Paul Simmons of Mabe Parish Council who was present in order to address the Council on the subject of the parish's footpaths (the subject of a PhD on which he is currently working) and their growing importance in the modern landscape. In particular, he mentioned the benefits they bring in the shape of health and well-being and those resulting from a better connection with nature. He spoke of the shortcomings of the Highways Authority's current payments' system and the links it makes with path designation. He hopes that a few local parishes might come together for a brain-storming session and, dependant on the results of that, present a template to Cornwall Council of an economically, environmentally, cultural and aesthetically improved footpath network.

Reminding Members that he had been responsible for Public Rights of Way within the parish of Constantine, earlier in his tenure as a Parish Councillor, Cllr Nicholls offered to represent the Council at such a meeting. His offer was gratefully accepted.

## 1 TO RECEIVE APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

CCllr Bastin, Cllr Andrew Cllr A.Carter, and Cllr Mrs Scott sent their apologies for absence. Cllr Jeffery proposed, Cllr Painter 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 Wickins proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded, Cllr Painter being absent from the last meeting abstained, and it was agreed that the minutes of the Ordinary Meeting held on Thursday December 12, 2023 are a true record and the Chairman signed them as such.

Chairman's initials.....

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

Reminding Members of the Parish Council's invitation to Mr Alan Mason to attend a meeting regarding the apparent lack of progress with Planning Enforcement concerns within the Parish, Cllr Nicholls asked if there had been any response. The Clerk reported that he had heard nothing.

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

In the absence of Cllr Bastin there was no report.

#### **6 PARISH COUNCIL MATTERS**

##### **The Church Hall**

Following the result of the Parish Poll, Members considered the question of opening negotiations with the Vendor with a view to purchasing the two community car-parks, the public conveniences, the open green space and the Church Hall building and garden. Following discussion, the Chairman proposed, Cllr Painter seconded Cllr Bolt against all others in favour to delegate powers to Cllr Jeffery and Cllr Nicholls to open negotiations concerning the purchase of the Church Hall and the surrounding parcels of land with Savills (which is acting for the Diocesan Committee in this matter).

Members noted that Constantine Parish Council has been invoiced in the sum of £3,363.24 to cover the cost of the Parish Poll (which attracted a turnout of 21.2% of the electorate).

##### **Election of a Parish Councillor**

Members noted that an election for a Parish Councillor (following the resignation of Cllr Mrs Thomson) will be held on March 7, 2024. Members further considered the question of whether or not, should the election be contested, poll cards will be required. Noting that the estimated cost of poll cards is £800.00 and that that cost must be met by the Parish, Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Nicholls seconded and it was agreed that, in the interests of democracy, poll cards will be required. Members further noted that the cost of the poll is therefore likely to be in excess of £4,000.

##### **Appointment of a Parish Clerk**

Following the resignation of the Parish Clerk, Members considered the appointment of his successor. Following discussion, it was agreed that the post should be advertised and that Cllr Painter should draw up a job specification.

##### **The Community Area Partnership**

Following the resignation of Cllr Mrs Thomson, Members considered the appointment of a replacement representative on the Community Area Partnership panel. Following discussion, it was agreed to appoint Cllr Painter as the Parish Council's voting representative: the post of a substitute was left open.

##### **Social Media**

Cllr Jeffery showed Councillors quite what an electronic notice-board, designed solely to make information more widely accessible to residents, might look like. Following considerable discussion during the course of which members noted that members of the public will not be able to post comments on the page and that the board in its entirety can be removed at a moment's notice, Cllr Mrs Deering proposed, Cllr Wickins seconded all in favour that Constantine Parish Council should proceed with the creation of an electronic notice-board using the medium of FaceBook.

#### **7 PARISH MATTERS**

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

This question was deferred to a future meeting.

#### **8 PLANNING APPLICATIONS AND DECISIONS**

##### **Applications**

PA23/09491 Mr T.Richardson – Non material amendment in relation to decision notice PA19/05279 dated 20/09/2019 namely amendments to the north end of barn 3. Alteration to internal walls to accommodate a change of layout. New door to East elevation. Use of profiled steel roofing to the smaller stone building (rather than the approved slate). Reduction in proposed height of the portal building to match the height of the attached building (detailed in planning permission PA20/04051). The use of high level strip glazing rather than 2 previously proposed skylights to allow natural light into larger barn, and a reduction and location change to proposed skylights in the lower bar – Elderberry Barn, Polanguy, Trebarvah Woon. *Members noted that this application has been withdrawn.*

PA23/09673 Mr A.Sanders – Certificate of lawfulness for existing use of cabin to annexe – Fir Tree Farm, Tresahor. This application was returned with the following observation *Constantine Parish Council can neither confirm nor refute the statements made in this application.*

PA23/09721 Mrs D.Carey – Demolition of existing two bedroom bungalow and construction of new two storey dwelling – The Meadows, Brill. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application.*

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PA23/09910 Mr B.Bowden – Retention of Existing Barn Conversions to Dwellings and Associated Works – Chegwiddden Farm, Constantine Cllr Jeffery proposed, Cllr Andrew seconded, *Members noted that this application has been withdrawn.*

PA23/10197 Mr T. and Mr B.Williams – Proposed Replacement Front & Rear Extension – Treculliack, Treculliacks, Constantine. Cllr Painter proposed, Cllr Bolt seconded and it was agreed to return the following observation *Constantine Parish Council supports this application*

### Decisions

PA23/00600 APPROVED – Outline planning permission with some matters reserved for the proposed construction of a single dwelling – land adj to 3 Comfort Wartha, Constantine – *noted*

PA23/02928 REFUSED – Proposed erection of new dwelling-house – land North of Trewince Lodge, Trewince Lane, Port Navas – *noted*

PA23/07916 APPROVED – Construction of a modern steel portal-frame agricultural building – Trevassack Farm, Trevassack – *noted*

## 9 CLERK'S REPORT AND CORRESPONDENCE

The Clerk had nothing to report.

## 10 FINANCIAL MATTERS

The following accounts were tendered for payment

		GROSS	NET	VAT
Mrs J.Pleasance		£ 396.30		
RH Signs (open space)		£ 78.00	£ 65.00	£ 13.00
SSE (public lighting)		£ 88.48	£ 84.23	£ 4.25
Source for Business (Public convenience)		£ 260.44		
Biffa		£ 129.48	£ 107.90	£ 21.58
Who gives a (toilet rolls)		£ 132.00	£ 110.00	£ 22.00
R.Sanders				
Cemeteries	£ 435.00			
Recreation Ground	£ 210.00			
Garden in The Square	£ 275.00			
	total	£ 1,104.00	£ 920.00	£ 184.00
Cornwall Council (Parish Poll)		£ 3,363.24		
Colin Chapman				
Salary (December)	£ 706.10			
telephone	£ 45.59			
office expenses	£ 32.42			
travelling	£ 44.20			
use of home	£ 25.00			
	total	£ 853.31		

It was proposed by Cllr Bolt, seconded by Cllr Painter, and agreed that the above nine accounts be paid.

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

	GROSS	NET	VAT
SWPSI (December inspection and repair)	£ 40.00	£ 33.33	£ 6.67
Octopus Energy (DD)	£ 36.38	£ 34.65	£ 1.73
SWPSI (January inspection)	£ 40.00	£ 33.33	£ 6.67

It was proposed by Cllr Nicholls, seconded by Cllr Painter and agreed that the above three accounts be paid.

Members noted the following receipt

Pavilion (electricity meter)	£ 20.00
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## 11 REPORTS FROM COMMITTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES

Cllr Painter reported that the Community Area Partnership meeting on January 23. 2024 will be held using the Zoom facility. The main `business will be to endorse its new partners and representatives together with the 2024 Action Plan.

## 12 COMMENTS FROM COUNCILLORS

Cllr Mrs Deering reported that, owing to circumstances beyond its control, the Save the Children shop will shortly close; that there are plans to re-open as an independent charitable business; but that there are concerns about quite

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where this might be. Cllr Mrs Deering asked members to consider permitting the shop to use a shed on the Recreation Ground. Members deferred making any decision until after they have heard from Mrs Tracey Clowes.

The Chairman read aloud a letter of resignation from Cllr Roger Wickins.

**13 DATE AND TIME OF NEXT MEETINGS**

Thursday, February 15, 2024 in The Vestry, Constantine at 7.30pm.

The Chairman declared the meeting closed at 9.30pm.

Signed.....

Dated.....,

Chairman’s initials.....