

Peter Tavy Parish Council
(Draft awaiting approval)
Minutes of the meeting
held on Wednesday 14th June 2023, 7:30pm at the Chapel

Present: Cllr. A. Barton, Cllr. E. Dodd & Cllr. K. Ball, Cllr. J. Jeffery, Cllr. R. Myott & Cllr. D. Chanter

Others Present: The Clerk.

Meeting declared open by Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter at 7:30pm

TIME ALLOWED FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC TO SPEAK 15 MINUTES: - None

The meeting of the Parish Council now continued as follows: -

1: Apologies for absence

Cllr. W. Lane

2: Declarations of interest

Cllr. J. Jeffery No.1 Church Cottages, Cllr. R. Myott correspondence

3: Approval of previous Minutes & matters arising

The Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on Wednesday 10th May 2023 were deemed to be a true and accurate record. Proposed by Cllr. A. Barton, seconded by Cllr. K. Ball, all in favour & signed as a true record by Cllr. D. Chanter.

Matters arising: None that are not covered by the agenda.

4: Reports from outside bodies

None

5: Correspondence

- A. Highways Notice of road closure for test pit so the spring by the conker tree can be repaired.
- B. Request for Standing Orders and Codes of Conduct for all newly elected Councillors. The Standing Orders were proposed to be adopted by Cllr. E. Dodd, seconded by Cllr. J. Jeffery all in favour.
- C. Correspondence received from Mr. V. Nail regarding an application for adverse possession. Cllrs J. Jeffery & E. Dodd together with Mr. T. Pearce had attended a voluntary mediation meeting at Lower Mill with Mr. and Mrs. Nail. The issue is proving contentious and there looks to be no more room for negotiation or debate about boundaries or rights of way for vehicles by neighbouring properties. The meeting has left talks at stalemate with two options being drafted in writing to put to Mr. and Mrs. Nail. The first being that Devon County Highways are approached to adopt the unregistered land (this would be suitable to the neighbours concerned and would be no issue for Mr. and Mrs. Nail gaining access to their own property), and the second that a prolonged period of three years is allowed to pass to ascertain whether Parishioners actually use the land, after which if no body uses the land in question Mr. and Mrs. Nail would achieve adverse possession.

In addition to the official meeting referred to above Cllr. W. Lane had met with Mr. and Mrs. Nail at Lower Mill regarding the application for adverse possession and this was not done with the knowledge or on behalf of the Parish Council but as a private individual acting under his own authority. The Clerk was not informed the meeting had taken place until after the event. Chairman Cllr. D. Chanter said anybody on official Council business must arrange meetings through the Clerk and to do so without prior arrangement or agreement of the Parish Council merely serves to undermine the hard work of the Parish Council.

It was proposed by Cllr. J. Jeffery and seconded by Cllr. K. Ball all in favour that John Fewings of Devon County Highways should be requested to attend a site meeting to discuss a) where the Highways ends and b) whether Highways would consider adopting the area of unregistered land in question. That the two proposals above be put in writing to Mr. and Mrs. Nail and copied to the two neighbours also with a right of way over the land in question, for Mr. and Mrs. Nail's

response. That DALC and the SLCC be approached to recommend legal advice/a Solicitor who could act for the Parish Council. That WDBC be contacted for interest rates on their loans to Parish Councils should large legal fees be incurred.

It was suggested that once the boundary issue has been resolved that the sign at the entrance to the Bridge at Lower Mill be looked at as it suggests to anybody visiting the area that the Bridge belongs to a private property.

- D. A letter from former Borough Councillor T. Pearce had been received in thanks of his gift presented by the Peter Tavy Parish Council on his retirement.
- E. Rob Taylor (Dartmoor National Park) wrote regarding the whereabouts of a missing broken milestone at Hill Bridge. The DNP stonemason had not taken it away for repair. The Clerk was asked to put a piece in the Piper asking if anybody knows of its whereabouts.
- F. P. Randall wrote advising which trees had been planted over the years on Smeardon Down for the Queens Silver Jubilee in 1977 the Queens Platinum Jubilee in 2022 and the Coronation of King Charles in 2023. This was ready for plaques to be commissioned soon.

6: Mill Pond

A great job has been done with the Millpond with it seen to be used and enjoyed lately, but it was unfortunate that the weather has not been kind to the wildflower seeds. Strimming will take place soon to keep the area tidy.

7: Playing Field

The Clerk has not heard back from former Councillor P. Randal or the National Lottery Fund regarding the grant funding required to finish the project and will chase this up soon. The contractors will be put back by around a fortnight to give the Clerk chance to chase up grants etc. The Clerk was asked to approach the suppliers of the new equipment to see if they had any finance/instalment options available.

8: Highways

The Clerk as heard from the Highways Maintenance Community Enhancement Fund that the Parish Council have been awarded £500 to help with the cost of the Lengthsman however this is 50% less than last years grant. It was discussed that the HMCEF might be approached to ask which 50% of the drains and ditches do not get done now or will the Parish foot the bill for the works. Compared to what the large contractors charge DC Highways the Lengthsman is seen as good value for money within our Parish. It does look although the Parish will need to be more self sufficient in the future regarding our ditches and drains.

The coping stones at Hillbridge have been reported.

9: Planning.

The Parish Council have supported the application at Midhurst and this has been submitted.

A grant of Planning Permission notice had been received in relation to Middle Wapsworthy.

10: Church Cottages.

The Clerk must arrange with both tenants for an annual inspection 15mins before the next meeting. This is also an opportunity for the Tenants to discuss if they have any problems with the Cottages. The Tenant for No.2 will request permission in writing to install an outside tap and let a Councillor have this at the time of inspection.

The fencing should commence in approximately three weeks.

Messrs. Worths will be chased again for the quote for windows and maintenance.

11: Finance

The clerk reported the balance on the Precept Account at the 1 st of June stood at	£15,515.63
The Clerk reported the balance on the Church Cottages Account at the 1 st June stood at	£28,176.91

The outgoings from the Precept Account to be approved are: -

The Clerk Salary May	345.00
Use of Home Office	26.00
Minues PAYE	- 12.00
	<u>£359.00</u>

HMRC PAYE £12.00

Graphic words web hosting £153.44

The Outgoings from the Church Cottages Account to be agreed are: -

Admin fee to precept account June £26.66

It was agreed to pay the outgoings proposed Cllr. A. Barton, seconded Cllr. D. Chanter all in favour.

12. Any Other Business

Can the Clerk find out if Mary Tavy Parish used a contractor to get rid of Japanese Knotweed. Does the Environment Agency deal with it anymore and if anybody knows who to report it to.

No further business – meeting closed 20:48hrs

SIGNED

DATED.....