

LAUNCELLS PARISH COUNCIL

The Council held its first Virtual meeting on Friday 3rd July at 7.30pm via internet platform Zoom. It is now a requirement, as advised by Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC), to meet remotely until further notice.

Present: Alan Whittle, Brian Pollard, Graham Tape, Margaret Cleave, Paul Wingard, Trevor Elliott, Pamela Brewer (Clerk) and 1 member of the public (Sheridon Rosser).

Unfortunately – due to internet issues, Sheila Minter was unable to join

195.3/07 Apologies: Maxwell Allin, Andrew Hargreaves, Peter Harwood

196.3/07 Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting, held on 6th March, which had previously been distributed were approved for signature

197.3/07 Matters Arising

A defibrillator has been installed at the Red Post Inn thanks to Paul & Tracey Horrocks. This has now been registered with the South West Ambulance Trust. Thanks to Trevor Elliott £350 was raised from local businesses towards the project. The businesses concerned: - J.T. Autos, DavCar, Red Post Joinery, Red Post Garage and M.J. Newton have all been sent letters of thanks for their considerable contributions.

All other matters are on hold due to the current situation but it is hoped that items including: proposed white lining of Parish Hall car park, sorting out of electrical installation at the Parish Hall and progressing with the safe keeping of Archive materials, will all progress in the not too distant future.

198.3/07 Audit (1)

Annual Governance Statement: The clerk had distributed copies of AGAR forms to all councillors prior to the meeting. It was proposed by Brian Pollard, Seconded by Margaret Cleave and unanimously agreed to approve the Annual Governance Statement. This will now be signed by the clerk and chairman.

199.3/07 Audit (2)

Accounting Statement: Having previously supplied copy spreadsheet of the accounts for 2019/20, prior to this meeting, the clerk sent all councillors a copy of Section 2 annual audit Accounting Statements. It was proposed by Graham Tape, seconded by Margaret Cleave and unanimously agreed to accept the statement signed by the clerk. This will now be signed by the chairman before being submitted to External Audit.

200.3/07 Internal Audit

Having recently completed the Internal Audit, Aalgaard Renshaw Business Solutions Ltd, report that all items are “Satisfactory – no issues identified” stating that “We are of the firm opinion that the control objectives set out in the report have been achieved within the financial year to a high standard and thereby easily meets the needs of the Council”

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201.3/07 Audit (3) The Governance & Accounting statements, when signed, will be sent to External Auditor, with a copy on the Parish website (Updated guidance received confirming that the AGAR must be approved and published by 31st August 2020) As required by law, the “notice of elector’s rights” was put on website and on the Grimscott noticeboard 15th June.

202.3/07 Playing Field

Play area was closed on 29th March, for the foreseeable future following government guidance.

Sheridon Rosser, being present at the meeting was able to report that members of the committee have been having discussions on possible safe opening of the play area following government guidance. Signage and posters will be ordered for the play area and on the gate, with copies on the website. The star benches will be temporarily removed, the boat will be cordoned off and Alan Whittle agreed to assist with blocking off the tunnel. Equipment will be checked over and cleaned, a risk assessment completed and target date for re-opening was set at Saturday 11th July.

203.3/07 Parish Hall

The Parish Hall was closed on 29th March, for the foreseeable future following government guidance.

Graham Tape on behalf of the Hall Management Committee advised the council that there were no immediate plans to re-open the Hall. Having had discussions with the chairman Marlene Bath, it had been agreed that the matter would be reviewed at a later stage when it had been possible to follow all guidance. Indoor sporting activities are not yet permitted or gatherings of more than 6 people outside of family bubbles/support groups.

204.3/07 Planning Applications

In line with Local Council Protocol - The clerk was able to send details of planning applications to councillors by email or post before collating responses for comments on the planning portal. The following applications were received between meetings.

PA20/02735 Alterations & first floor rear extension above existing bay window at Treyeo Bungalow – councillors unanimously agreed to raise no objections to the proposal.

PA20/02718 Change of use of part of an existing agricultural building to house a biomass boiler at Launcells Barton – previously carried out without consent – unanimous agreement to raise no objections.

PA20/02944 Extension to existing slurry store at Venn Farm – unanimously agreed to raise no objections.

PA20/03760 Proposed conversion of double garage to holiday accommodation at Little Bidna Barn – Two councillors raised “No objections” and eight further responses received not in favour, of these, three highlighted concerns over possible extra traffic

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generated so objecting in light of other recent applications in the area. The remaining five councillor objections were that this is not re-using a redundant barn or building and could create a precedent for turning garages into holiday accommodation.

PA20/04321 Outline application with some matters reserved for the construction of a managers dwelling to serve the wedding and events business on land east of Launcells Barton

–There were mixed feelings on this application. So in conclusion these were comments submitted online to Planning department:- While there is a majority in favour of this proposal, if it is approved there needs to be great care taken to ensure that the design of the dwelling is in keeping with Grade 1 and Grade 2 listed buildings nearby. The dissenting view is that there would appear to be sufficient redundant buildings within the complex which could be developed rather than add to this by building on a site which due to the topography of the land will be clearly visible. It is noted that the applicants are clearly trying to build a sustainable business which could bring some employment to the area but in the current economic climate is the need for a manager's dwelling justified.

PA20/03706 Removal of one substandard outbuilding and replacement with one outbuilding at Meadowbrook, Red Post – comments/observations received from 8 out of 10 councillors with no adverse statements but to suggest that the roof should be green to blend in with surroundings.

205.3/07 Planning Notifications

The following applications have all been approved by the planning authority

PA19/10939 Conversion of ground floor of garage to create annexe for assisted living, and new two storey extension to create garage with bedroom over at Lower Marsh

PA20/01235 Proposed workshop unit (B2) with variation of condition 2 in respect of decision PA14/11728 at Dav Cars Unit 4 The Workshops

PA20/02735 Alterations & first floor rear extension above existing bay window at Treyeo Bungalow

PA20/02944 Extension to existing slurry store at Venn Farm

PA20/02718 Change of use of part of an existing agricultural building to house a biomass boiler at Launcells Barton – previously carried out without consent

206.3/07 Street Trader at Hobbacott Down Layby

In May it was brought to the clerk's notice that the wood carver "Woodall Products" has returned to the layby with his entourage of vehicles. In Jan / Feb the parish council had objected to proposals put forward to allow additional vehicles on site.

The Licensing Officer advised: - The wood carver is allowed to park any number of vehicles in the layby as long as he is not blocking it for other users. He cannot trade as he doesn't have a licence until a future hearing (dependent on Covid-19 restrictions) but licence will be granted eventually unless he has broken any laws.

A hearing (virtual), of Cornwall Council's Street Trading Sub-Committee was held on 1st July. Alan Whittle, with full backing of councillors gave a verbal representation on behalf of the parish. The traders licence was granted as before, allowing parking of the Showman's Caravan 24/7 and daytime parking of the traders Bedford lorry.

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Having listened to this meeting Alan felt that the decisions taken by Cornwall Council could be open to challenge ultimately via the Local Government Ombudsman, if necessary. The first step in this process will be to challenge the Street Trading Licencing function to implement sanctions against the wood carver if he does not adhere to the terms of the licence renewal. This was put to councillors, with 4 of the 5 councillors supporting the motion – Trevor Elliott felt it was unnecessary. This process will begin when formal notice of the licence conditions is issued.

207.3/07 Finance

The following amounts were unanimously approved for payment as proposed by Margaret Cleave and seconded by Brian Pollard:

Cornwall Council – repayment of clerk’s April & May salaries	£416.00 inc Admin fees
Calico UK – Website domain name	£24.00 inc VAT
Algaard Renshaw Business Solutions – Internal Audit of accounts	£126.57 inc VAT

Under local council protocol and standing orders the clerk is authorised, in consultation with the chairman/vice-chairman to take any actions necessary with associated expenditure to protect the interests of the community and ensure council business continuity during the period of the pandemic.

There were 4 cheques signed by the chairman & clerk between meetings. Full details of these payments had been supplied and approved by all 10 councillors.

They were: Stuart Bryant Construction – Emergency lighting works at Parish Hall (Archive room extension grant funded)	£600.00
Playsafety Ltd – RoSPA inspection of Playing Field	86.40 inc VAT
Cornwall Association of Local Councils	£290.55 inc VAT
Zurich Municipal – Annual Insurance premium	£348.85

208.3/07 COVID-19 Business Grants

Notification received that the government was offering Small Business Rate Relief for village halls. No action was taken as it wasn’t considered that the hall would be eligible as it gets 100% rate relief. However, the clerk received a telephone call from Cornwall Council’s Senior Trading Standards Officer explaining that the grant was available to all Halls, regardless. Following the necessary links a grant application was made and the amount of £10,000 has now been paid into the bank account.

However, the following month the Revenues Court Officer rang to say that a mistake had been made because the grant should have been paid to Hall Committee direct as Parish Council’s are not eligible for this grant. With agreement, a cheque will be raised to the Parish Hall for £10,000 and evidence provided that this has been done. This was understood by councillors present, Trevor Elliott proposed, Paul Wingard seconded and it was unanimously agreed to sign this cheque.

209.3/07 Any other business

Margaret Cleave reported that there had been a serious water leak along the A3072, east of Red Post, she had arranged for South West Water to attend to the matter and currently all seems to be OK.

210.3/07 Date of next meeting

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It was agreed that the next meeting should be set for Friday 7th August at 7.30pm. Unless notified of any changes through CALC, this will again be a virtual meeting and the importance of attending was emphasised to comply with the normal councillors six month ruling.