

Launcells Parish Council

Minutes of Virtual meeting – via “Zoom” - held on Friday 5th February 2021 at 7.30pm

Present: Alan Whittle, Brian Pollard, Margaret Cleave, Trevor Elliott, Sheila Minter, Paul Wingard, Andrew Hargreaves, Graham Tape, Pamela Brewer (Clerk)

284.5/02 Apologies: Maxwell Allin, Peter Harwood

285.5/02 Minutes: The minutes of the last meeting, which had previously been distributed were approved for signature

286.5/02 Matters Arising:

Notice board – Thanks were expressed to Alan Whittle for carrying out necessary repairs to the council’s noticeboard at Grimscott.

Highways – Issues brought to the council’s attention at the last meeting regarding potholes at West Street and at Prustacott have been addressed – no further action required.

Local History Group – E.mail received from Claire at Azook confirming that work will start on “Learning Resources for schools” in the next week. It was proposed by Paul Wingard, seconded by Trevor Elliott and agreed to pay invoice for first instalment of the costs on confirmation of start date.

287.5/02 Playing Field - The Committee have agreed to go ahead with grant applications towards improvements for entrance to the field but in these uncertain times have decided not to progress the zip-wire plans at present. Risk assessments have been re-visited and all necessary procedures are being followed.

288.5/02 Parish Hall - Alan Whittle has contacted local electrician regarding quotations for 1. Full inspection and PAT testing. 2. Rewiring the new emergency lights. 3. Rewiring the under-floor heating for the new extension. A quote has now been received for inspection and testing and discussions are being held with the Hall Committee on the way forward. Councillors felt that the quotation was extremely high and were tasked with trying to find alternative NICEIC registered electricians. This needs to be done within the next few days as this job needs sorting urgently to make insurances valid.

289.5/02 Clerk’s Report – The clerk announced that she will retire from her position on 31st May 2021 after 30+ years in the job.

Notice was given of local council elections. These are to be held on May 6th unless cancelled meanwhile, by central government due to Covid-19 restrictions. The Annual Parish Meeting has to be held within 14 days of the fourth day after the elections so it was set for Friday 14th May 2021.

The April meeting was set for 9th April – first Friday being Good Friday (bank holiday)

290.5/02 Chairman’s Report - As we are back in a period of lockdown, Safer Cornwall are using the Community Intelligence forms to identify any risks / concerns. There are currently no known issues but councillors asked to be vigilant and report any matters online. Discussions took place on whether the Parish Council should make more use of Facebook as a manner of communication. There was no interest shown among councillors so the matter

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will not progress at present.

Planning – An online meeting earlier in the day provided an opportunity for planning and Enforcement officers to engage with the community. This was not an opportunity to discuss individual parish issues but it was indicated that any retrospective applications are treated in the same way as any other applications. The importance of developing a Neighbourhood Plan was also discussed – various parishes, including ours, have abandoned plans in the early stages but this will need to be re-visited by the newly elected council after May.

Cross Border Health Group – This is a Bude Community Network initiative in conjunction with colleagues from Devon / Holsworthy. Bude councillor David Parsons is the chairman and it involves representatives from the Bude & Holsworthy areas working together to address issues over services being provided, particularly by hospitals and health centres.

291.5/02 Finance

Grant aid – After receiving details on current financial situation it was unanimously agreed to award the following grants to local groups:-

£150 – Chapel graveyard funds (proposed AH)

£150 – Church graveyard funds (proposed BP)

£50 – The Samaritans (proposed SM)

£100 – Devon Air Ambulance (proposed TE)

£100 – Cornwall Air Ambulance (proposed SM)

£100 – Citizens Advice Bureau (proposed AH)

No grants were given this year to Launcells Horticultural Show, Friends of Bude Sea Pool or Bude-Stratton Social Action Fund.

Payments - The following amounts was unanimously approved for payment as proposed by Paul Wingard and seconded by Trevor Elliott

Cornwall Council – repayment of clerk’s December salary & admin fee £208.00

Azook Community Interest Co – Learning Resources for schools (grant funded) £1750.00

292.5/02 Other matters

Article for Parish News – Alan

Clearing of dog waste bin – Paul

Traffic issues at Grimscott Following the recent SCARF meeting and analysis of data from Mobile Speed Activated Signs information was provided by Highways Dept. This shows mean speeds at the northern end of Grimscott 28.8mph southbound and 31mph northbound with 85% of all traffic travelling at or below, 35mph southbound / 37mph northbound. When signs were at southern end of Grimscott mean speeds were 27.1mph southbound and 21mph northbound, with 85% travelling at or below 31mph southbound / 27mph northbound. These are considered “good levels of compliance” and validated collision data shows no recorded injury collisions at this location in last 3 years. The Mobile Speed Activated signs will be deployed at these sites at the earliest opportunity to target a range of months for gathering further data.

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Charity Commission – Paul Wingard, being a trustee of the parish charity The Orchard Trust, has received correspondence from the Charity Commissioners showing concern that there has been no activity on the account recently. In the last 10 years there have been 3 small grants given and there is currently one pending. Nationally there are many small charities which are no longer being accessed and the Commissioners are suggesting some of these be combined into a central fund. Andrew Hargreaves asked whether it would be possible to allocate some / all of the charities fund to provide computers for schools – a need that has become widespread in the recent lockdowns. This to be investigated and the matter to be placed on next month’s agenda for further discussion.

Parking Charges suspended in all Cornwall Council car parks during lockdown

Woodland Management Plan Environment Services are developing a management plan for their woodlands – online survey available for completion

Meetings Notice given of Bude Area Community Network Panel Meeting – Monday 1st March and Cross Border Health Meeting – Monday 22nd February (both online)

Health Services Concerns shown over provisions at Stratton – to be addressed further at another meeting pending more information

293.5/02 Date of next meeting: Friday 5th March 2021 at 7.30pm.