

# Launcells Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Monday 04<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at 7:30pm.**

**Present:** Alan Whittle (Chairman), Margaret Cleave, Trevor Elliot, Andrew Hargreaves, Sheila Minter, Brian Pollard, Matthew Stokes, Paul Wingard, Ian Saltern (Clerk), Nicky Chopak (Cornwall Council) and two members of the public.

**Apologies:** Maxwell Allin, Graham Tape.

**382.04/10 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> September 2021:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 06<sup>th</sup> September 2021, which had previously been distributed, were approved for signature, amended to correct Matt Stokes name.

**383.04/10 Matters arising from these minutes:**

- Grimscott speeding – At the suggestion of Zoe Bernard John (Bude Community Link Officer) Sheila Minter had contacted Elaine Hartley, Force Speed Watch Coordinator in the Devon & Cornwall Constabulary area. A Community Speed Watch for Grimscott has now been established. Six volunteers will be needed to operate the scheme – so far 3 have been recruited – 3 men would be welcome to join. Only one hour of time is needed per volunteer. Sheila has completed the necessary theory training and practical training will follow. Once operational, the scheme will run for 7 days a week in daylight hours. Alan Whittle suggested advertising the scheme and the need for volunteers on the Parish website and Facebook page. Anyone wishing to volunteer should contact Sheila (01288 382831). Sheila will write an article about the scheme for the Parish magazine. Andrew Hargreaves asked that Maxwell Allin be kept informed as he had shown concern regarding the issue of speeding through Grimscott.

- White lining in the Parish Hall carpark – Trevor Elliot reported that the work had been delayed waiting upon 2 consecutive dry days. Trevor and Brian Pollard had seen the revised lining plan and were content with provision of disabled access.

**384.04/10 Report from Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak:**

Nicky Chopak reported that the forthcoming Bude/Holsworthy Cross Border group meeting had been cancelled, awaiting the production of data on the number of users of Stratton Minor Injuries Unit (MIU). Pressure is to be maintained to ensure both Launceston and Stratton MIUs remain open. Launceston MIU is now reopened and operating from 8pm until late. The next Bude/Holsworthy Cross Border Group meeting will be in November. Paul Wingard asked what NHS staff are now doing. Nicky replied that they are mostly still consulting virtually but this question can be put to Dr Tamsyn Anderson who is the new Chief Executive Officer of NHS Kernow. Andrew Hargreaves expressed concern about population growth and healthcare provision in the wider Bude area.

Nicky reported that there is a threat of closure to Launceston leisure centre. She is encouraging people to complete a survey about Leisure Centre use <https://letstalk.cornwall.gov.uk/leisure>

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Nicky reported that wheelie bins for waste and recycling will now not be rolled-out until 2023 and it is likely that the weekly collection of refuse will move to once every three weeks.

## **385.04/10 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

## **386.04/10 Public participation**

See next item.

## **387.04/10 Planning matters – PA19/06965 Argum Villa proposed change of use (part retrospective) of storage buildings into fitness studio, land west of Argum Villa, Launcells. (This is now in reality a fully retrospective application as both building are up and running.)**

Alan Whittle explained that the Cornwall Council Planning Officer processing the above application was re-consulting with Launcells Parish Council following the distribution of a Transport Advisory Note (TAN) produced by the applicant. All Councillors confirmed that they had read the TAN.

The member of the public attending the meeting (one of the applicants for the above planning matter) explained that her business (fitness classes) commenced some five years ago. She had received European structural funds to purchase equipment necessary to grow her business and to cater for people with specific fitness needs. Permission for a change of use of the building in which she conducted the classes was applied for and neither Cornwall Council Highways, nor Launcells Parish Council had initially raised objections.

Neighbours of the applicants had later raised objections, as had Launcells Parish Council on the basis of new information. CC Highways Department then objected on terms of unsustainable traffic flow. The applicants explained that the business had closed for much of pandemic and was only now restarting. The second applicant stated that the business is not a fitness centre, merely a fitness class which several neighbouring residents attend. The new planning application under consideration is for a small studio space with three pieces of equipment. Cornwall Council Planning Officers had not visited the site as part of their assessment.

Alan Whittle said that he was not persuaded by the findings of the TAN which, in his opinion, contained a series of assertions which were not supported by hard evidence. Paul Wingard explained that it is the role of Parish Councillors to represent the views of all parishioners and that some had reported increased traffic at the site of the planning application had impacted upon them. The applicants stated that for three years there had been no complaints and complaints only began when people became aware that fitness classes were being held at the site. Andrew Hargreaves said that people frequently complain about traffic levels and, unfortunately, the class has become a focus for those complaints.

Nicky Chopak said that the service provided by the applicants (fitness instruction, including for those with specific needs) was laudable. The principle of planning is at the core of the problem – similar issues were encountered with another application at a different site in the parish at which Cornwall

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Council Highways are insisting upon traffic improvement measures. It was suggested that the applicants could encourage their neighbours to submit letters in support of the application.

Paul Wingard said that there was a need to resolve the issue and all should concentrate on moving the issue forward. Alan Whittle reminded Councillors, that Cornwall Council's Planning Officer had asked for their views on the application.

Nicky Chopak said that she would be content to support the applicants, but recommended that they require their agent to write to Cornwall Council's Planning Officer setting out that:

- Turnover at the fitness class has dropped and as a result there are fewer clients on site
- It is nonetheless a flourishing business
- COVID has impacted the business
- Retrospective planning permission has been requested
- Transport impacts are now different in the post-COVID environment

It is important that the applicants demonstrate the reasons why the business profile has change as a consequence of COVID, and transport is now less of an issue – demonstrate how business has changed pre and post COVID, since the application was originally submitted.

Andrew Hargreaves reiterated that Launcells Parish Councillors have to represent the views of all parishioners including those objecting to the planning application in question. Given the strength of feeling in the lane adjacent to the application site, Andrew felt that the applicant's note detailed above should be publicly visible.

Paul Wingard agreed 100% - the applicants must be conciliatory. Nicky would investigate if the Cornwall Council Planning Officer would be able to wait to garner more views from the public. The applicants agreed to supply a short note to Nicky Chopak setting out the information she requested.

The following form of words was proposed by Alan Whittle as the view of Launcells Parish Council:

*Launcells Parish Council is disappointed to have to make a decision [on the application in question] on the basis of the information provided.*

The resolution was seconded by Andrew Hargreaves and agreed unanimously.

## **388.04/10 Red Post – Update**

Trevor Elliot requested that Ian Saltern (Clerk) send a letter formally requesting a donation from Red Post Inn, copied to Alan Whittle.

Sheila Minter reported that photos have been received from the sign manufactory of three of the cast signpost fingerposts. The existing patten for the Kilkhampton arm has proven to be too thin and will need to be modified. The cast arms are now ready for cleaning and painting with installation scheduled within three weeks. Sheila reported that so far there had been no broadcast media interest in covering the story. The Bude & Stratton Post newspaper is happy to cover the story. Nicky Chopak said that she would seek to attract the interest of the broadcast media. Trevor Elliot reported that Launcells Parish Council should retain the pattens.

## **389.04/10 Individual Councillor Tasks**

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Paul Wingard and Sheila Minter have thus far written to Ian Saltern (Clerk) setting out their understanding of their tasks. Remaining Councillors were reminded to do so also. Ian to ask Peter Harwood what is required of the Councillor tasked with the parish graveyards. Nicky Chopak would investigate the responsibility for determining graveyard burial space capacity.

## **390.04/10 Budget setting 2021/2022**

Alan Whittle reminded Councillors that budget setting for the next precept period would need to be completed by December. Ian Saltern (Clerk) circulated the budget sheet for the current year (2020/21) and Alan asked Councillors to consider how to allocate discretionary and non-discretionary spending in time for next month's meeting. Brian Pollard said that ash dieback would be a cost on the playing field.

## **391.04/10 Clerk's Report**

Bank signatory resolution – Ian Saltern (Clerk) explained that in order for him to be added as a signatory to the Council's bank accounts, the following Motion must be passed by Councillors:

*It was resolved that a banking relationship will be maintained with National Westminster Bank Plc (the **Bank**) in accordance with this mandate and that:*

- *the individuals identified as **Authorised Signatories** may, in accordance with the **Signing Rules**:*
- *sign cheques and give instructions for Standing Orders, Direct Debits, electronic payments, banker's drafts and other payments on the accounts even if it causes an account to be overdrawn or exceed any limit*
- *sign, accept or endorse bills of exchange.*
- *request and give counter-indemnities for the issue of letters of credit or Guarantees (including bonds, indemnities and undertakings)*
- ***Authorised Signatories** identified in the **Signing Rules** for unlimited amounts may, in accordance with the **Signing Rules**:*
- *sign agreements for electronic products, including payment systems, and appoint or remove administrators and operators of those electronic products. The Business / Organisation authorises the administrators and operators to exercise the powers detailed in the terms of each electronic product. These powers may be extensive and include the power to make payments and access information on behalf of the Business / Organisation, and in the case of administrators, the power to appoint and remove other administrators (with the same powers) and operators*
- *any **Authorised Signatory** may give other instructions or requests for information to the Bank in relation to the accounts;  
opening accounts with the same **Signing Rules** and **Authorised Signatories**; closing accounts; or other banking services or products*

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- *the Bank may accept instructions that do not have an original written signature provided the Bank is satisfied that the instruction is genuine. Acceptance will be subject to any other agreement the bank may require for those instructions*
- *The mandate will continue until the Customer completes a new mandate / passes a new Authority advising the changes in authority on the account(s);*

The Motion was proposed by Alan Whittle, seconded by Andrew Hargreaves and agreed unanimously.

Cornwall Council – repayment overdue on Clerk’s salary for March 2020. Ian reported that the cheque sent to Cornwall Council in June for the sum of £202.01 in payment for this had not been received. Ian asked that the Parish Council cancel the original cheque and send another. Councillors agreed unanimously.

Trees for Planting – Ian read an email received from the Bude Climate Partnership which was seeking available land for the planting of trees. Ian offered to provide further information to any Councillors expressing an interest.

Ian reported that the virus protection on the Council laptop was due to expire and asked if the Council would approve renewal. Councillors agreed unanimously.

## **392.04/10 Chairman’s Report**

Alan Whittle reported that, with Simon Beasley, he had attended a North Tamerton Parish Council Meeting and a Bude-Stratton Town Council meeting to explain the role and function of the Bude Area Community Network Panel. Issues raised were: Health, environment, Stratton MIU, transport, dental services, crematoria, housing, economic development and community food growing. Ian Saltern (Clerk) explained that the Bude Climate Partnership was delivering a feasibility study exploring the establishment of a location which could impart advice to people about reducing their carbon footprint, and that also coordinated a local food strategy which made it easier for people to access locally grown food. The study was interested to learn if there was land in the parishes of the Bude Community Network area which could be given over to community food growing. Ian asked that people contact him if such land was available ([launcellspc@outlook.com](mailto:launcellspc@outlook.com)).

Alan and Simon Beasley will attend the meetings of the remaining Parish Councils in the Community Network area.

## **393.04/10 Invoices for payment**

It was proposed by Alan Whittle, seconded by Andrew Hargreaves and unanimously agreed to approve the following payments notified on the agenda and presented at the meeting (in addition to re-sending a cheque for repayment overdue on Clerk’s salary for March 2020 (£202.01) as mentioned under Clerk’s Report above):

Cornwall Council – repayment of clerk’s salary & admin fees (Jul– Sep 2021) £718.06

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Clerk's expenses 27 <sup>th</sup> May – 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	£67.91
GM Plant Hire – Works to Playing Field - 15 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	£1,151.10
Cornwall ALC – 'Budgeting for Clerks' Virtual Training	£36.00

## **394.04/10 Other matters**

Paul Wingard reported that he had now completed his Councillor Code of Conduct training.

Trevor Elliot reported that the bus stops will need weeding.

Andrew Hargreaves reported that one of the parish salt bins appears to have been raided.

Alan Whittle reported that the registration numbers for the defibrillator at Red Post Inn had not yet been submitted to The Circuit - The National Defibrillator Network. Alan asked if he could register the device - Trevor Elliot would make enquiries.

Next article for Launcells Parish News – Cllr Andrew Hargreaves

Clearing of dog waste bin – Cllr Maxwell Allin

The meeting closed at 9:08pm

**Next Meeting:           Monday 1<sup>st</sup> November 2021 – 7:30pm**