

Launcells Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Friday 03rd December 2021 at 7:30pm.

Present: Alan Whittle (Chairman), Maxwell Allin, Trevor Elliott, Sheila Minter, Brian Pollard, Matthew Stokes, Graham Tape, Paul Wingard, Ian Saltern (Clerk), one member of the public.

Apologies: Andrew Hargreaves, Cllr Nicky Chopak (Cornwall Council)

A one-minute silence was observed in memory of Peter Harwood, who had dutifully served as a Launcells Parish Councillor for many years, including as Chairman.

409.03/12 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 01st November 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held on 01st November 2021, which had previously been distributed, were approved for signature.

410.03/11 Matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

411.03/12 Report from Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak:

Alan Whittle reported that Nicky Chopak had confirmed that Stratton Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) was to remain open overnight, on most nights, for the foreseeable future. A formal announcement from the health authorities was to follow in due course. Alan also reported that Nicky has sent a note to Cornwall Council's Licensing Department regarding the wood carver who occupies the lay-by on the A3072 east of Kitts Farm. Nicky would not be supporting any future Licencing application made by the wood carver for that location.

412.03/12 Declarations of Interest

Maxwell Allin declared an interest in Item 7 – Planning matters, specifically the application PA21/09987 *Certificate of Lawfulness for use as an unrestricted residential dwelling Prustacott Bungalow Prustacott Road Launcells Bude*. This application had been tabled at the meeting, the consultation letter arriving after the agenda had been issued.

413.03/12 Public participation

The attending member of the public did not raise any issues at this point in the meeting.

414.03/12 Planning matters

PA19/06965 - Argum Villa *Proposed change of use (part retrospective) of storage buildings to fitness studio Land West of Argum Villa, Launcells, Bude – Cornwall* – Alan Whittle reported that neither he, nor Ian Saltern, had received any further correspondence from Cornwall Council regarding the retrospective applications pertaining to this property. Nicky Chopak has been informed that Cornwall Council will permit the two applications with conditions. Alan Whittle posed the question – *what conditions and who will monitor them?*

PA21/01745 - Land South of Kitts Farm, Stratton – Proposed eco lodge – Alan Whittle reported that he had emailed Cornwall Council to say that he was not happy with the '5-day protocol' being used by the Planning Officer to determine this application, and has asked for the application to be raised to Committee.

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Two further planning applications for consideration were sent within the week that the agenda was issued and were tabled at this meeting:

PA21/11471- *Retrospective consent for an outbuilding - 4 Lower Pigsdon Farm Barns Launcells Bude Cornwall* – Alan Whittle recommended that Launcells Parish Council raise no objection to the application. Paul Wingard proposed this, seconded by Trevor Elliot. All voted in favour.

PA21/09987 - *Certificate of Lawfulness for use as an unrestricted residential dwelling Prustacott Bungalow Prustacott Road Launcells Bude* – Maxwell Allin left the room having declared an interest. Alan Whittle said that this application was merely a question of correcting the record and recommended that no objection be raised by Launcells Parish Council. Brian Pollard proposed this, seconded by Matt Stokes. All voted in favour.

415.03/12 Red Post – Update

Sheila Minter reported that she had telephoned the founders to ask about the size of the newly cast sign and whether it could be transported by car. Although on a pallet, it was believed that the sign would fit within a car. Sheila also asked the founders how much it would cost for them to install the sign and they quoted £206.00 plus VAT. The founders suggested Cornwall Council could collect and install the sign. Alan Whittle reported that he has twice sought the advice of Oliver Jones, Highways Manager with CORMAC. Alan recommended that Cornwall Council be approached to undertake collection and installation of the sign. All were in favour of this approach. Alan to contact Oliver Jones.

416.03/12 Budget/Precept setting 2022/2023

Prior to the meeting, all Councillors had received a breakdown of income and expenditure for the current financial year and a projection of anticipated costs for the forthcoming financial year. Alan explained that Launcells Parish Council's finances would be low as a consequence of May's contested election. The financial picture was also complicated by the additional projects which have ringfenced budgets (Red Post reinstallation, Archive Room). Alan explained that the cost of the contested election could be between £1,300 and £3,000 and Parish Council are awaiting confirmation of costs from Cornwall Council. Consequently, there could be an overspend of between £500 and £3,000. Reserves would be impacted and Alan anticipated that total Parish Council expenditure would be at least as much next year as this. The Parish Council has non-discretionary costs in the region of £4,000 per annum. We have been advised to rebuild reserves, if possible, should another contested election occur.

Inflation is currently running at 3.8%. Alan presented 3 options: 1) Do nothing – make further cuts impacting discretionary spending to build reserves. 2) An increase in precept in-line with inflation which will still leave the Parish Council having to make some cuts to discretionary spending. 3) An increase significantly above inflation to maintain levels of discretionary spending. Alan explained that last financial year the Parish Council kept the precept at the same level but the Council Tax base diminished as a consequence of the pandemic. Alan felt that for the coming financial year, the Parish

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Council should only raise the precept in-line with inflation. Graham Tape suggested that the Playing Field Committee could pay half of the costs of grass cutting next year. Alan said that Parish Council will need to be very careful with its discretionary spending in the next financial year and after some discussion a 4% increase in the precept was considered necessary. Paul Wingard proposed this, seconded by Margaret Cleave. All voted in favour.

417.03/12 Clerk's report

Bank signatory/internet banking - Ian Saltern (Clerk) was pleased to report that he was now officially a signatory to the Parish Council's bank account making access to it much easier. However, he stressed a transition to internet banking would make financial transactions easier still. Alan Whittle asked if any Councillors would be prepared to be co-signatories for internet banking. Brian Pollard and Matt Stokes volunteered. Alan Whittle recommended that Ian Saltern investigate and make arrangements to establish internet banking. Graham Tape proposed this, seconded by Brian Pollard. All voted in favour.

Correspondence received – correspondence was noted.

Date of next meeting – the first Monday of January (3rd) is a Bank Holiday; therefore, it was suggested the date of the next meeting be Monday 10th January 2022. All were in agreement.

418.03/12 Chairman's Report

a) Alan Whittle and Simon Beesley as respective Vice-Chair and Chair of the Bude Area Community Network Panel (BACNP), have continued their visits to other Parish Councils meetings in the Network area. Alan wondered if the regular reporting of Launcells Parish Councillor tasks at each monthly Council meeting might be something which could be introduced. All agreed.

Alan reported that at his visit to Poundstock Parish Council, he had noted that the council had a very different, and seemingly useful, approach to Planning Consultations. Two councillors had taken on the task of spending some time learning about the planning process in some detail and, when appropriate, could make very well-argued comments on applications. Alan asked, *should we (Launcells Parish Council) be more prepared for planning cases in the future?* Matt Stokes felt that a better understanding of planning policy would be very helpful and would happily look into this, working with the relevant Poundstock parish councillors.

Burial provision – Alan reported that further investigations showed that Parish Councils do not have a legal obligation to provide burial grounds, in contrast to previous suggestions. Cornwall Council had also confirmed that there was adequate provision across Cornwall as a whole. Finally, it was confirmed that Launcells Parish Council was not a formal consultee with regards to the Crematorium planning application. Alan asked Councillors if they supported a BACNP workshop on the various issues pertaining burial provision. Unanimously, Launcells Parish Councillors agreed that Alan, as their representative at BACNP, would not support such a workshop as part of the BACNP tasks..

b) Grimscott enforcement – Alan reported that Cornwall Council's enforcement officers had ruled that apparent use of a "garden shed" as accommodation was incidental to the use of the property

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concerned. However, the owners of the property have been advised regarding the concreting-over of a parking area. Cornwall Council regard the issues here as closed.

c) Rubbish at Grimscott – A member of the public had raised an issue with rubbish and rats at a property in Grimscott. Ian Saltern to contact Public Health at Cornwall Council and the relevant housing authority.

d) Stratton Minor Injuries Unit – addressed earlier in the meeting (411.03/12).

e) Cornwall Council Consultation on Planning Application Validation List – not relevant to Launcells Parish Council

f) COVID communications from HMG – Alan reported that he is now on the Government's COVID update email list.

419.03/12 Invoices for payment

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Irons Brothers – Red Post manufacture	£4,620.00
Coastal Road Marking – 20 parking bays	£180.00
Cornwall Council – Clerk's salary recharge October 2021	£66.60

It was proposed by Alan Whittle, seconded by Maxwell Allin and unanimously agreed to approve the payments notified on the agenda and presented at the meeting.

Ian Saltern explained that it was anticipated that Launcells Parish Council would be paying the Clerk's salary for November 2021, having requested that the system of Cornwall Council paying the salary and Launcells Parish Council reimbursing it should cease. However, Cornwall Council have yet to terminate the arrangement, so the proposed payment of £202.00 for the Clerk's salary notified on the agenda will not be made by Launcells Parish Council this month.

420.03/12 Other matters

Sheila Minter reported that she had been successful in securing a grant of £25,000 from Vision Zero South West Traffic Award programme which has an ambition to eliminate all death and serious injury on the road network by 2040. The grant must be spent by July and will require Sheila to attend four meetings and must liaise with Cornwall Council Highways Department. The money must be spent in Grimscott and can be used to buy road signs etc. Alan Whittle asked Sheila to send her original application to Oliver Jones at Cornwall Council Highways. Alan thanked Sheila for making the successful application.

Paul Wingard reported that the burnout car near Buttsbear had now gone but had left quite a mess on the road surface. Ian Saltern to inform Highways. Paul also mentioned potholes on Hobbacott Road. He also has concerns about planning application PA21/01745 - *Land South of Kitts Farm, Stratton – Proposed eco lodge*. Paul raised the prospect of installing lights at the two bus shelters in the ownership of the Parish Council at Red Post. Brian Pollard would investigate feasibility of installing lights.

Graham Tape raised the issues of parking and access at Grimscott Estate.

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Trevor Elliot offered to collect the newly-cast Red Post signpost from the founders in his truck.

Alan Whittle reported that he advised the occupier of a static caravan at Red Post to seek appropriate planning permission.

Next article for Launcells Parish News – Ian Saltern (January), Cllr Wingard (February)

Clearing of dog waste bin – Cllr Whittle followed by Cllr Elliot

The meeting closed at 8:55pm

Next Meeting: Monday 10th January 2022 – 7:30pm