

Launcells Parish Council

Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Monday 10th January 2022

at 7:30pm.

Present: Alan Whittle (Chairman), Maxwell Allin, Trevor Elliott, Andrew Hargreaves, Sheila Minter, Brian Pollard, Matthew Stokes, Graham Tape, Paul Wingard, Cllr Nicky Chopak (Cornwall Council), Cllr Simon Beesley (Chairman – Bude Area Community Network Panel), Ian Saltern (Clerk), and two members of the public.

Apologies: Margaret Cleave

421.10/01 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 3rd December 2021:

The minutes of the meeting held on 03rd December 2021, which had previously been distributed, had been corrected to show Margaret Cleave in attendance, and were approved for signature.

422.10/01 Matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere

There were no matters arising.

423.10/01 Cllr Simon Beesley, Chairman – Bude Area Community Network Panel – an opportunity to discuss issues

Simon explained his role as Chair of the BACNP and that meetings were, at present, held virtually. Simon as Chair, and Alan Whittle as Vice-Chair, have visited Bude-Stratton Town Council and other Parish Councils in the Community Network Area to hear concerns and issues. Simon reported that Stratton Minor Injuries Unit (MIU) would be operating as it currently does until further notice. NHS Kernow Clinical Commissioning Group has a new Chief Executive, and the message remains 'use the MIU or lose it'. A date has been set for meetings to begin regarding burial provision in the Bude Community Network Area. The Network Panel has also been investigating the feasibility of, and funding for, installing electric vehicle charging points. Simon then opened the floor to Parish Councillors to raise issues. Paul Wingard was concerned that Parish Councils seemed to have very little influence over planning matters and that their views did not seem to count. Simon responded saying that the issue of enforcement is one that had been raised by other Parish Councils. Simon recommended that members of public raising objections to planning issues should always send a copy of their correspondence to their Parish Council to keep it informed. Andrew Hargreaves was concerned about a perceived lack of accountability regarding Cornwall Council officers. He asked that if more than 90% of planning decisions are now being made by officers through delegated powers, to whom are those officers accountable? He also said that health provision was a problem at primary level in the area. Graham Tape felt that local bus services were not adequate. The comment was also made that Highways "were blind to issues outside Truro". Paul Wingard was concerned that Cornwall Council had not reported the cost of holding local elections in May 2021 in time to inform the Parish Council's precept setting. Trevor Elliott felt that 'use it or lose it' was an odd way of providing any service.

424.10/01 Report from Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak:

Nicky mentioned that until recently, control of Stratton MIU was handed over to NHS Kernow at 10pm to provide overnight services. This would now be brought forward to 8pm which will ensure better staffing provision. For the medium term the service remains secure. Nicky reported that she had spoken with Jane Wells, Managing Partner of the Ruby Country Medical Group (operating in Holsworthy and Stratton). There is currently a resource issue with people wishing to consult GPs more regularly than usual. Nicky said that the concerns about GP services in Stratton had been understood by Mrs Wells. Discussion ensued about personal experiences of health provision in the area. Nicky reported that Cornwall Council had been surprised by the enthusiasm from Parish Council regarding the proposed '20 is Plenty' traffic speed reduction programme. She recommended that Launcells Parish Council write to Cornwall Council to request involvement in the programme.

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425.10/01 Declarations of Interest

Matthew Stokes declared an interest in Item 8 – Planning matters - *PA21/10961 - Reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline consent PA20/04321 dated 20.08.2020 for the construction of a managers dwelling to serve the wedding and events business Land East of Launcells Barton Launcells Bude Cornwall.*

426.10/01 Public participation

A parishioner living near to Launcells Cross informed the Parish Council of a letter he had received from the Post Office stating that it would no longer be possible to deliver post to his address as the road (B3254) was deemed too dangerous for their postal operatives due to speeding traffic. Other parishioners had also received such a letter. Nicky Chopak asked if she could have a copy of the letter and that she would investigate the matter. Nicky reported that the budget formerly provided to the Community Network Panel for addressing traffic issues is now devolved to her. Nicky would visit Launcells Cross with Highways Manager Oliver Jones and seek to make improvements if possible. She needs to determine if the issue is one of safety or is cosmetic. If one of safety, Highways pays for improvements, if cosmetic she can pay through her budget. Alan Whittle reminded Councillors that Sheila Minter had also secured £25,000 of funding to address traffic concerns in the parish. Andrew Hargreaves reported that there had been three serious accidents at that location – it was dangerous crossroads and the mirror provided was not sufficient. It was agreed that the matter would be brought to the attention of Oliver Jones at the Grimscott Vision Zero road safety meeting on Friday 14th (see below)

427.10/01 Planning matters

PA21/10961 - *Reserved matters of appearance, landscaping, layout and scale following outline consent PA20/04321 dated 20.08.2020 for the construction of a managers dwelling to serve the wedding and events business, Land east of Launcells Barton EX23 9NQ.* Matthew Stokes left the room having declared an interest in this item. Alan Whittle read the comments given previously by Launcells Parish Council when consulted regarding PA20/04321. Discussion ensued regarding the proposed size and design of the dwelling. Alan asked Councillors if they felt that the design was consistent with surrounding listed buildings – a majority of Councillors felt it was not. Alan next asked Councillors if they felt the proposed dwelling was a suitable size – a majority of Councillors felt it was not. The following form of words was agreed by a majority of Councillors and would be Launcells Parish Council's formal response to the request for comment: *In considering this application Launcells Parish Council is of the view that the proposed size and design of the accommodation is not consistent with the surrounding listed buildings, as stated in our previous comments. If permission to build is granted, Launcells Parish Council recommends that a condition is inserted stating that the building must remain as manager's accommodation and could not be sold as a private residence.*

PA21/12249 - *Certificate of lawfulness for the existing use of raised decking with glass balustrading and steps down to the ground. 4 Lower Pigsdon Farm Barns Access to Pigsdon Farm Launcells EX23 9LQ.* Alan Whittle drew Councillors' attention to the scale of development which had taken place at this location. It was agreed that Launcells Parish Council's formal response to the request for comment would be *Launcells Parish Council has no comment.*

A planning application on which Launcells Parish Council had been asked to comment was received following circulation of the agenda, and was tabled at the meeting - **PA21/12381** - *Variation of condition 1 in respect of decision CC/NC/2004/00433/OCM [NC72.ENV(1)] dated 31/01/2006 thereby extending the time for the continuation of operations beyond 30 September 2023 for a further 5 years.* Andrew Hargreaves felt that Launcells Parish Council should object to the application unless and until an

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Environmental Impact Assessment or similar report was submitted by the Environment Agency. Councillors agreed unanimously with this recommendation.

428.10/01 Red Post – Update

Alan Whittle reported on the re-establishment of the signpost which took place on Saturday 11 December and was attended by the Chairman, Cllrs Minter and Pollard and the Clerk. The contribution towards costs of re-establishing the signpost from Cornwall Council (£376.22) had now been received. Alan will ask surrounding businesses if they would host a security camera trained on the signpost to ensure future security. Nicky Chopak suggested that the Council investigate including the signpost on its insurance - the Clerk to take forward. Paul Wingard suggested the provision of signs notifying the public that the signpost was under security surveillance.

429.10/01 Vision Zero Traffic Scheme

Cllrs Minter, Whittle and Tape will meet with Highways Manager Oliver Jones to discuss the Vision Zero scheme and how the £25,000 grant can be best utilised within the parish. It was suggested that the current 60mph speed limit between Kilkhampton and Grimscott be reduced to 40mph, but the issue of enforcing that reduced limit would remain. Likewise, Sheila suggested a new 'pedestrians' sign be erected south of Grimscott, to match that to the north. Possibly also a 'farm animals in road ahead' sign. Nicky Chopak said that Oliver Jones would be cautious about introducing too many new signs and they have not been shown to make significant difference to reducing speeding. Sheila suggested that a 'radar speed sign' which shows the speed of passing traffic could be introduced. Paul Wingard asked if some of the Vision Zero grant money could be used to reduce the incidence of people driving on green lanes in the parish. Alan Whittle suggested sending a photograph of those using green lanes to the local Police liaison officer.

430.10/01 Councillor Tasks

Playing Field – Moles have become an issue. Maxwell Allin suggested traps. Paul Wingard suggested windmills. Graham Tape suggested mothballs. A solution would be decided upon after inspection.

Parish Hall – no problems reported. Discussion ensued regarding the provision of souvenir mugs for young people, or indeed, all parishioners to mark the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty the Queen. Graham Tape reported that a parish 'tea' would be held during the Jubilee celebrations in June. Alan Whittle suggested that Councillors think about other activities which the Council could encourage regarding the Jubilee and report back at February's meeting.

Churchyard and Chapel graveyard – Graham Tape suggested that Matthew Stokes contact Derek Cole regarding the Chapel graveyard.

Bus Shelter – Cornwall council have suggested that they would procure and install solar lighting for the bus stops if the parish council agreed to carry out ongoing maintenance. This was agreed. Nicky Chopak suggested that it might also be possible to power digital timetables from same power source. This will be explored via Highways.

Commons – Sheila Minter reported that the Commons were boggy but otherwise satisfactory.

Footpaths – Alan Whittle reminded Councillors to remain alert to possible ash dieback on trees bordering footpaths. Graham Tape reported die back has affected small ash trees at the playing field.

Roads and salt bins – Andrew Hargreaves reported there were no issues.

Defibrillator – Alan Whittle reported no issues. Alan felt that the Parish Council should begin the process of revising its Emergency Plan.

431.10/01 Archive Room

Alan Whittle reported that he was now able to take accurate readings of power used in heating the Archive Room. Heating has been reset to a lower, consistent, temperature using less electricity. Alan had written to the Launcells History Group to report that heating would now cost in the region of £1 per day

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and had asked the History Group to consider how payments could be made in the future. Alan explained that after accruals for the learning resources, there was £875 remaining in the Archive Room project budget. It would be possible to direct the Parish Council contribution towards the Archive Room project to cover the costs of heating the Room in the foreseeable future. Alan proposed this solution and it was unanimously agreed by Councillors.

432.10/01 Bus Stop lighting

Addressed at item 430.10/01.

433.10/01 Election expenses

Alan Whittle reported that the Parish Council had now been notified by Cornwall Council of the costs of holding the local elections held in May 2021. This was £1,312.58 – less than anticipated.

433.10/01 Clerk's Report

a) Online banking – the Clerk reported that he would make arrangements to establish online banking before the next Parish Council meeting.

434.10/01 Chairman's Report

a) Bude Area Community Network Panel – Parish meetings, burial provision etc – addressed at item 423.10/01.

b) Stratton Minor Injuries Unit - addressed at item 423.10/01.

c) Street Trading renewal licence – Alan Whittle explained that Launcells Parish Council had objected to the renewal of the Street Trading licence for the woodcarver at Hobbacott Down, but Cornwall Council's Licencing Department had requested that the Parish Council give substantive reasons for its objection. Nicky Chopak reported that she is now on Cornwall Council's Licencing Committee and would support Launcells Parish Council's objection. Nicky asked if Launcells Parish Council could provide a history of problems caused by woodcarver to substantiate her position.

d) Launcells Parish website – Alan Whittle expressed his concerns that it might not be possible for the person currently maintaining the website to do so in the longer-term and suggested the Parish Council consider alternatives. Nicky Chopak suggested someone who might be able to review the site. It was unanimously agreed to pursue this option.

435.10/01 Invoices for payment

Playing Field Grass-cutting	£588.11
Cornwall Council – Clerk's salary recharge October 2021	£208.00
Clerk's salary – December 2021	£202.00

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

436.10/01 Other matters

Maxwell Allin reported that there was still water from a drain running over the road at Grimscott. This will also be raised with Oliver Jones. Maxwell also asked if trees which need to be felled could be temporarily stored at the dog-walking area. All present agreed this would be acceptable. All present also agreed to include Launcells Cross within the Vision Zero project.

Next article for Launcells Parish News – Cllr Paul Wingard, March – Cllr Alan Whittle
Clearing of dog waste bin – Cllr Trevor Elliot

The meeting closed at 9:08pm

Next Meeting: Monday 7th February 2022 – 7:30pm