

# Launcells Parish Council

**Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held in the Parish Hall on Friday 04<sup>th</sup> March 2022**

**at 7:30pm.**

**Present:** Alan Whittle (Chairman), Maxwell Allin, Margaret Cleave, Trevor Elliott, Andrew Hargreaves, Brian Pollard, Matthew Stokes, Graham Tape, Paul Wingard, Ian Saltern (Clerk).

**Apologies:** Sheila Minter, Cllr Nicky Chopak (Cornwall Council)

**452.04/03 To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2022:**

The minutes of the meeting held on 07<sup>th</sup> February 2022 were amended to correct the date of the minutes approved from the previous month and to include the payment of the Clerk under invoices for payment.

**453.04/03 Matters arising from these minutes not dealt with elsewhere:**

There were no matters arising not being dealt with elsewhere.

**454.04/03 Report from Cornwall Councillor Nicky Chopak:**

In Cllr Chopak's absence, Alan Whittle reported that no further planning issues has been brought to his attention. Other updates that Cllr Chopak had provided will be dealt with elsewhere on the agenda.

**455.04/03 Declarations of Interest:**

There were none.

**456.04/03 Public participation:**

None attending.

**457.04/03 Planning matters:**

**PA22/01894** – Autumnleaze, EX22 7HB – *Erection of a timber framed garden building which will be used as a gym/summer house.* Information pertaining to this application had been circulated to Councillors by the Clerk. Comment from Launcells Parish Council is required by 25 March 2022. Paul Wingard asked if the Clerk could include a direct link to the planning application on Cornwall Council's planning portal when circulating the emails requesting comment.

**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.* Alan Whittle reported that this application has now been approved and that a majority of Councillors had agreed with the final recommendation of the Planning Officer. Alan raised the issue of Councillors not responding in sufficient time to the increasing number of '5-day protocol' requests for comment on planning matters. Alan encouraged Councillors to respond as quickly as possible.

**EN15/01833** – 1 Haywoods. Alan Whittle reported that Cornwall Council had taken the owners of 1 Haywoods (formerly known as Red Post) to court. At court, the owners pleaded guilty of a failure to comply with the Enforcement Notice served under the case. The owners were fined and Cornwall Council awarded full costs. Cornwall Council are now waiting for the guilty party's barrister to provide the council with their mitigation for failure to comply with the requirements of the Enforcement Notice. Progress on mitigation will be circulated when available. Alan Whittle said that very few enforcement actions are taken to court, only 14 over the last five years according to "CornwallLive", March 2, 2022, on the basis of a FOI request, so this result was a success for Launcells Parish Council which had originally lodged the complaint. Alan said that he would like to publicise this further and thanked Nicky Chopak for her assistance with this. Ian Saltern suggested that the data on the low number of court cases be shared with the Cornwall Association of Local Councils (CALC) to be circulated to Town and Parish Councils across Cornwall. Andrew Hargreaves agreed that this was a good idea.

Alan Whittle expressed concern about number of '5-day Protocol' requests emanating from Cornwall Council. He felt that this was not an appropriate means of discussing and deciding on planning applications as it did not provide an opportunity for the public to input into decision making. However, Nicky Chopak had explained that the protocol was only used when asking a particular consultee (in these cases, Launcells

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Parish Council) to review their previous recommendation in light of new information, and was thus seen as only a follow-up to the original consultation process. Alan suggested that Launcells Parish Council raise this issue with CALC as he felt that it was anti-democratic. All agreed.

## **458.04/03 Woodcarver, Hobbacott Layby, Street Trading License Renewal:**

A recording of the hearing is present on the Cornwall Council Street Trading Sub-committee website, and so the decision is in the public domain, despite the absence of formal minutes at the time of this meeting.

Alan Whittle reported that Launcells Parish Council lost its argument against the renewal of a Street Trading License for the Woodcarver at Hobbacott Layby. Alan Whittle explained how the process had been conducted at the hearing, which had been held via video link. Alan, on behalf of the Parish Council, had entered three reasons for objection – obstruction, dangerous driving and residual mess. Cllr Nicky Chopak had also attended the hearing and opposed the application on grounds of mess, irritation and obstruction. Ultimately, the hearing decided to give the Woodcarver permission to continue with no restrictions save for possibly reseeding the grass. Alan Whittle asked if Launcells Parish Council wanted to continue to oppose and what more it could do. Andrew Hargreaves asked Alan Whittle's view of why the Woodcarver had been given permission once again. In the absence of any information, Alan will ask Nicky Chopak to find out more about why permission had been given. Andrew Hargreaves felt that Launcells Parish Council should continue to object, and to specifically ask Cornwall Council Highways why they are not objecting to the obstruction which is caused in the lay-by.

## **459.04/03 HM Queen, Platinum Jubilee:**

Graham Tape reported that the Parish Hall Committee has now secured 120 mugs and is actively putting together a list of those families requesting a mug for their children. The Committee was doing all it could to ensure that no child within the Parish missed-out on the opportunity of receiving a mug. A cream tea will be held in the Parish Hall on 3<sup>rd</sup> June. Alan Whittle thanked the Parish Hall Committee for all its work.

## **460.04/03 Red Post - future security:**

Alan Whittle reminded Councillors of the proposal to place a CCTV camera in the Red Post Joinery premises, pointing at the Red Post signpost. Effectively, there were two choices of CCTV camera – one which has a Secure Digital (SD) Card like those used in dashcams, which overwrites itself. The other choice includes the card, but is also internet enabled and which can be accessed remotely to ensure it is functioning correctly. Both options will require Launcells Parish Council to register with the Information Commissioner's Office at a cost of £40 per year, and the Parish Council would need write a protocol which it must adhere to. This General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) protocol for the internet option could be expected to be rather more complex.

Brian Pollard agreed that an internet-linked camera was the best solution. Trevor Elliott suggested that a camera was purchased with a battery back-up in case of power failure. Alan Whittle would investigate. Andrew Hargreaves preferred the simpler option (SD card) with longer memory and back-up power supply. Alan Whittle will report back with details of the both proposals next month. All Councillors agreed to meet costs of providing security camera.

## **461.04/03 Bus Stop lighting:**

Alan Whittle explained that Launcells Parish Council would be responsible for maintaining newly provided lighting at the bus stop. Alan is awaiting further information from Cornwall Council Highways.

## **462.04/03 Vision Zero Traffic Scheme:**

This work is progressing in Highways, and in the meanwhile a 'Radar class speed monitoring unit' has been installed.

## **463.04/03 Playing Field:**

Alan Whittle reported that diseased ash trees need to be taken down at the Playing Field.

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## **464.04/03 Responses to emails:**

This issue was addressed under 457.04/03 Planning matters.

## **465.04/03 Councillors' Tasks:**

Playing Field – Maxwell Allin reported that there was no further mole activity.

Parish Hall – Graham Tape reported that the roof had been fixed following Storm Eunice – Alan Whittle thanked Graham and Caroline Nunn for all their work in addressing the roof of the Hall. The repairs had been completed within one day.

Churchyard and Chapel graveyard – Matthew Stokes reported that Churchyard had no issues. The Chapel Bus Shelter – The bus shelter and mirrors had been cleaned.

Commons – Maxwell Allin reported that the second bungalow on Moreton Lane has registered land which might be part of the Commons with Land Registry. Andrew Hargreaves recommended that the Land Registry be contacted by the Parish Council and informed that pending the Parish Council's investigation into Common ownership of the ground (dating to Middle Ages), the Parish Council would be grateful if the registering of the land could be held in abeyance until ownership is determined. Trevor Elliott requested a map of land in question. Ian Saltern would provide and circulate to all Councillors.

Footpaths – Ian Saltern reported that he is making every effort to contact Mr Jose regarding the cutting of the footpaths.

Defibrillator – Alan Whittle would undertake his regular check of the device.

## **466.04/03 Clerk's Report:**

Annual Audit – Ian Saltern reported that the Auditors used by the Parish Council in previous years had been in contact to confirm that they were to be retained. They would be in contact again towards the end of March. Ian Saltern to report next month on options for changing Parish Council bank accounts.

## **467.04/03 Chairman's Report:**

Hersham Fields – Alan Whittle explained that he is keeping an eye on developments here and that complaints were still being received. Tamara Coast to Coast Walk – Alan Whittle asked for thoughts on the proposed path linking Cornwall's north and south coast via the Tamar. This would try to keep on established footpaths as much as possible. The project had the potential to resolve the Plan Keeper's Path woodwork issues which mean the path is currently closed. The Tamara Coast to Coast Walk is at the consultation stage at the moment. Brian Pollard felt there was a lot of road used within the proposed path. Andrew Hargreaves raised the issue of Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) along Tamar – little of it being in public ownership and there would be a high cost to make the path if landowners were willing. Flooding was also an issue – Andrew felt it was a nice idea but that there were practical issues – might need pavements to make it safe in some areas.

Alan Whittle raised the issue of the disruption caused by moving the monthly Parish Council meeting because of his need to attend the Community Network Panel meeting. Alan asked Councillors if they were willing to tolerate the inconvenience of moving Parish Council meetings to ensure that Cllr Nicky Chopak could attend. All Councillors felt the benefits outweighed the disadvantages. Trevor Elliott reported that Fridays can be a problem for him. Alan said that we must be conscious of asking to move meetings in a timely fashion.

## **468.04/03 Finance:**

Invoices for payment:

CALC Introduction to Planning – Training	£36.00
Clerk's Salary – February 2022	£202.00
GJ & YV Pears – Bus Stop and Mirror Cleaning	£30.00 (tabled at meeting)

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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.

## **469.04/03 Other matters:**

Next article for Launcells Parish News – Cllr Trevor Elliott, Cllr Brian Pollard

## **470.04/03 Matters for consideration at the Chairman's discretion:**

Paul Wingard felt that the Parish Council should make a public pronouncement regarding the situation in Ukraine. Alan Whittle felt that it would be better to do something practical, such as putting pressure on MPs to loosen rules regarding visas for refugees. Andrew Hargreaves suggested something should be published in the Parish Magazine and on the Parish website. Ian Saltern reported that CALC has distributed information about ways of assisting the situation in Ukraine and that this could be published on the website and in the magazine.

Matthew Stokes will send notes regarding his planning training to Ian Saltern who will circulate them to all Councillors. Matthew felt that the training had been very useful and it will assist Launcells Parish Council in commenting on planning applications and making site visits.

The meeting closed at pm 8:45pm

**Next Meeting:                    Monday 04<sup>th</sup> April 2022 – 7:30pm**