

# St Martin – By - Looe Parish Council

MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> FEBRUARY 2018  
AT 7.30PM AT NO MAN'S LAND MEMORIAL HALL.

## Attended by:

Chair: Robert Henly, Vice-Chair: Roberta Powley.  
Parish Councillors: Barbara Reynolds, Lynne Burt, David Keeble,  
Simon Lawes, Andrea Lankston.  
Mr Charles Hyde, Clerk and Proper Officer of the Council.  
County Councillor Armand Toms.

## Public Question Time & Councillors Comments on Declared Interests:

Nothing raised.

## Agenda Item 1: Declarations of Interest:

None declared.

## Agenda Item 2: Apologies for absence:

PCSO David Billing.

## Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting:

**3.1.1: Minutes for the Parish Council Meeting held on 4<sup>th</sup> January 2018.** It was proposed by Councillor Lawes, seconded by Councillor Burt, and agreed 6 – 0 (Councillor Reynolds did not attend the meeting due to illness and therefore abstained from the vote), that they be taken as read and signed by the Chairman as a true and accurate record of the meeting.

## Agenda Item 4: Planning Applications:

**4.1.1: Application:** PA18/00784.

**Proposal:** Barn Extension to provide automated milking parlour.

**Location:** Treveria Farm, St Martin by Looe.

**Applicant:** Mr. P Kitto.

**Grid Ref:** 228259/56652.

**Parish Council's Decision:** Approved with no issues. Proposed by Councillor Reynolds, , seconded by Councillor Lankston, approved unanimously.

## Agenda Item 5: Planning Decisions received by the date of the meeting: None received.

## Agenda Item 6: Planning Matters:

**6.1.1: Planning Conference –** 4.30pm St Johns Hall, Penzance, 27<sup>th</sup> Feb 2018. (£12 charge).  
*Noted.*

## 6.2: Correspondence –

In information pack.

## Agenda Item 7: – Finance.

### 7.1.1: Summary of Accounts.

#### **Reconciled balances date 01/02/2018**

Opening Bank Balances 1 <sup>st</sup> April 2017	£22,888.41
Income to date	£13,800.53
Expenditure to date	£9,239.50
Balance to date	£27,449.44

## **7.2: Accounts paid in January 2018.**

Cheque No	Organisation	Amount
764	CF Hyde - Clerk expenses	51.86
765	Cornwall Council - Clerks December Salary	585.76
764	Cornwall Council – Magazine Print cost	29.00
767	St Martin's Village Hall Trust – Annual Hall Hire	110.00
766	Viking Direct	92.92
		Total
		869.54

## **7.3: Income in January 2018.**

Jul-Dec 17	Bank Interest		£	2.48
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It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Lankston that Items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 are ratified. ALL AGREED.

## **7.4: Requests for Funding received by date of meeting.**

**7.4.1: Revitalise** – Letter of thanks and information circulated in the December information pack on how last year's donation was spent, also request to be considered again this year. (£50 Dec 2016).

Discussions ensued and it was proposed by Vice Chairman Powley, seconded by The Chairman that £50 be donated again this year. All agreed.

## **7.5: Receipts and letters of thanks received by the date of the meeting.**

None received.

## **7.6: Financial Business.**

**7.6.1: Oak Johnson** – Invoice received for only one cut last year as all works not carried out due to footpath closure and lack of time.

## **7.7: Accounts to be paid in February 2018.**

It was proposed by Councillor Keeble, seconded by Vice Chairman Powley that the following be authorised for payment. ALL AGREED.

Cheque No	Organisation	Amount
768	CF Hyde - Clerk expenses	52.42
769	Cornwall Council - Clerks January Salary	585.76
770	Dave Peak Waste	261.60
771	Oak Johnson – Path maintenance	60.00
772	Revitalise – Donation.	50.00
		Total
		1009.78

## **Agenda Item 8: Reports on Matters arising from the Minutes.**

**8.1.1: Grit Bins** – Dave Peat Waste have inspected and refilled all of the grit bins in the Parish.

**8.1.2: Rural Housing Alliance** – A Practical Guide for Parish Councils (Re: the proposed housing development at No Man's Land). Further discussion now required.

The Duchy of Cornwall have commissioned a **Topographical survey** of the site prior to appointing architects. The Parish Council now need to form a working party to discuss and arrange a public meeting to assess the resident's requests and concerns.

Discussions ensued including comments raised by a homeowner who attended the meeting, and it was decided to hold a closed meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> February at 7.30pm to form a working party and discuss how best to communicate with residents of the parish.

**8.1.3: Highway Debris and Drain Clearance** – Reported again to Cormac Solutions, road sweep has been carried out and some drains have been cleared. The outfall on the B3253 has a problem as the water is not draining away, and further investigations are needed to identify the problem.

County Councillor Armand Toms and The Chairman will meet with the Officer at Cornwall Council to discuss the contract arrangements with Cormac Solutions and the effect on the highways in the Parish. The meeting to take place on 2<sup>nd</sup> February at No Man's Land.

**8.1.4: Dog Waste and Litter Bin at Holland Farm** – Reported to Cornwall Council.

Needing emptying again – County Councillor Armand Toms will report this time.

**8.1.5: The Roll of The Parish Council** – The Clerk has written to the CEO of Cornwall Council Kate Kennally (copy attached). Following which a meeting has been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 11.30am at Luxstowe House with David Read, representatives of Cornwall Council and Cormac Solutions to discuss face to face the Parish Councils concerns. The Chairman and The Clerk will represent the Parish Council.

Discussions ensued and a list of points to be raised at the meeting has been compiled.

#### **Agenda Item 9: Business received after publication of agenda:**

**9.1.1: Proposal to change car parking charges. 2018 Off – Street Parking Order consultation**

– The Chairman read out the letter regarding the proposals and discussions took place. The Parish Council agreed to support the changes, the Clerk to inform Parking Services.

#### **Agenda Item 10: Information received from CC and other Authorities:**

##### **10.1.1: Cornwall Council.**

**Communities and Devolution team** –Newsletters and Special Bulletins.

##### **10.1.2: Other Authorities.**

**Looe Town Council** – February Events in and Around Looe.

**CALC** – Transparency Code requirements and copy of the report for St Martin by Looe Parish Council. All actions highlighted have been rectified.

#### **Agenda Item 11: New Business:**

None received.

#### **Agenda Item 12: Around the table:**

##### ***Councillor Reynolds:***

**Bindown Post Office** – Councillor Reynolds asked if the Parish Council could send a letter to the Post Office expressing concern as to how long it has taken to repair faulty equipment, which has resulted in the Post office being closed for several weeks, causing inconvenience and additional expense to residents and loss of revenue to the owner who has been forced to put the business on the market for sale.

Discussions ensued and it was agreed to send a letter to the CEO Paula Vennells.

**Fair Funding for Cornwall** – Councillor Reynolds asked everyone to sign the petition for Fair Funding For Cornwall which has been created by Adam Painter at Cornwall Council.

Cornwall receives considerably less per head of population for all aspects of public services, but particularly education and health. The Petition can be found on the Cornwall Council website.

##### ***Councillor Keeble:***

**Abandoned vehicle** – The vehicle is opposite the property known as Windsor, it has been there a few weeks now and is a red Toyota Pickup, registration number R81 FRL. The Clerk to contact PCSO Dave Billing.

##### ***Councillor Lawes:***

**Millendreath Parking Incident and double yellow lines** – A road safety incident was reported to various authorities by a chalet owner that has resulted in much debate.

After looking into the alleged incident which cannot be confirmed as it has not been logged with the Police or Cornwall Council, Councillor Lawes contacted all of the residents concerned and has written a report which he would like the approval to submit to all concerned. This was agreed and the Clerk will submit the report.

**Councillor Lankston:**

**Bindown Post Office** – Councillor Lankston supports Councillor Reynolds request to write to the Post Office about the faulty equipment (see above), as the Post Office closure has caused additional expenses when topping up energy use devices.

**Councillor Burt:**

**Closed footpath at Treveria** – When the weather improves Councillors Burt and Lankston intend to walk the closed footpath to take photographs and report back on the paths condition.

**Vice-Chairman:**

**Bindown Road (Morval Parish) pot holes and spring running down the road** – These are constantly being repaired but due the natural spring the repairs are quickly washed away. The Clerk to contact Morval Parish Council.

**Chairman:**

Nothing raised.

**County Councillor Armand Toms:**

**Incident on Looe sea front** – County Councillor Armand Toms intervened in a incident in Looe, five phone calls were made to the Police who took over an hour to attend.

**Superfast Broadband** – As part of the Community Network Panel, County Councillor Armand Toms attended a meeting with the Superfast Broadband Team and BT to discuss how to provided a better broadband service to rural houses and businesses. Currently a £1700 grant is available for small groups of residents to help fund better connections. An article for the Parish Magazine will be submitted with full information for residents.

**PCSO Dave Billing:**

**Police Report** - Firstly please accept my apologies for not being able to attend tonight's meeting. I am on a late shift on the 1<sup>st</sup> March so I shall attend March's meeting, if there are any issues raised at tonight's meeting that require a Police input please email me.

During the month of January there were no crimes reported within the Parish. We have continued to monitor the situation with the overtaking of the buses and to date we have not seen any offending vehicles.

Police Sergeant Rupert Engley has now taken over as the Neighbourhood Team Leader but at the moment is covering the role of Sector Inspector for a few months, it is intended that someone else will cover the NTL role for this period of time.

Date and Time of Next Meetings: **Housing Scheme Working Party Meeting** – February 15<sup>th</sup>, 7.30pm, at No Man's Land Memorial Hall.

**Parish Council Meeting**, March 1<sup>st</sup> 2018, 7.30pm,

There being no other business the meeting closed at 9.07pm

# St.Martin-By-Looe Parish Council

Parish Clerk, 8 Trelawny Road, Menheniot, Liskeard, PL14 3TS

Tel: 01579 340905 E-Mail: stmartinpc1@btinternet.com

Ms. Kennally  
CEO  
Cornwall Council  
County Hall  
Truro

08/01/2018

Dear Ms. Kennally

It is with sadness that I feel the need to write this letter to you, but the current situation with the budget cuts is becoming unsustainable.

As a Parish Council we are beginning to question our purpose, as these days very little that we ask to be attended to is done by the relevant departments at Cornwall Council.

Items continually reported to Cornwall Council relate to the state of the highways, in particular the cuts in routine maintenance, the neglect of the open spaces, footpaths and the Council housing estates.

Our Parish has a small population for its size, is very rural and is valued by its people. We have a relatively small network of roads (mainly single track) and one B road running through the main village of population. We have a stretch of the Coastal Footpath and a couple of silver and gold paths which we maintain when we can (when not closed!)

Sadly we have had to report on many occasions to Cormac Solutions by email and site visits with Paul Allen, the state of the drains and the lack of regular maintenance of our roads. Last night once again the B3253 at No Man's Land flooded making driving conditions challenging on what is a very dangerous stretch of road anyway. Also flooding has occurred at Bucklawren Road and at Millendreath, all of this caused by blocked drains.

The Councils policy of reducing regular maintenance to the highway network is surely costing more money in road repairs than is being saved. It's unbelievable that in 2017/8 that our County Councillor Armand Toms and one of our Parish Councillors Simon Lawes had to go out in challenging weather conditions in the dark to clear the drains at Millendreath and No Man's Land all because of budget cuts, without their efforts property would have been flooded and thousands of pounds worth of damage done.

We are also concerned that our small network of public paths and bridleways are being lost due to lack of maintenance and repair, our silver path has been closed now for three years, a huge loss to the parish and there is no sign of repair work being planned.

At last night's Parish Council meeting we discussed whether we should fund the routine maintenance of the highways and paths, this of course would have to be funded by an increase in our precept, a move which would make us very unpopular with our hard pressed parishioners, many of whom live on very low incomes.

We already pay for the open spaces to be maintained, we try to keep the Council owned housing estate looking good, which in turn gives the residents an incentive to maintain their own gardens, although we do still have a few properties looking very unkempt and grass verges churned up by vehicles parking, a situation which Cornwall Housing seems to ignore despite our requests for help!

I have been the Parish Clerk for over 12 years and I have to admit that I am now finding the job is no longer rewarding, and talking with other Clerks this is not unusual, as they too are finding dealing with Cornwall Council (particularly as now nearly every department is in the West of the County) extremely difficult as very little is ever done.

The only department where I feel cooperation has improved is planning, communication is much better now and I do feel we are listened to, however we do still have some issues with paperless planning for large applications; we were promised by Edwina Hannaford that paper copies would still be supplied for large applications, this promise has been broken which has caused us some problems.

The roll of the Parish Council is important to the community, however that roll is fast becoming redundant as parishioners feel there is no point in raising issues, as very little is seen to be done, despite all the hard work put in by Parish Councillors and Clerks throughout the County, this is very sad.

Regards and thank you for reading this letter.

Charles Hyde

Parish Clerk, St Martin by Looe Parish Council.

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