

St Martin – By - Looe Parish Council

MINUTES FOR THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING AT 7.30PM.
HELD ON THURSDAY 6th MARCH 2025 AT NO MAN'S LAND MEMORIAL HALL.

Attended by:

Chairman: Robert Henly.
Vice-Chair: Roberta Powley.
Parish Councillors: Barbara Reynolds, Andrea Lankston (by Teams).
Simon Lawes, David Keeble & Jill Spicer.
County Councillor Armand Toms.
Charles Hyde, Parish Clerk & Proper Officer of the Council.

Public Question Time and Councillors Comments on Declared Interests:

Richard Dorling, South East Cornwall Candidate – Introduced himself to the Parish Council as he is standing for election to Cornwall Council.

Agenda Item 1: Declarations of Interest:

Parish Councillor Jill Spicer 5.1.1 Personal Property owner.

Agenda Item 2: Apologies for absence:

PCSO David Billing. (report sent by email).

Agenda Item 3: Minutes of the Parish Council Meeting:

3.1.1: Minutes for the Parish Meeting held on 6th February 2025 It was proposed by Councillor Reynolds, seconded by Councillor Lawes and agreed 5 – 0 votes (Councillors Keeble and Spicer did not attend the meeting) 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:

None declared.

Agenda Item 5: Planning Decisions received by the date of the meeting:

5.1.1: Application No: PA24/09814.

Proposal: Application for a Lawful Development Certificate for the existing use of Looe Country Park Caravan and Campsite, as outlined in red on the accompanying Site Location Plan, as a caravan site continuously in breach of Condition 2 of planning permission Ref 5/74/0760.

Location: Looe Country Park Caravan and Campsite, Bucklawren Road, No Mans Land, Looe.

Applicant: Ms Jill Spicer.

Grid Ref: 228135 / 55846.

Cornwall Council's Decision: Approved.

Agenda Item 6: Planning Matters:

None received.

6.2: Correspondence:

Forwarded by email where possible.

7.1.1: Summary of Accounts.

Reconciled balances date 27/02/25.

Opening Bank Balances 1 st April 2024	£25,227.05
Income to date	£13,708.80
Expenditure to date	£11,521.88
Balance to date	£27,413.97

7.2: Accounts paid in February 2025.

Cheque No	Organisation	Amount
BACS	CF Hyde – Clerks January 2025 Internet package & expenses.	59.98
BACS	Cornwall Council - Clerks Salary January 2025.	722.93
BACS	HP Instant Ink (Monthly subscription) paid by C Hyde	5.49
BACS	Duchy Defibrillators – Annual Charge	372.00
	Total	1160.40

7.3: Income in January/February 2025.

31-Jan-25	Bank Interest	£	25.14
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It was proposed by Councillor Keeble, seconded by Councillor Lawes that Items 7.1, 7.2 and 7.3 are ratified. ALL AGREED.

7.4: Requests for Funding received by date of meeting

None received.

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

None received.

7.6: Financial Business.

7.7.1: Accounts to be paid in March 2025.

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

Cheque No	Organisation	Amount
BACS	CF Hyde – Clerks February 2025 Internet package & expenses.	50.00
BACS	Cornwall Council - Clerks Salary February 2025.	722.93
BACS	HP Instant Ink (Monthly subscription) paid by C Hyde	5.49
BACS	A Chudleigh – Grass cutting, weeding, bus shelter tidy up	700.00
	Total	1478.42

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

8.1.1: Bucklawren Road Flooding – In the exceptional heavy rain the road has flooded again, work to clear field pipes is needed. The Clerk reported this to Cormac who agreed work needed to be carried out. Ref W252112760. The Clerk to report again.

8.1.2: Holland Road Potholes – Opened up again by the hall. The Clerk report to Cormac who agreed work needed to be carried out. Ref W252112759.

Work not carried out, The Clerk to report again.

8.1.3: South West Water – The Clerk has written Helen Steed: See below:

Good afternoon Helen

I was talking with Armand last Thursday before our Parish Council meeting and he suggested I drop you message to see if you could shed any light on sewage upgrades in No Man's Land, Looe, which would then help a developer proceed with the much needed 12 houses proposed on land south of the village, wedged between, Holland Road and Bucklawren Road, this land owned by the Duchy of Cornwall has been earmarked for development for over 12 years and has never been developed due to the infrastructure (sewage) being inadequate, Armand tells me there have been discussions about an upgrade of the existing sewage works located on the edge of the village, how are these progressing?

Also, in our Parish Tregoad Holiday Park applied and paid for an upgrade to the sewage system, your target date has passed and to date nothing has progressed, Tregoad tell me the amount paid to SWW is substantial, so a delay in the works planned is unacceptable, can you give me some idea of timescale so I can report back to the GM.

8.1.4: Call for Land – Was sent out to all Parish and Town Councils by Cornwall Council, the Clerk has submitted our site at No Man's Land for consideration.

Agenda Item 9: Business received after publication of agenda:

None received.

Agenda Item 10: New Business:

10.1.1: Redruth Town Council Letter (sent to all Parish Councillors) – To be discussed.

Sent on behalf of Redruth Town Council for consideration by all Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall

Below is a motion which was put forward by Cllr Katie Grasso and which Council resolved to send to all Town and Parish Councils in Cornwall, and to Cornwall Council at our last Full Council meeting held on 27th January 2025.

After studying the recent tax base figures for the new second home council tax premiums, we propose that Cornwall Council consider a much fairer way of proportioning the proceeds, so that all areas have equal benefit reflected in their precepts, and not those only with busy tourist locations or wealthier areas which have a much higher rate of second home ownership. Poorer areas should receive similar amounts to those wealthier locations, where the need is often greater, and this would benefit the county as a whole.

Looking at second home council tax in general, Cornwall Council should ring fence this money solely for providing housing, reparation works to current council housing and those currently empty due to repair status, and potential CPO for properties empty in towns/villages that could provide much needed accommodation, as well as helping areas improve.

Like when the second home council tax rate 50% deduction was removed to support local housing, the second home premium was introduced as part of the levelling up strategy, in response to the housing crisis and need for additional social and local support. This is similar to the way in which the CIL (Community Infrastructure Levy) is distributed.

Discussions ensued - and it was proposed by Councillor Keeble, seconded by Councillor Lawes that the Parish Council do not support Redruth Town Councils motion. Agreed 6 – 1.

Overwhelming support was given to the proposal by Councillor Spicer that the Parish Council write to our MP and Cornwall Council to insist the proposed registration of holiday lets scheme be moved forward urgently, this way visitors will be assured of high standards of safe accommodation, and the registration fee would help pay for the scheme. Once in place the advantages would be, only property owners, serious about providing safe, quality accommodation would register, and those who do not would drop out of the holiday lets market, therefore possibly releasing property back onto the locals market. Visit Cornwall have been pushing for this scheme to be introduced. The Clerk to write to our MP and Cornwall Council.

Agenda Item 11: Around the table:

Councillor Reynolds:

Road Resurfacing – Comments received about how well organised the roadworks were and with minimum disruption. The Chairman commented that the Dragons Teeth and Bus Stop road lines are missing. The Clerk to contact William Glassup.

Councillor Lawes:

Kilmartin – 150 tons of soil have been deposited on the site to create a soakaway, however concerns have been raised that the proposed plan will lead to water draining onto the road and cliff, possibly speeding up erosion of the cliffs.

The Clerk to speak to Will Glassup. Cormac.

Councillor Keeble:

Nothing Raised.

Councillor Spicer:

Nothing Raised.

Councillor Lankston:

Nothing Raised.

Vice Chair Powley:

Nothing Raised.

The Chairman:

Nothing Raised.

**County Councillor Armand Toms:
Made the following speech:**

REPORT TO ST MARTINS PARISH COUNCIL 6TH MARCH, 2025.

Firstly I wish to thank the clerks to the parish for there work over the last twenty years both Sue and Charles have been great to work with and for. I know that whoever takes on the roll of Cornwall councillor to this area will have a safe pair of hands to help them with this parish. Your current clerk Charles has been excellent and his work with the parish magazine has kept residents informed of the issues in the parish and raised money towards infrastructure (Notably the bus shelter). You are lucky to have such a good man working for you. Can I also thank the Chairman to the parish over the last twenty years as the meetings have been managed in a very professional way. To the current Councillors my thanks for being the eyes and ears on the ground keeping me informed and I can say it has been a pleasure to work with and for you. During this time decisions have been made in a clear and open way and there is a good method of allowing residents to come and speak to the council and make their feelings known. My wish is that you all consider staying on the council as experience counts but this may not be possible. Let's hope that the new Cornwall Council keep the popular scheme of Highways local improvements. These have brought changes welcomed by residents. Yet housing is still a concern and the scheme for 12 Affordables on the Duchy land behind the allotments may one day come to fruition, The largest legacy of this council will be the highways improvement, footpaths and reduction in the local speed limits.

For me it is retirement and the opportunity of working for my family and having time with my grandchildren. I promise I will always be available to help with working for the community with litter picking, grass cutting and community events. Can I lastly thank the community for the kindness shown to me over these twenty years, I will miss my work and the people I have served. I ask that this note is published in the minutes and the parish magazine as these thanks to you and residents should not go unnoticed. Regards Councillor Armand Toms.

PCSO Dave Billing:

Police Report: Please pass on my apologies for not being able to attend Thursday's meeting. During the month of February 2025 there were no crimes reported to devon and Cornwall Police. There was an accident reported Wednesday morning where van and a car collided, there were no injuries.

Date and Time of Next Meetings: 3rd April 2025, **Annual Parish Meeting** at 7.15pm followed by **The Parish Council Meeting** at 7.30pm at the No Man's Land Memorial Hall.

There being no other business the meeting closed at 8.25pm.