

Week St Mary Parish Council

Minutes – Wednesday, January 7, 2026

1. **To note councillors present**
Cllrs C Slade (chair); M Johns; J Ward; S Gubbin; S May; R Shipton; T Fay and N Couch. Also in attendance: Cllr N Chopak; S Cleave, clerk, and two members of the public. 26/1
2. **To receive apologies for absence with reasons**
Cllr I Richardson (vice chair) – work; Cllr A Willoughby – work. 26/2
3. **To receive Declarations of Interest and approve Dispensations**
None. 26/3
4. **To approve the minutes of:**
Councillors approved the minutes of the Ordinary meeting held on Thursday, December 4, 2025.
Proposed: S Gubbin Seconded: S May Votes: Seven in favour, one abstention 26/4
5. **Public question time** (15 minutes allowed for this – on matters on the agenda only)
Paddy Fay, on behalf of the football club, asked if the club could put a shipping container next to the existing shed for storage. He said the top pitch is having drainage issues and he asked if the club, at its own expense, could aerate it. This will be discussed under playgrounds later in the agenda. 26/5
6. **To receive County Councillor Nicky Chopak's report on matters arising**
Cllr Chopak said the Cornwall Council budget is out for consultation, people can have a look at it online. The council is trying to think of ways to save money. Some extra money has been allocated to Adult Social Care and Highways. February 16 is the closing date for consultations. A CAP housing summit meeting was held in December at Bude, with around 60 people in attendance. Another similar meeting will be arranged on the subject of planning. The next meeting will be on March 9 online. She noted that the Police and Crime Commissioner has stepped down as a Conservative, and will be losing her job in two years' time. Cllr Chopak said this may have an impact on rural policing in the area. 26/6
7. **To receive clerk's report on matters arising**
The clerk's report was noted. 26/7
8. **Planning**
Any late applications received will be discussed under this section
- 8a. **To discuss and make a consultee comment on application:**
PA25/08560 – Rebuild of existing stable building to dependent relative annex. Whits End Farm, Marhamchurch.
Councillors raised no objection to the application.
Proposed: S Gubbin Seconded: S May Votes: Unanimous 26/8
- 8b. **Decisions**
None. 26/9

- 8c. **Planning - to note**
None.

26/10

9. **Portfolio Reports:**

- **Playground**

Cllr Shipton said she has removed the bin from the bottom pitch and has attached the hand sanitiser.

Councillors discussed the football club's request to have a shipping container and raised no objections. If possible, councillors would like to see a green one obtained and the football club were asked to ensure it is covered by their insurance.

Proposed: S May Seconded: M Johns Votes: Unanimous 26/11

Councillors also agreed to the aerating of the top pitch. It was noted that if any mess is made, the football club must tend to it.

Proposed: S May Seconded: S Gubbin Votes: Unanimous 26/12

- **Highways, Footpaths & Greens**

Thanks were extended to Cllr Shipton and her daughter Annabelle for salting the hill in the recent cold spell. Cllr Fay asked if there could be a possible WhatsApp group for volunteers to help in these situations. Cllr Slade said the request can be placed on the council WhatsApp group. Cllr Slade said she had cleared around the drains. She said there is a problem at Broad Close, where the drain empties into the road. The clerk will report this, and one towards Goscott Corner as well.

26/13

- **Police / Neighbourhood Watch**

Cllr Couch asked for this to be removed as a portfolio report.

26/14

- **Social media / communications**

Cllr Couch said this was going well with new followers on the council's Facebook Page.

26/15

10. **Correspondence including (all relevant emails forwarded):**

The following correspondence was noted: North Cornwall Community Area Partnership Priorities and Budget meeting update; Cornwall Council Town and Parish Council newsletter; North Cornwall CAP Housing Summit meeting agenda; Forest for Cornwall winter newsletter.

26/16

11. **Community Infrastructure Levy and Community Benefit Fund applications**
None.

12. **Agenda items**

1. **CCTV**

The council's bid for police funding for a CCTV system was approved, with the council being granted £5,000. It was proposed to accept the funds, with the view of returning the money if a system is not put in place. The clerk will begin to look into prices.

Proposed: S May Seconded: R Shipton Votes: Unanimous 26/17

2. **Park slide steps and grants**

No update from Cllr Willoughby.

26/18

3. **Playing field fence**

This will be discussed at the February meeting.

26/19

4. Risk assessment

The council's risk assessment and playing field risk assessment will be looked at and added to the February agenda.

26/20

5. Community Highways Improvement Programme

It was proposed to submit an Expression of Interest for 'SLOW' signs to be written on the road at all four entrances to the village.

Proposed: S May

Seconded: S Gubbin

Votes: Unanimous 26/21

6. Emergency Plan

Changes to a couple of telephone numbers will be made to update the Emergency Plan.

26/22

13. Accounts

Balances December 30, 2025

| | |
|---|------------|
| • Current account | £ 6,402.62 |
| • Reserve account (including £954.48 CIL funds) | £22,016.24 |
| • Community Benefit Fund | £ 3,905.14 |

13a. To approve accounts for payment including:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Suzanne Cochrane – Salary Dec (inc HMRC PAYE and WFH allowance) | As per contract |
| Cornwall Pension Fund (December) | As per contract |
| Suzanne Cochrane – mileage | £ 21.60 |
| Jamie Sachs - toilets | £120.00 |
| EDF Energy – toilets | £ 65.74 |

13b To note income

| | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| Reserve account interest (December) | £ 16.03 |
| CB Fund interest (December) | £ 1.48 |
| Equitix solar fund money 2025 | £1,871.15 |
| Toilet donations | £ 80.91 |

Councillors approved the payments and accounts.

Proposed: M Johns

Seconded: R Shipton

Votes: Unanimous 26/23

14. Items for February 5, 2026 meeting

Fencing; risk assessment; Ashbury Grove and football club lease.

The meeting closed at 8.45pm.