

Week St. Mary Parish Council

Minutes – February 2, 2023

1. **Public question time** (15 minutes allowed for this)

Anthony Sachs attended on behalf of the football club to speak on two points – the boiler and the goals on the top pitch. With regards to the boiler, Mr Sachs explained that the boiler has expired, and another has been donated to the club. The club is looking to have it installed by a Gas Safe engineer, but they have advised that the gas bottles need to be outside of the changing room. To allay any fears of them being tampered with, the football club would like to ask permission from the parish council to install a locked security cage.

With regards to the goals on the top pitch, he asked the parish council not to remove them. If they were to be removed, the U13s would fold. He explained that this year the U13s are a 9-a-side and they can use portable goals, but next year they have to use bigger goals. He said the pitch at the bottom is too long. If they use the bottom pitch, they would have to buy new goal posts on wheels, at £4,000 a set. He said if the U13s folds, that prevents any more age groups coming through. He spoke of the importance of football for the children.

Cllr May explained that the parish council wants a good outcome for everybody, and noted that they are obliged to cater for everybody. He said the council has spent a lot of money in the past on the playing field, and the council is trying its best with the funds it has got. The parish council does not want to sabotage the football club, but there are other things that come up, such as the community shop and the toilets. Mr Sachs said the football club had not asked for anything. Cllr Slade said the village would not have the pitch if the parish council didn't buy it. It pays the football club £750 a year for the grass, and the parish council asks the club to pay for the electricity and water. She said the council supports the football club as much as it can. Mr Sachs said that the parish council used to pay the county council £1,000 for the grass cutting before the football club took on doing it. Cllr May said the parish council pays £1,950 per annum for costs. Mr Sachs said the field was not purchased for the football club, initially it was for the parish hall to be moved and the football club offered to develop it. Cllr Slade questioned the communication between the coaches, so that everyone in the club knows what is happening. She asked whether it would be beneficial to let all coaches know when an email is sent from the parish council. Mr Sachs says they have monthly meetings. Cllr May said they want communication between the two parties to improve, and if the football club has an issue, to approach the parish council about it. The two matters will be discussed later in the agenda. 23/29
- 1a. **To receive County Councillor Nicky Chopak's report on matters arising**
No report. 23/30
2. **To note councillors present**

Cllrs S May, C Slade, S Peters, R Bolt, T Hamlyn, R Shipton, L Stephens, S Gubbin and M Johns. Also in attendance S Cleave, clerk, and one member of the public. 23/31
3. **To receive apologies for absence with reasons**

Cllr Richardson – poorly; Cllr Chopak – holiday. 23/32
4. **To receive Declarations of Interest and approve Dispensations**

None. 23/33

10.6 Football Club (this item was brought forward for discussion)

Councillors agreed to the request to erect a gas bottle storage cage outside the changing rooms.

Proposed: S Gubbin Seconded: R Bolt Votes: Unanimous 23/34

With regards to the goal posts, Cllr May recalled at the last meeting, councillors voted the posts had to come out from a health and safety point of view, but they didn't say that is the end of it. Cllr Hamlyn said they have to be weight tested / strength tested, and test that the metal is up to scratch. If the standards are not reached, they would have to be replaced. Cllr Peters said you can't have a goal that close to the play area – that's the problem. If new posts were put up, there would still be a health and safety issue. Cllr Slade said a net had been mooted, but this was also thought to be a health and safety issue as children could get caught up in the net. Cllr Hamlyn said if a stray ball hits a child, it could be dangerous. There were discussions over whether a sign could be erected for the duration of a game to ask people to refrain from playing on the equipment. Mr Sachs asked for a number of years they only used the top pitch, and asked how the council was covered if a child fell and cut their knee. Cllr Slade asked if they were able to use the bottom pitch, but Mr Sachs said there would be drainage issues. Cllr Gubbin questioned if someone could steward and a sign is erected saying play is at your own risk. He asked how the council could be liable for everything? Cllr May said they are trying to resolve the issue so that the children can still play football. Cllr Gubbin asked if they could have removable sockets at the bottom. Measurements were discussed and it was proposed to go back to the play inspection company to ask if the issue would be resolved if the goal post was moved in by 30ft. Mr Sachs is also to go back to the football club to gather any other ideas and come back to the March meeting.

Proposed: S May Seconded: C Slade Votes: Unanimous 23/35

5. To approve the minutes of:

The minutes of the Ordinary meeting on Thursday, January 5, 2023 were agreed as a true record.

Proposed: L Stephens Seconded: C Slade Votes: Unanimous 23/36

6. To receive clerk's report on matters arising:

The clerk's report was noted including chasing Jamie about Back Lane; made updates to website and parish magazine; submitted minutes along with notes about the gritting and Coronation to the magazine; updated National Grid; Coronation – Tom Wickett booked, and looked into commemorative coin; collated responses to the future of the toilets; reported overhanging hedges at Goscott.

The councillors extended their thanks for carrying out the work to Back Lane. **23/37**

7. Planning

Any late applications received will be discussed under this section

7a. To discuss and make a consultee comment on application:

None.

23/38

7b. Decisions

The planning decision PA22/06127 was noted – Demolition of detached garage to side of bungalow and extensions / alterations to bungalow to increase living space on ground floor and create a new first floor level. Highmeadows, Week St Mary.

Approved

23/39

7c. Planning - to note

The following planning notices were noted. PA23/00384 – Prior Approval for proposed conversion of one agricultural barn to two residential dwellings. Moorview, Whitstone.

PA22/02077/PREAPP – Pre-application advice for conversion with extension of redundant agricultural barn to dwelling. Land north west of Bowdah House, Week St Mary. 23/40

8. Portfolio Reports:

- **Public Transport**
No report. 23/41
- **Community Policing**
No report but police presence was noted one day. 23/42
- **Playground**
Cllr Johns reported that the football club fence still needs repairing. 23/43
- **Highways, Footpaths & Greens**
Cllr Hamlyn reported he had requested a clean-up of Wax Hill to Week Ford, which was in a bad state with dead leaves and was slippery. The gulleys have since been cleaned and the hill swept. He had been asked about the scrap yard forming and will make enquiries. Cllr Hamlyn has laid the hedge at the bottom of the playing field and has put plaques on the trees for people wanting to plant down there. A sign at Haydah has been replaced. There was some issue with signs being turned or pulled out – these have been dealt with. Pot holes were reported from Greenamoor Cross to South Wheatley; Butler’s Meadow; Haydah and the road below Haydah – these have all been repaired. He has also reported a leak in the football field entrance, and is waiting for someone to come out. Cllr Hamlyn also chased the Post Office again about the postbox. Bird and bat boxes have been put in the hedges. There has been a bit of trouble with the new play equipment, the swing keeps getting looped over and this puts pressure on the chains. The misuse has been noted and will be monitored. The council thanked Cllr Hamlyn for all of his work. Cllr Hamlyn asked for a letter to be sent to Cornwall Council Highways to say thank you for all the work they have done and that it has been noted by the parish council how responsive they have been. 23/44
- **Adult Social Care**
No report. 23/45
- **BAN**
No report. 23/46

9. Correspondence including (all relevant emails forwarded):

The following correspondence was noted: Bude CNP agenda and minutes; email on the new Devon & Cornwall Chief Constable; Bude police station enquiry office opening news; planning training email and Teams meeting link; planning news for local councils. 23/47

10. Agenda items

1. Main green planter
It was raised by Jamie Sachs to put a stone planter on the Green where the tree died. The issue was discussed but currently there is not money in the budget for the

provision. This will be looked at again next year when the budget is discussed. It was noted that the existing planters are ok for the time.

Proposed: S Gubbin Seconded: C Slade Votes: Unanimous 23/48

2. Emergency Plan

The Emergency Plan has been updated by Cllrs Peters and Slade. The clerk to send electronic copies to the chair and vice chair and keep a paper copy. **23/49**

3. Coronation

Steve Naish has donated a bouncy castle free of charge. The council expressed thanks to him for his generosity. An event will be held on the Saturday, with a bring and share lunch on the Sunday. The Coronation will be placed on the March agenda. **23/50**

4. Electricity – playing field

It was agreed to pay the National Grid for the electricity works, as previously discussed.

Proposed: S May Seconded: T Hamlyn Votes: Unanimous

Cllr Gubbin had received one electrician's quote. Other quotes to be obtained and the decision agreed via email. It was also agreed to send a letter to the football club to explain the electricity works that are taking place.

Proposed: S May Seconded: R Bolt Votes: Unanimous 23/51

5. Toilets

Councillors noted the letters that had been sent to the council regarding the toilets (a total of 17 with only one in favour of closing them). The general consensus wanted to keep them open, with many willing to pay extra on the precept for this. Cllr Hamlyn said there are some ways in which the costs of the toilets can be reduced, such as replacing the outside lights with solar lights. Cllr Slade said improvements need to be made to the signage. Cllr Hamlyn and Cllr Shipton to come back to the March meeting with some ideas for the toilets. Councillors resolved to keep the toilets open.

Proposed: S May Seconded: S Peters Votes: Unanimous 23/52

11. **Any other business**

Cllr Peters said Martins Group Services was closing in April and asked about the continued running of the website. Cllr Peters to ask David Martin about his plans.

Meetings – It was agreed that meetings would be held every month, with the Annual Meeting to be held at 7pm on April 6, before the ordinary council meeting. The clerk to ask organisations for a report. **23/53**

12. **Accounts**

Balances January 29

- Current account £3,361.49
- Reserve account £28,912.13

12a. **To approve accounts for payment including:**

Suzanne Cochrane – Salary January	£327.70
HMRC (PAYE)	£ 81.80
Suzanne Cochrane (mileage and stamps)	£ 37.84
Jamie Sachs (toilets January)	£120.00
Jamie Sachs (Back Lane clearance works)	£420.00
EDF (electricity – toilets)	£ 1.00
Suzanne Cochrane – black ink Amazon XXL	£ 43.66
Cornwall Pension Fund – January	£ 76.57

Week St Mary Parish Hall (one of four annual payments) £250.00
National Grid £459.88

12b To note income

Football club (electricity and water bills minus VAT) £778.65

Councillors approved the accounts as a true record.

Proposed: S May Seconded: S Gubbin Votes: Unanimous 23/54

13. Items for March 2 meeting.

Coronation; grants; wildlife area enquiries. 23/55

The meeting closed at 9.30pm.

DRAFT