



Millbrook Parish Council

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MILLBROOK PARISH COUNCIL MEETING | 19:30 ON TUESDAY 20TH MARCH 2018

PRESENT: Cllrs D. Wood (Chair), C. Wilton, B. Taggart, R. Meeson, R. Vincent,
S. Woffenden, F. McBain, N. Roberts

IN ATTENDANCE: Clerk R. Hamill, County Cllr G. Trubody, 5 members of the public

1. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & PUBLIC FORUM

PENINSULA TRUST – MILLBROOK WORK UNITS & PARK PATH

Mr S. Ryan from the Peninsula Trust gave an update on work units being constructed to the rear of the Rame Centre. Mr Ryan informed the room that groundworks were progressing and generally the project is on track, though completion is now expected to be in early July. He went on to talk about the proposed work units' access path from West Street Car Park, stating that the design of the path is with the Environment Agency. This is a critical prerequisite to ensure flood defences in the area remain uncompromised as a result of the works. It was then highlighted that the area is currently still owned by Cornwall Council (CC), but that the parish council would tonight vote on whether it wished to take it over. Mr Ryan stated that should the parish council decide not to take over the area at this time, the trust would work with the county council to facilitate the access path.

PLANNED TRAFFIC & TRANSPORT WORKS

Mr R. Bews, referring to the last meeting of the full council, commented on the increase to the parish council's precept and the sum of £15,000 that has been set aside to tackle traffic issues. He stated that the minutes of the last meeting of the full council gave the first indication to the 8 areas that the Traffic & Transport Working Group (TTWG) are looking at, which includes the corner by the Tanyard. Mr Bews then asked, "Does the council intend to have any sort of consultation [on the proposed works]?" The chair responded by saying that yes, once a proposal from the TTWG has been put forward to the full council for debate, it would consult with residents for comment. In response to a comment from Mr Bews regarding CC's likely insistence on a consultation, Cllr Wilton stated that the possible solution (to the traffic flow and parking issues at the Tanyard) of moving back the wall and pavement had actually been suggested by Cornwall Council. Cllr Wilton and the chair also highlighted the possible risk to the bus service should the issues at the corner by the Tanyard not be addressed. Mr Bews agreed that this is indeed a risk and has been for some time. Finally, Mr Bews asked if, "When it does come to an agenda item, is that going to describe what is actually going to be voted on?" The chair confirmed that it would.

OWNERSHIP & USE OF LAND ON RADFORD LANE

A member of the public brought to the council's attention that a parcel of land between the 2 storage facilities on Radford Lane has had steel poles erected around it and trees and bushes have been cut down. The parishioner queried whether the person(s) who had done this legally owned the land, or if they were trying to [illegally] ring-fence it in an effort to claim the land. The chair responded by stating that the council could check with the Land Registry regarding ownership of the land and determine if any sort of transgression has taken place in terms of adverse possession.

COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr G. Trubody commented on the update given by Mr Ryan from the Peninsula Trust and clarified the background to the matter. He stated that the work to devolve the grassed area adjacent to West Street Car Park from CC to the parish council had been progressing for a number of years, but that it had only recently come to light that the council had never actually officially resolved to do so. Cllr Trubody went on to add that our Community Link Officer at CC had everything in place to expedite the devolution should the parish council formalise the motion at this meeting. He then clarified that this would mean that should the devolution agreement fail to complete by the end of June 2018, CC could issue the parish council with a licence that would allow it to take over the area and carry out works to improve it. Finally, Cllr Trubody stated that he had worked very hard to have CC prioritise this devolution.

Cllr Trubody then gave an update from the meeting of the East Area Planning Committee regarding the planning permission that has been granted for 9 new residential dwellings on St John's Road. He stated that despite the compelling argument put forward by him and the vice-chair Cllr Lewis, who were both in attendance at the meeting, regrettably the application was granted outline planning. Mr R Bews stated that he had previously written to the planning officer regarding this application as, in his opinion, there is not enough capacity at Millbrook Primary School to support the potential increase in pupils. Cllr Trubody responded by saying that a number of conditions had been imposed on the application, including things like Wildlife and Contamination surveys, but agreed with Mr Bews that the village infrastructure must be considered with the development potentially creating an increase in the number of vehicles on our roads.

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllrs S. Lewis (Vice Chair), J. Gibbens

The council unanimously accepted the absent councillors' reasons for their absence.

3. DECLARATION OF INTERESTS, GIFTS & DISPENSATIONS IF REQUIRED

None declared.

4. UPDATES FROM THE CHAIRMAN

The Chair mentioned that the works at Millpool Head to widen the culvert there were progressing. He also mentioned that the planned work at the top of Hounster Hill should follow the completion of the Millpool Head scheme.

The Chair then advised the council that the request to remove debris from Ninney Lane, which was raised by a parishioner at the last meeting of the full council, had since been actioned.

The Chair then gave an update on the signage that had been agreed by the council, namely 'Please Do Not Block Access' signs for the Village Hall Car Park and the directional signage to both West St Car Park & the Village Hall Car Park – he stated that we were now just awaiting pricing for the latter, before they could all be ordered.

The Chair then read out a letter that had been received from Clare Watkins, Chair of the Village Hall Committee, regarding instances of some of their promotional posters being taken down.

Finally, the Chair announced that our village caretaker, Richard Austin, had attained his enforcement qualification, which will allow him to issue fines for dog fouling, littering and graffiti.

5. RESIGNATION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

It was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Wilton that the council accept Cllr Taylor's reasons for his resignation. Motion carried unanimously. As an aside, the Chair added that it was sad to lose such a young councillor.

6. COMPLAINT FROM MR R BEWS

A letter of complaint had been received from Mr Bews regarding the "re-doubling of efforts" on flood defences in the village and stating that a previous letter he had sent to the council had not been seen by all members. The Chair summarised Mr Bews' complaint. In response, he then stated that the council had been looking very closely at the works required to shore up flood defences in the village and had held meetings with the various bodies involved, such as the Environment Agency, South West Water, Cormac and CC. Phase 1 of these works, which involved the channelling of water alongside West Street Car Park as well as the clearance of overflow channels further up that stream along Radford Lane, had been completed. Phase 2, as mentioned earlier in the meeting, is the culvert widening at Millpool Head that is underway. And Phase 3 is the planned works at the top of Hounster Hill. In addition, the Chair stated that the work done by the Village Enhancement Team volunteers to keep drains clear, reduces the risk of flooding. Finally, he added that anecdotally he had been advised that more money had been spent per head in Millbrook than in any other area of Cornwall on flood prevention.

Cllr Wilton then sought to clarify that despite none of these works being funded or instructed by the parish council, it had managed to implement some major infrastructure changes through working closely with CC. Cllr Taggart then asked Mr Bews if he felt that his complaint had been adequately dealt with. The Chair opened the meeting to allow Mr Bews to respond. Mr Bews stated that although he was of course pleased that works were now progressing, in his letter to the council dated June 2017 he had asked for the re-doubling of efforts due to the time that had already elapsed from when remedial works were first talked about. He reiterated that the other element of his complaint was regarding the fact that, in his opinion, not all councillors were made aware of his concerns at the time.

To finalise the matter, the Chair asked that Mr Bews send the council a letter to confirm that he was now reasonably satisfied with the progress that is being made.

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MINUTES

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 20 FEBRUARY 2018

It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Wilton that the minutes were a true and accurate record. Motion carried unanimously by all members present at the meeting.

8. MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES & REVIEW OF ACTIONS

a) DOES THE COUNCIL AGREE TO THE PROPOSAL FROM THE TORPOINT & RAME LIONS TO CORDON OFF THE EAST END OF WEST ST CAR PARK TO FACILITATE THE BLACK PRINCE FETE ON 7 MAY 2018?

The Chair advised the council that Venton House would not be an available venue this year, though that may change in future years. The council discussed the matter at length weighing up the benefits of the fete versus the loss of 12 parking spaces over a Bank Holiday weekend. Cllr Roberts suggested that it be the responsibility of the event organisers to manage the cordoning and communication. The council agreed. **It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Wood that the council does agree to the Torpoint & Rame Lions' proposal.** Motion carried unanimously.

b) DOES THE COUNCIL AGREE TO RESERVE PLOTS IN THE GRAVEYARD FOR INDIVIDUALS (AT A COST) AT THEIR REQUEST?

Following further discussions regarding this matter, **it was proposed by Cllr Wilton and seconded by Cllr Meeson that the council does agree to reserve grave plots, for a fee marginally higher than that charged by the local funeral directors.** Motioned carried with 2 abstentions.

Cllr Taggart wished to add another matter arising from the minutes and review of actions – he queried if the fencing for the newly planted trees and shrubs that had been agreed to had been purchased and delivered yet. The Clerk explained that as the fencing could not be delivered and owing to our original plan to have it collected having to be placed on hold, it had not yet been purchased. Cllr Taggart asked that we explore alternative means to collect.

9. FINANCE

a) APPROVAL & PAYMENT OF BILLS AS PRESENTED AT THE MEETING (APPENDIX A)

It was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Roberts that the payments be approved as listed. Motion carried unanimously.

b) REVIEW OF MONTHLY BUDGET (APPENDIX B)

The Chairman summarised the Council's current financial position and the Council took note.

10. CAPITAL & MAINTENANCE

a) DOES THE COUNCIL AGREE TO ACQUIRE & MAINTAIN THE GRASSED AREA TO THE EAST OF WEST ST CAR PARK, INCLUDING THE PLAY PARK, WHICH IS CURRENTLY OWNED BY CORNWALL COUNCIL?

The Chair read out some background information regarding this matter, including associated costs that the parish council would potentially need to fund if the area were to be devolved from CC, as well as referring to the updates given by Mr Ryan and Cllr Trubody at the start of the meeting. The council discussed and debated this matter at great length. **It was proposed by Cllr Wood and seconded by Cllr Meeson that the Council agrees to acquire and maintain the West St Play Park area, subject to contract.** Motion carried unanimously.

b) DOES THE COUNCIL AGREE TO PURCHASE ADDITIONAL GRIT / SALT BINS FOR AREAS OF THE VILLAGE WHERE THERE ARE CURRENTLY NONE?

The Chair explained that it had been raised by a number of parishioners that there were a number of areas in the village that lacked any grit / salt bins, namely the Tanyard, Insworke and Maker Lane. **It was proposed by Cllr Roberts and seconded by Cllr Meeson that the council agrees to purchase 5 additional grit / salt bins as quoted by the Clerk.** Motion carried unanimously.

11. VILLAGE HALL COMMITTEE UPDATE

Cllr Pine apologised for not being able to provide an update, as she was unable to attend the last meeting of the Village Hall Committee.

There being no other business, the Chairman closed the meeting at 21:15.