

Mullion Parish Council Meeting held on **Tuesday 21 February 2012** at 7.00pm at The Schoolroom, Methodist Chapel, Mullion

Councillors Present

A Gilbert
Mrs S Ireland
J T Lang (Chairman)
Mrs C Rule (Vice Chairman)

P Wilkins
R Willey
D Williams

PCSO Julia Berry and five members of the public were also in attendance.

The Chairman advised everyone present of the fire procedures.

1. Public Session

Justin Whitehouse, Head Ranger, and Elle Parsons, Area Ranger, of the National Trust attended the meeting and updated everyone present.

Mr Whitehouse suggested that the National Trust Representatives could attend Parish Council meetings when a specific issue arose, and submit written monthly reports to the Clerk for inclusion at meetings. This suggestion was welcomed by Councillors.

Mr Whitehouse confirmed that the southern breakwater in Mullion Harbour had been badly damaged during the recent stormy weather. The stability of the structure had been undermined by the rough seas and the Trust was looking into using reinforced concrete as well as steel rods to bind the Harbour wall together. It was hoped that their insurance company would meet the costs of the works, which would take place in April 2012, weather permitting. Volunteers had been given authority, and a small annual budget, to maintain the Harbour on a day to day basis. Mr Whitehouse advised that the wooden capstan was part of the listed structure and quotes were being obtained to repair it, the only quote to date being circa £12,500. A local carpenter had also been approached in this regard. A new business had started in the Harbour last year which offered the hire of kayaks and coasteering opportunities, and this would hopefully bring more revenue into the area.

The entrance to Poldhu Beach was increasingly more challenging as much of the sand on the beach had moved up towards the dunes. In past years, the Trust had hired a digger to push the sand back down the beach, but they felt that this was unsustainable. This year a moveable boardwalk would be positioned over the entrance of the beach to allow easier access for pushchairs and wheelchairs. It was hoped that this would eliminate some of the access problems, as had been proven on other beaches. The idea also had the support of the cafe owner. Mr Whitehouse confirmed that emergency vehicles would be able to move over structure, although the existing barrier would remain in place.

Following the acquisition of Tenerife Farm at Predannack last summer, Mr Whitehouse outlined the Trust's plans for the site. The farmhouse was currently being extensively renovated, including the replacement of the roof, and works would finish in June 2012. The existing sewage treatment system had been condemned and a new 'top of the range' system would be installed in time for the camping season. The existing toilet block was not DDA compliant and would require updating in the future. Other essential maintenance was also taking place. The farm would be put out to tender as a working farm, incorporating all of the Trust's land at Predannack and the Airfield, in 2013. Mr Whitehouse advised the meeting that an open day would take place in the future, to which the community would be invited to attend to learn about the plans for the farm.

Miss Parsons was delighted to report that the recent open day held in St Mellan's Park had been a success. Her bid for trees to be planted in the park had also been successful, and it was hoped that they would be available for planting in the spring, along with some wild seed.

Councillor R Willey queried the sign posts at Mullion Harbour with Mr Whitehouse as they did not correspond with the official footpath map. He also raised concern over the slippery footpath to the south of the harbour. Although the recent upgrade to path had improved the top part, the lower part was incredibly slippery when wet. They would investigate both matters further.

Finally, Mr Whitehouse explained to the meeting that the Trust was treating 29 February (Leap Day) as an 'extra' working day. They were therefore offering their services to the community for free. He suggested that the bridleway from Penhale (Footpath 4) be cut back by his team. This suggestion was welcomed by the Parish Council.

2. Police Report

PCSO Berry advised the meeting of the Police Report as attached to these minutes.

3. Apologies

Councillors C Rule and C Williams had submitted their apologies to the meeting.

4. Minutes

It was proposed by Councillor Mrs C Rule, seconded by Councillor R Willey and RESOLVED that the minutes of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 17 January 2012 be approved as a true record and be duly signed by the Chairman.

5. Declarations of Interest

None received.

6. Planning

Following consideration by Councillors of Planning Applications received from Cornwall Council, the following recommendations were made:

PA12/01016 - Openreach - 4 Tregellas Road - Installation of green metal modular cabinet

No comments had been received from the public on this application. It was agreed that no comment would be given on this application.

The following Planning Decisions had been received from Cornwall Council.

PA11/09631 - Mr F Wilkinson – Nonsuch, Polurrian Cliffs - Erection of extensions to dwelling (extension of time to W2/PA08/01699/F dated 04 December 2008) – Approved

PA11/09944 - Mrs H Entwistle – Nantivet, Mullion Cove - Conversion of garage and replacement roof – Approved

W2/PA10/00320/F - Mr B Bennetts - The Barn, Tregullas Farm, Ruan Minor - Conversion of redundant building to form dwelling – Approved

PA11/09964 - Mr and Mrs C Cattran - Newton Farm Riding Stables, Polhorman Lane - Installation of solar panels – Approved

PA12/00063 - Mr and Mrs Townsin – Bryher, Trewoon Road - Certificate of Lawfulness for the erection of a conservatory – Refused

PA11/10473 - Mr Chris Morley - Cwary Vean, Laflouder Lane - Erection of replacement garage – Approved

PA11/10518 – Open Reach - Land Adjacent to 51 Tregellas Road - Installation of a modular cabinet - Prior approval not required

PA10/07485 - Criggan Mill Holiday Park, Mullion Cove - Replacement of holiday chalets – Withdrawn

PA12/00181 - Mr Dennis Archer - 21 Trembel Road - Erection of porch - Approved

7. Report from Cornwall Councillor Mrs C Rule

Councillor Mrs C Rule advised the meeting that the budget had been agreed at Cornwall Council that day and that no increase would be made to the council tax demand in 2012/13. As the Police Authority had decided to increase their demand, a small increase would be shown on council tax bills.

A Cornish Bursary had been set up to help school leavers to stay in education. Although this scheme would be funded by Cornwall Council, it would be administered by Cornwall College and Truro College to save on administration costs.

£66 million would be invested in housing by Cornwall Council over the next four years. 4,125 houses would be built in Cornwall, with the majority of them being for rented accommodation. The remainder would be for shared ownership. Adaptations and upgrades to existing properties would also take place from this funding.

First had won the tender for the bus routes on the Lizard, taking over from Western Greyhound on 1 April 2012. Concerns had been raised over the capability of the company, and Councillor Mrs C Rule advised the meeting that First had to operate the agreed services on the subsidised

routes that were part of the contract. Companies would be closely monitored by Cornwall Council, and the rolling stock would also be checked on a regular basis.

Following discussions with Officers and Cornwall Council, Councillor Mrs C Rule had suggested that Mullion be used as a pilot project for discussions surrounding the possible devolvement of the provision of public toilets. The Parish Council agreed that an initial meeting between Cornwall Council and the Parish Council should take place to discuss the process involved. It was hoped that prior to any agreed handover, the toilets could be brought up to a certain standard by Cornwall Council.

8. Chairman and Clerk Comments

The Clerk advised the meeting that she had attended the Helston and the Lizard Community Network Panel Meeting held on Wednesday 25 January 2012. The main agenda item was the Olympic Torch Relay which was scheduled to pass through Helston on Saturday 19 May 2012. Due to safety and advertising concerns, details could not be released until closer to the date. It was assumed that the torch would pass through Helston in the morning, but the route had yet to be disclosed. Concern was raised over the lack of ability to organise transport for children from the Lizard and surrounding areas due to no details being made public. If events were being planned, a disclosure document could be issued to the organising committee, if absolutely necessary.

9. Public Rights of Way

Councillor R Willey was delighted to advise the meeting that the seats leading from Mullion Cove up to the Hotel had been repaired. It was assumed that Mullion Cove Hotel had repaired the benches, and the Clerk was asked to write a letter of thanks to the Manager of the hotel.

The dog bin had yet to be reinstalled on footpath 49, behind Mullyon House. The Clerk was requested to chase this.

It was mentioned that Bridleway 35 leading down to Polurrian Beach was in a much better condition than in previous winters. It was, however, thought that the path would need to be topped with hardcore prior to next winter.

Complaints were made regarding the coastal footpath from Mullion Cove through to Predannack. The path was incredibly muddy in places, due to the grazing of cattle on the cliff tops. The wooden bridges and stepping stones that Natural England had installed helped in places. But remedial works were now required in other areas. The Clerk was asked to contact Natural England in relation to this complaint.

Following the complaint made regarding the Public Right of Way on Garro Lane (Bridleway 14) being obstructed by alleged 'land grabbing' by the owners of Woodbine Cottage, the Clerk had contacted the Countryside Officer. It would seem that the 'dog leg' did form part of the original path, and investigations were ongoing. Several people in the Village were willing to sign witness statement to confirm that this track, and in particular the 'dog leg', had been used for many decades. The Clerk was asked to chase this matter.

A complaint had been made to the Parish Council regarding fallen leaves on the path located behind the Park, footpath 49. Photographs had been submitted with the letter of complaint, and

following a risk assessment, it was agreed that this path was in fact one of the better maintained paths in the village and that no further action was required. It was noted that this path was in fact a footpath, and not a pavement. The Clerk was asked to respond to the complainant accordingly.

The Clerk had been contacted by a resident of Angrouse Lane regarding the existing condition of the Lane. The resident was demanding that the Parish Council upgraded the lane to a better condition. The Clerk had explained to the complainant that Cornwall Council was responsible for the upkeep of PRow's, and that the land owner should be contacted in the first instance.

10. Public Open Spaces

The Chairman thanked Miss Parsons, National Trust Warden, who had organised and run the recent open day in St Mellan's Park. Bird boxes, bug hotels and other habitats had been created in the park, and it had been a successful day. It was noted that the bin in the park is often overflowing, and the Clerk was asked to contact the Street Cleaning Team at Cornwall Council in this regard.

It was confirmed that the rubbish at Polurrian Beach had now been collected.

Following previous conversations regarding the damaged fence at the rear of the Forge Car Park, the Clerk advised the meeting that she had obtained a quote for repairing the entire length of the fence and replacing the broken concrete post. £642.27 had been quoted. It was suggested that some form of crash barrier be erected near to the waste cardboard bin to stop this damage occurring in the future. The Clerk was asked to obtain a further quote for this work, and the item was deferred to the next meeting.

11. Highways Issues

Councillor Mrs C Rule was pleased that the resurfacing works had taken place on the main road leading into the village from Mullion Holiday Park to Trudnoe Farm. She had also requested that the roads in and around the village be looked at as a priority.

Councillor D Williams commented on the unsightly poles that were located at the end of the new development on the Mullion Garage site. It was requested that the 20/30mph sign be returned to the poles, or the poles be removed.

The Clerk reported that the drain on Lender Lane which often lifted under the weight of vehicles had received a temporary repair. A new drain cover was also on order to resolve the issue permanently.

Following complaints regarding flooding on Polhorman Lane, and visits from Officers from the Highways Department, the necessary works had failed to attract funding in this financial year. The scheme had been put forward again for funding in the 2012/13 financial year.

12. Vacancy on the Parish Council

Following the advertisement for the vacancy on the Parish Council, ten or more electors had requested to the Elections Department at Cornwall Council that an election should be held to fill the vacancy. It was proposed by Councillor R Willey, seconded by the Chairman and

unanimously RESOLVED to instruct the Clerk to obtain the names of the electors who had requested the election from Cornwall Council.

The publication of the Notice of Election would take place on Tuesday 20 March 2012 with a closing date of Wednesday 28 March 2012. The Clerk was asked to contact the press to make them aware of the election, and to invite candidates to stand for election.

The Parish Council, although having no control over the election, would have to fund the administration of it. The Parish Council could decide whether or not to issue poll cards, which would cost approximately £500.00. It was proposed by Councillor R Willey, seconded by the Chairman and unanimously RESOLVED not to supply poll cards for the election.

13. CPRE Annual Membership

The annual renewal for the Membership of the CPRE was now due. It was proposed by Councillor R Willey, seconded by Councillor Mrs S Ireland and RESOLVED to renew the membership and to pay the £29.00 fee.

14. LGA 1972, Section 137 Requests for Funding

A request for funding had been received from Shelter. It was agreed not to support this charity at the current time.

A request for funding had been received from Cruse Bereavement Care. It was agreed not to support this charity at the current time.

15. Finance and Accounts

It was proposed by the Chairman, seconded by Councillor Mrs C Rule and RESOLVED to confirm the accounts and to pay the invoices.

16. Other correspondence received

The Clerk advised the meeting of other correspondence received:-

- A Winter Wellness Emergency Fund was available from the Cornwall Works Hub who could be contacted on info@cornwallworks.org.uk.
- Mullion CP School had written to residents expressing their need and desire to remove the trees from the boundary of the school. The Parish Council had no comments to make on this matter.
- The Cornwall Association of Local Councils would be holding their AGM on Wednesday 29 February 2012 at 7.30pm at New County Hall.
- A Cornwall Conversation Event would take place at Helston Community College on Monday 26 March 2012 between 7 and 9pm.

The Chairman closed the meeting at 8.45pm.

Signed:

Chairman

Dated: